



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

In the Public Eye

LOCAL 911 ARBITRATION



On March 1, 2018 I told the **CBC** and the **WPG Free Press** that I was encouraged that the WFPS Chief had finally apologized to members of **Local 911**. For far too long there has been a disrespectful culture at the WFPS – and I'm encouraged to hear a commitment from the Chief and Mayor to do better and show leadership so we can focus on the service that fire fighters and paramedics give to residents of Winnipeg. We will be monitoring the situation closely over the next short while and hold them to their commitment.

THE PROVINCIAL BUDGET

March 12 was budget day, and I had the opportunity to talk to media about the province's priorities for next year. It was ironic to say the least that the province titled the budget "Keeping our Promises" when

they continue to break their promise of protecting and investing in public services! At a time when the government is poised to receive new revenue you'd think they would invest in public services. But still we see them following through with massive health care cuts and plans to continue eroding the civil service by 1200 jobs. I wrote a blog about this and it's posted at unionbug.ca.

FIGHTING FOR AIR SERVICES



On March 21, I met with members of Manitoba Government Air Services. This followed the Request for Proposal (RFP) the province released looking for a consultant to write another RFP to privatize the service. We don't think essential air ambulance or fire suppression services should be auctioned off for private profits. **CTV** and **CBC** both posted stories on this issue, where we voiced our strong opposition. I've also written to the Infrastructure Minister demanding he put a stop to this privatization right now.

Welcome to the April edition!

Here's what's been happening in and around our union in the last month.

If you have any questions, please get a hold of me through our Resource Centre (204-982-6438 or 1-866-982-6438) or e-mail me at president@mgeu.ca.

In Your Workplace

SUPPORTING CHURCHILL

From March 3-6 I was in Churchill visiting MGEU members. We hosted a gathering at the Churchill Complex Gymnasium to remind our members there that we are fully behind them during these trying times with the port and rail line closures and that we appreciate the services they provide in their community. I was also very happy to be able to present Duke of Marlborough School with a \$1000 donation for their breakfast program.



WELCOME NEW MGEU LOCALS!

We continue to see increasing interest from workers looking to our union to represent them, and three new MGEU Locals have formed this month!

A hearty MGEU welcome to:

- **Manitoba Arts Council - Local 444**, whose members ensure grant applications are done in a meaningful and organized manner.
- **Assiniboine Early Learning Centre - Local 445**, whose early childhood educations and childcare assistants provide top-notch child care to other MGEU members working at the College.
- **Duke of Marlborough School - Local 446**, whose members are mostly educational assistants who work with teachers and school administration to provide the best learning environment possible for students.

At the Bargaining Table

Health care professional Bargaining Committees begin preparing proposal packages

After members had the opportunity to put forward ideas and proposals for improving their collective agreement over the last month or two, the Bargaining Committees for **Diagnostics Services MB (Technical) Locals 388 to 393, Westman Lab - Local 351, WRHA Community Programs - Local 220** and the **Technical-Professional/Paramedical Components 12 and 21** are now working to pull together these proposals into packages to present to their employers.

Winnipeg Paramedics resume bargaining

The **Paramedics of Winnipeg - Local 911** Bargaining Committee resumed negotiations with the employer in March after talks stalled in the fall. Further dates have been scheduled in April.

Labour Board appoints conciliator to assist with Colleges bargaining

Assiniboine Community College/Red River Community College Central Table - Locals 71 and 73 have filed jointly with employers for conciliation last month and the Labour Board recently appointed a conciliation officer. Dates to resume talks with the aid of the conciliator are being scheduled.

The Big Picture

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



On Mar. 8, I was proud to celebrate International Women's Day with some of my MGEU sisters at the MFL breakfast at the Union Centre.

PHARMACARE - A PLAN FOR EVERYONE

On Mar. 12, I joined a townhall discussion on the importance of national universal drug prescription coverage for every Canadian, and what steps need to be taken to ensure no one has to choose between groceries or medication for their family.

UNITED NATIONS - COMMISSION FOR THE STATUS OF WOMEN

I was so honoured to attend **UN-CSW62** from Mar 15-20 and be given the opportunity to focus on improving conditions for women and girls across the globe. This year's theme was **Empowering Rural Women and Girls** which had special meaning for me as a "rural" woman.

Want to get this by e-mail?

Contact us to get this 5-minute monthly update delivered to your inbox.

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