



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

FRUSTRATING LACK OF PROGRESS AT BARGAINING TABLES, WORK TO RESUME BARGAINING CONTINUES



Now that the health care representation votes are behind us, the Court of Queen's Bench has ruled Bill 28 unconstitutional, and our province is opening up again, we've begun working with Bargaining Committees to be prepared to get back to the bargaining table.

Even though the government

recently appealed the Court of Queen's Bench ruling recognizing that the MGEU was entirely justified in filing for arbitration to settle the terms of the **Civil Service collective agreement**, we're pushing ahead with preparations for the arbitration. Both the MGEU and the employer have now selected their representatives to the Arbitration Board and dates have been set aside in June and September of 2021 for the hearing – a long way off but the dates are scheduled.

For Locals who accepted the government wage freezes and caps with a conditional ballot when they ratified their contract, we are looking at next steps and working with the other unions in the *Partnership to Defend Public Services*.

For those whose bargaining was delayed by the representation votes and then afterwards, the pandemic, we have now developed meeting protocols in accordance with provincial health rules which will allow us to renew and refresh bargaining proposal packages at Local meetings. We're also moving forward on negotiating essential services agreements where these are required before heading to the table.

For those whose negotiations, or preparations for negotiations, were simply delayed by restrictions on in-person meetings due to the pandemic, meeting protocols respecting Manitoba's "new normal" are in place and will allow the bargaining process to proceed, again following provincial health guidelines. These can/will change as the guidelines dictate.

MYS -LOCAL 369 WINS ARBITRATION AWARD

As one of the very few MGEU Locals that have access to interest arbitration through their collective agreement, members of the **Macdonald Youth Services (Alternative Parent Home Program) - Local 369** were awarded wage increases in each year of their two-year contract by an arbitrator in July.

PATIENT TRANSPORT SERVICES RATIFIES FIRST CONTRACT

Members of **Patient Transport Services, MGEU Local 451** who provide non-emergency patient transport services across Manitoba – ratified their very first MGEU collective agreement in July. The agreement includes wage increases well as improvements to sick leave and vacation provisions. Congratulations to the Bargaining Committee -- and welcome Local 451!



The Big Picture

NEXT TIME YOU'RE DOWNTOWN, CHECK OUT THE NEW MURAL AT OUR WINNIPEG OFFICE ON BROADWAY!

On July 20, many of us at the MGEU head office were lucky enough to attend the official dedication of the Union Centre's new mural recognizing over 100 years of labour movement history here in Manitoba. Great views can be had from the corner of Broadway and Garry.



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

RISK RECOGNITION PAYMENTS BEGIN TO FLOW TO TOO FEW

On July 29, I told the **Winnipeg Sun** and **Global** that after no updates or information from government for over a month after the application deadline, I was pleased for those Manitobans who met the eligibility requirements and will finally be enjoying some financial relief now that the money is flowing. But the sad reality is the program is leaving out many, many others who put themselves and their families at risk by providing services to fellow Manitobans since the start of the pandemic.

REDUCED WORKWEEK PREFERABLE TO LAYOFFS, STILL DEFIES COMMON SENSE

On July 3, I told the **CBC** that the government's stubborn decision to reduce the Civil Service workforce by mandating five unpaid leave days during this difficult time makes no sense at all. The services still need to be provided, which means often incurring overtime costs or finding replacements for those forced to be on leave.

In Your Workplace

In mid-July, we carried out a random survey of members,



trying to get a sense of your thoughts on evolving technology, including how it's changing your work and how we use it to serve you. Thanks to all who took the time to participate -- your efforts will help better understand your needs and preferences as both employees and union members!

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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