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# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



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## At the Bargaining Table

### CIVIL SERVICE BARGAINING COMMITTEE HEADS TO TABLE THIS SPRING

After traveling the province to collect members' ideas and proposals in November, the **Civil Service** Bargaining Committee worked to clarify key issues, identify common priorities and develop a comprehensive package which they presented to the employer on March 4. They have since spent some time reviewing the employer's proposal package and negotiations are scheduled to begin on Wednesday, April 10, 2019.

### RATIFICATION REVIEW

Following an improved offer from their employers, nearly 2,000 members of

### Assiniboine Community College MGEU

- **Local 71** and **Red River College MGEU**

- **Local 73** voted to ratify new four-year collective agreements in March.

It was a tough round of negotiations, especially due to the government's Bill 28 wage freeze legislation. The voting ballot included a caveat which addressed the restrictions imposed by the Bill, limiting the parties' ability to negotiate freely. The MGEU and other unions will be challenging Bill 28 in court in fall 2019.

### Members of **Family Dynamics - Local 212**, who provide support to vulnerable

Winnipeg families, and **UWSA - Local 433**, who provide supports to students through services such as the Food Bank and Safewalk program, also ratified new collective agreements in March.

## 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](mailto:president@mgeu.ca).

## In the Public Eye

### SHARED HEALTH: OVERHAUL CHAOS BECOMES LAW

On March 7, as the government announced it's profound changes to our health care system were now law, I warned the **CBC** and **CTV** that forcing existing organizations like the Addictions Foundation and Selkirk Mental Health Centre under a new employer, Shared Health, is more about the bottom line than the wellness of Manitobans and will only inject more chaos into an already stressed health care system.

### ACTION ON SECURITY ISSUES WELCOME, USE OF PRIVATE CONSULTANT LESS SO

On March 11, I told **Wpg Free Press**, and **Wpg Sun** that Bill 17, new government legislation that would expand the role and status of security officers who patrol government entities such as liquor stores and hospitals sounds very promising, but we question why a private consultant will be conducting a review. Too often, hiring a private consultant to make recommendations has been a path to the privatization of vital public services.

About a week later, in response to reports that "Code Whites," a protocol triggered when health workers are confronted with aggressive persons and need help to de-escalate the situation,

have become daily occurrences at three Winnipeg hospitals, we told the **Wpg Free Press** and **Global News** that while this is obviously very concerning, it's not news to our members, who have been saying this for a long time.

### MBLL: NEW ANTI-THEFT MEASURES GOOD FIRST STEP IN ADDRESSING SAFETY CONCERNS



On March 21, I told the **Wpg Free Press** and **CBC** that MB Liquor and Lotteries' new anti-theft plan, including the creation of loss-prevention teams for Liquor Marts, is welcome news and the union will now be monitoring how such measures play out, listening to members to see what's working and what's not.

### WRHA HEAD'S EMAIL TRIVIALIZES WORKER STRESS

On March 27, I told the **CBC** that an email from WRHA President and CEO Réal Cloutier attempting to empathize with Manitoba health care workers by telling them that "change sucks" but couldn't be avoided, trivialized the very real frustrations of these workers with its empty slogans and patronizing tone.

## In Your Workplace

### CONCERNS OVER SAFETY OF MANITOBANS, MEMBERS FINALLY HEARD

After weeks of their union repeatedly speaking out on safety issues relating to Manitoba's escalating meth crisis in our hospitals, as well as increasingly brazen and dangerous incidents at MB Liquor Marts, members finally saw their employers take some action in March!

### HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS TALK OPTIONS DURING PROVINCE-WIDE TELE-MEETING



About 3,000 Technical Professional Paramedical members had the opportunity to stay on the line with us to discuss the upcoming union representation votes. I was joined by MGEU Director of Negotiations, Sheila Gordon, staff negotiator, Colin Ghostkeeper, EMS Component Director Rebecca Clifton, and DSM President Shona Litke.

## The Big Picture

### CHANCE TO TALK PUBLIC SERVICES WITH CANADA'S FIRST MINISTER

On March 25, the Prime Minister joined Manitoba labour leaders for a discussion at the Union Centre. I was able to share with him how much Manitobans value their public services, including our public Home Care program. I also spoke about



the critical need to invest in mental health and addictions services in our province, as well as a national Pharmacare plan.

## At the Leg

**Interim Supply Bill:** I made it clear to MLAs that if they did not do their job and ensure government employees are paid when the legislature resumes on April 1, the MGEU will take whatever legal measures necessary to ensure members receive their pay cheques on time.

**Bill 10:** I wrote to the Health Minister on behalf of members at AFM, Selkirk Mental Health and Cadham Lab, asking what exactly forcing these organizations under one employer will mean for the services currently provided by their employees.

**Budget 2019:** I responded with what I've been saying since day one: do not give us an unaffordable tax break if it's going to cost us our services!

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