



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### CIVIL SERVICE FILES FOR ARBITRATION

On behalf of over 12,000 members, the MGEU's Civil Service Bargaining Committee decided to file for arbitration in July.

Pursuing arbitration means an independent third-party will hear arguments from both sides to determine a contract settlement. While we work with our legal counsel to prepare our presentation, the Bargaining Committee remains open to reaching a negotiated settlement if the government is ready to resume fair and meaningful talks.

Meanwhile, a court hearing challenging the constitutionality of the government's unproclaimed wage freeze law (Bill 28) will proceed as scheduled this fall on behalf of all public-sector workers.

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

## In Your Workplace

### SHOWING HEALTH CARE WORKERS WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER!

From August 8 – 22, Manitoba health care workers will be voting to choose a union to represent them. As part of the votes, all of the unions involved, including the MGEU, were scheduled by employers to attend Union Access Opportunities at health care worksites in July. Our Care Comes First team has crisscrossed the province to meet with workers, answer their questions, and help them make an informed choice! These kiosk stops continue until Aug. 7. Visit [CareComesFirst.ca](http://CareComesFirst.ca) for a full schedule.



### MGEU SPECIALISTS ANSWER THE CALL

To answer workers' questions about the health care votes, we held a Tele-meeting on July 25 with our MGEU specialists. If you're in health care, you won't want to miss [our next tele-meeting](#) on Wednesday, August 7 at 7pm.

### GRIEVING LIFEFLIGHT LAY-OFFS

Our union filed a group grievance and several individual grievances on behalf of Civil Service members who worked in the now-privatized LifeFlight Air Ambulance program and were laid-off without proper notice. We feel it shows disrespect for hard-working employees and clearly violates the collective agreement.

### PALLISTER GOVERNMENT MUST ADDRESS METH CRISIS HEAD-ON

The meth crisis in Manitoba is affecting MGEU members in almost every component across the province. However, the government's response so far has been far too little, too late. We have called on the Premier and his government to come up with a comprehensive plan and implement it soon because those on the front-lines can't continue to do their jobs safely as this crisis escalates.

### GOLICO ACTIVISTS WRAP-UP MBLL WORKPLACE TOUR

Our GOLICO Executive toured dozens of MBLL workplaces in July to talk with members about the many issues facing the Component, including Liquor Mart thefts and the threat of privatization. If you'd like to learn more about our anti-privatization efforts on this issue, head over to [KeepingLiquorPublic.ca](http://KeepingLiquorPublic.ca) and be sure to [sign our online petition](#).



### 6 NEW GRIEVANCE WINS FOR MGEU MEMBERS IN IERHA

This month we shared some great news about grievance wins for members in the Interlake-Eastern RHA. Included on the list is a win for Health Care Support Services members who are eligible to claim retro pay for travel time (going back a full year!) and a win for all MGEU health members in the region who now have the right to pick up available additional hours while on an education leave.

## In the Public Eye

This month we spoke with the [WPG Free Press](#) and [CTV Winnipeg](#) about the **increase in Winnipeg Paramedics being sent to police calls**.

Following an **assault by two inmates on a Correctional Officer** at Milner Ridge, I told the



[CBC](#) that with a spike in violence, due to addictions and mental health issues, the government must find effective strategies to reduce the risk of these attacks on our officers.

I told the [CBC](#), [WPG Sun](#), [WPG Free Press](#) and [CTV Winnipeg](#) that the WRHA and Shared Health need to move quickly to **give hospital Security Officers the authority to protect staff and patients** without fear of reprisal following an incident in which a gun was pulled on our officers at Health Sciences Centre. I also spoke to the [CBC](#) about the need for safer working conditions at the hospital, after a **worker was violently sexually assaulted** by a patient in January.

Following up on our Keeping Liquor Public ad campaign, I talked with the [WPG Free Press](#) about **pushing the issue of liquor privatization** into the provincial election spotlight.

Meanwhile, our Director of Internal Operations, Jean-Guy Bourgeois, spoke with several media outlets, including [Global News](#), about our **ongoing security concerns at Manitoba Liquor Marts**.

He also shared our concerns with [CTV Winnipeg](#) about leaked documents that show a **possibility of privatizing Manitoba Public Insurance**, even though the results of one of our recent public polls, which were published in the [WPG Free Press](#), shows Manitobans want MPI to remain public by a margin of more than 3-1!

## The Big Picture

### PUTTING THE SPOTLIGHT ON THE PEOPLE ON THE OTHER END OF THE LINE

This month we released some great new videos about our fantastic Resource Centre Reps and the amazing service they provide. If you haven't checked them out yet, head over to our [MGEUTube channel](#).



Good afternoon, MGEU Resource Centre.

### SELKIRK TRIPLE S FAIR AND RODEO PARADE

What a great time we had on a sunny Saturday afternoon in Selkirk. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to make our award-winning float possible!



### CONGRATS TO OUR BURSARY RECIPIENTS

It was great to see a record number of applicants this year for our MGEU bursaries and scholarships. This week, we announced [the recipients of almost \\$30,000 in financial support](#) for MGEU members and their families who are expanding their education.

## Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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