

St. Vital daycare workers on strike

WORKERS at a French-language day-care centre in St. Vital went on strike Friday.

The union representing early childhood educators at Les Tournesols, which cares for 150 children, says it has been trying to negotiate a new contract since October 2021.

Although child care centres in Manitoba are eligible for government funding to improve wages and working conditions to recruit and retain qualified staff, the Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union says the employer is demanding cuts to benefits.

It represents 16 full-time and two part-time employees, who earn between \$12.11-\$23.67 an hour, with many on the lower end of the pay scale, the union said.

"They're trying to reduce sick time and they're trying to reduce their vacation entitlements," MGEU president Kyle Ross said Monday.

Sick leave is currently 12 days per year; the employer is proposing to cut it to six, the union said.

"I don't want people coming to work when they're sick, especially when they're dealing with children," Ross said. "I wouldn't want that for my children — so I think our members are being reasonable when they're saying these things are important to them."

According to MGEU, the employer wants to reduce vacation time that currently starts at three weeks per year to two weeks to start.

The MGEU said the employer can afford to maintain the sick time and vacation time it's offered in the past. Last year's Canada Revenue Agency filing for the registered charity shows its revenue for 2021 was a little more than \$1.3 million and expenses were \$961,169.

The daycare did not respond to a request for comment.

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Want to receive updates on the strike and negotiations from the MGEU?

Contact us to provide your email:
resourcecentre@mgeu.ca
(204) 982-6438



MGEU / SEGM members of Local #441 Les Tournesols de Saint-Vital child care centre walk picket line.



MGEU President, Kyle Ross speaking to several media outlets about the reason for Local #441 strike.