



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### Locals reach agreements in wake of Civil Service deal

With the Civil Service agreement ratified in January, several tables were able to reach agreements with their employers, or ratify new contracts this past month.

Members of the **Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF Local 154)**, **Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM Component 16)** and **MB Agricultural Services Corporation - Administration (Locals 359-362)** ratified new agreements that reflect many of the gains achieved through Civil Service bargaining, such as general wage increases, improvements to health spending accounts, the introduction of a direct-pay prescription drug plan, and the renewal of employment security provisions.

## Other March ratifications

Members of **WRHA Community Programs (Local 220)** ratified a new four-year agreement. With a strong strike mandate from the Local in January 2015, the Bargaining Committee was able to push the employer back from their concessionary demands.

Members of **Brandon University (Local 135)** also ratified a strong four-year collective agreement, while **Impark Lot Attendants (Local 199)** ratified a new three-year contract with wage increases in each year and employer-paid sick leave/personal days for full-time employees.

**Manitoba Public Insurance (MPI - Component 10)** members ratified a new four-year contract (effective September 18, 2016 to September 26, 2020) that includes general wage increases in each year, market adjustments in the first two years of the agreement, improvements to benefits, and an employment security clause.

## Welcome to the April edition!

Here's what's been happening in our union throughout March.

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](mailto:president@mgeu.ca).

## Contract votes promise a busy April!

After an intensive stretch of negotiations in March, the employer presented a final offer to the **TPP/EMS/DSM Bargaining Committee (Locals 364, 388, 389, 390, 392, 393, 408 - 411, and 415 - 420)**.

The Bargaining Committee had been working towards a mutually acceptable resolution through conciliation, but once the employer put forward a final offer, they were obliged to bring it to members for a vote. Voting will take place throughout April.

Other groups that have reached tentative agreements and will be voting this month include **Allied Wings (Local 379)**, **Manitoba Housing Authority (Locals 127-132)**, and **MB Agricultural Services Corp. - Adjustors (Locals 359-362)**.

## MGEU Board elects new 4th VP

- At our March meeting, the MGEU Board of Directors elected Melissa Dvorak to serve as the union's 4th Vice-President. Congratulations to Melissa on her new role and thanks to Scott Cloney for his years of service on the Board.

## In Your Workplace

### Members' Day at WAG - Local 150 a big hit

On Sunday, March 20, a capacity crowd of members and their families joined **Winnipeg Art Gallery (MGEU Local 150)** staff and volunteers for a day of amazing art and cool crafts, courtesy of the MGEU.

Many of our own MGEU activists were on hand to help register participants and show that union solidarity can be tons of fun!



WAG staff and volunteers hosted MGEU members and their families at the WAG's Olympus exhibition and worked with budding artists to create paper woven masterpieces!

### What would you do if elected?

During each provincial election, the MGEU prepares a number of questions for the three main party leaders to answer about what they plan to do if elected.

The questions are focused on issues of concern to many MGEU members and a flyer with their responses is currently being mailed to all members. An electronic version will also be available at [mgeu.ca](http://mgeu.ca) starting Friday, April 8, 2016.

## In The News

On March 16, I was featured in a **Globe and Mail** article about Manitoba's recently passed Bill 8, which would establish 5 days of paid work leave for domestic violence victims. I talked specifically about what it would have meant to my own mother, who had to flee from an abusive situation with small children and lost her job as a teachers' aide as a result.



Brother Barry Lachuta (Corrections, Area 5) and I were proud to support UFCW Local 832 members on the picket line at the Gimli Diageo plant. We'll continue to stand with them in solidarity until their issues are addressed at the bargaining table.

## The Big Picture

### MGEU women come together to meet, learn and strategize

Nearly 200 women got together March 6 - 8 to learn, laugh, and network, all because they have one thing in common: they're MGEU members.

I was thrilled to spend time with so many dedicated sisters - some who've been involved with the MGEU for years, and some who've never been to a meeting - sharing our experiences and identifying some common goals as union members.

Special thanks to the MGEU Women's Committee for putting together such an informative and enjoyable conference!



The MGEU Women's Committee with Michelle Gawronsky, front, far right.

### UN Commission on the Status of Women

- As part of my role as a Canadian labour leader, I was privileged to attend the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March.

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