



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## In the Public Eye

### CIVIL SERVICE: STRATEGIC RETURN TO WORK PLAN CAN'T BE ONE-SIZE-FITS-ALL

On June 27, I told the **Winnipeg Free Press** that we have not heard



from Civil Service members being pushed toward either working from home or returning to the office, and that I hope this is a sign the government doesn't have a one-size fits all, predetermined plan.

I also expressed my concern that for those who remain working at home, there will be the expectation of working at all hours. We will need to set some parameters in place and I fully expect working arrangements to become part of our contract negotiations.

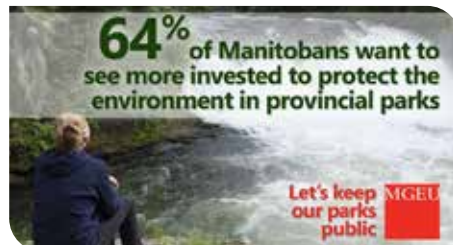
### JUSTICE MUST SEND CLEAR MESSAGE THAT ATTACKS ON COs WILL NOT BE TOLERATED

On July 23, after two inmates were released without charges in two separate alleged attacks on Corrections Officers this month at Milner Ridge Correctional Centre, I told the **Winnipeg Free Press** that the Minister needs to come in, he needs to step down hard and fast, and say this will not be tolerated.

Correctional Officers, like anyone else,

have the right to expect to go home safe at the end of their shift.

### PARKS DAY PERFECT TIME TO SEND MESSAGE: MORE PUBLIC INVESTMENT, NO PRIVATIZATION



On July 17 -- otherwise known as **National Parks Day** -- we called on Manitobans who were breathing in a little nature at a nearby Provincial park over the weekend to also recognize the importance of conserving our public, natural spaces.

### DANGER AHEAD: PRIVATIZATION OF MI/VEMA A RISKY PATH TO TAKE

Throughout August, we also urged all Manitobans to send a message to the government on behalf of our Manitoba Infrastructure and the Vehicle and Equipment Management Agency members, who are focused on providing quality services that keep Manitobans safe and on-the-move -- stop privatizing, contracting out, and cutting these services!



## 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).

## At the Bargaining Table

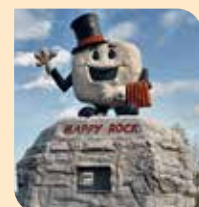
### CORRECTIONS OFFER TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

The **Corrections Bargaining Committee**, who've been negotiating their sub-agreement of the Civil Service Master agreement for over two years and recently filed an unfair practice against the employer for dragging their feet at the table, finally received a settlement offer on July 23, 2021. The offer includes no monetary improvements and the Committee is recommending members vote "no." Virtual information sessions are scheduled for August 17 and 18, 2021.



### LOCAL 454 SET TO VOTE ON FIRST CONTRACT

Meanwhile, after a year at the table and a recent application to the Manitoba Labour Board to settle the provisions of their first collective agreement, the Municipality of **WestLake/Gladstone - Local 454** Bargaining Committee and the employer finally reached a tentative agreement with the aid of a mediator. An information session and ratification vote is scheduled in early August.



## In Your Workplace

MEET SIMRAN BADHAN,  
Elizabeth Fry Society, Local 301 - Bail Worker



Simran Badhan, who's run the Elizabeth Fry Society's Bail Verification and Supervision Program for the past two years, says most of us could hardly imagine the challenges her clients have faced their whole lives.

*"The hardest part of my job is seeing, every single day, the real impact of systemic racism and the long term effects of the residential school system and institutionalization...but so much is possible when approaching someone in great need with genuine positivity and empathy. It just takes caring, and a commitment to invest in people without judgement, no matter what."*

Read more at [www.mgeu.ca/about-us/members-profiles](http://www.mgeu.ca/about-us/members-profiles).

## The Big Picture



Local comedian Big Daddy Tazz joined MGEU members and their families to kick-off summer with "Virtually Out of My Mind" on June 29 -- providing big laughs and straight talk about mental health.

If you missed it, you can watch it now at [HealthyMindsAtWork.ca](http://HealthyMindsAtWork.ca)!

### WE MUST OPEN OUR MINDS AND HEARTS

On July 16, I released a statement, making it clear that our new Minister of Indigenous Reconciliation and Northern Relations' comments regarding the Residential School System were both unacceptable and historically untruthful. We as Manitobans must have difficult conversations about our country, not close our minds and our hearts. We must all do this, including our provincial leaders, in particular, because we cannot have meaningful reconciliation without first recognizing the truth of what happened.



**Residential Schools Survivors and Family Crisis Line:**  
1-866-925-4419

### IT'S A WRAP -- over 250 virtual Local meetings held!

Thanks to some strategic thinking and a whole lot of effort from MGEU staff and elected representatives, we held the last of 256 virtual Local meetings in July, over the course of which MGEU members managed to elect:

- 303 Local Presidents, Chief Stewards, Vice-Presidents, and Members at Large;
- more than 200 stewards and health and safety reps; as well as
- 237 convention delegates!



## Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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