



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Leg

Government's cuts to Health impact MGEU members

The WRHA announced sweeping changes to health care on July 11, with several of those changes impacting a number of MGEU members.

I met with employer representatives at the Provincial Health Labour Relations Secretariat to determine how these cuts will impact our membership and we're communicating directly with affected Locals to explain the employment rights process.

I will continue to actively and publicly oppose these cuts that compromise the safety of members and that will undoubtedly erode our public health services.

The Union has also brought our powerful and award-winning ad about health care professionals back to the airwaves to remind all Manitobans why these public health services matter so much to each and every one of us.

The Big Picture

JOIN OUR RALLY TO PROTEST THE PALLISTER CUTS TO HEALTH SEPTEMBER 13!!

We are facing one of the most important battles in decades as a result of the actions of the Pallister government. Meet us at the Manitoba Legislature from 12 - 1 pm and let's send a clear message that it's time to put care first, and stand up for the health of Manitobans.

At the Bargaining Table

Although it's been pretty quiet at the bargaining table over the past few weeks, a small number of groups such as **Government Community Workers - Locals 251-256, 258, Main Street Project - Local 136, and Family Dynamics - Local 212**, have met with employer committees to continue discussions.

RATIFICATION REVIEW

Brandon's **Family Visions - Local 303**, who support adults with intellectual disabilities through residential and day services, ratified a new four-year collective agreement which includes wage increases and increases to other benefits.

ARBITRATION RESULTS

After three years without a new contract, **Macdonald Youth Services (Alternative Parent Home Program) - Local 369**, received an arbitrated decision granting them wage increases in each of the four years of their new collective agreement. This group is one of very few which has access to interest arbitration through a provision in their collective agreement.

An arbitration was also held last January as a result of an agreement reached during the last round of negotiations at the **Community Support** bargaining table. This arbitration focussed specifically on a question related to the scheduling of work for Home Care workers with EFTs. The union was not successful in this instance and will raise this issue once again when the next round of bargaining begins.

Welcome to the August 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 the Public Eye

On July 4, I stood in solidarity with the *Partnership to Defend Public Services* to file for an injunction against Bill 28, the Public Services Sustainability Act. This Bill is unfair and unconstitutional, and it fundamentally undermines our collective bargaining rights.

On July 5, I raised ongoing concerns in the **Free Press** about the negative consequences of Social Impact Bonds and how they often end up costing the taxpayers more money when private companies need to make a profit off services that families rely on.

On July 4, 5, and 11, I spoke to the **Free Press, Sun, Global** and **CJOB** of our ongoing concerns about the changes to city hospitals, including the closures of ER's and Quick Care Clinics. Reducing staffing levels, closing clinics and jacking up fees hurts families and doesn't improve patient care – and much of this work in critical areas (such as patient safety), is being downloaded onto frontline staff who are already stretched thin.

On July 12, I made it clear to the **Free Press** that the WRHA is making too many changes too fast and aren't taking time to ensure that their services are going to be there for the public.

I also spoke to the **Free Press** about the importance of strong jointly-funded defined benefit pension plans, and that MGEU will advocate for strong pension plans for all Manitobans.

On July 27- 28, I told the **Free Press** that patients are put at risk if EMS are not allowed to take them to the proper facility for the best care.

On July 27- 28, I told **Global**, the **National Post** and the **Free Press** that MGEU urged the government to make marijuana sales a public service and not to entertain the idea of privatization.

In Your Workplace

TAKE A BREAK WITH US!

I am so happy to take every opportunity this summer to speak with members about the vital services you provide day-in and day-out. We've been going to workplaces around the province and asking you to speak up about the vital role of health care in our communities.

We want to thank you for all that you do, so when we're at your work location, please take your break with us. Our casual come-and-go events are the perfect opportunity to share your stories and I look forward to seeing you. With all the current government is throwing at us, it is wonderful to meet with you and hear directly about your concerns and ideas.



Members at Sharon Home sharing a coffee & donuts (courtesy of their union!) and some workplace concerns and some lighthearted moments with me.



Chatting with members in Ste. Rose and in Winnipeg at the Pan Am Clinic.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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