



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

ACC/RCC RECEIVE FINAL OFFER

On July 27, members of the **Assiniboine Community College/Red River College Central Bargaining Table - Locals 71 and 73** received a final offer from the employer. Information sessions and ratification votes will be held in September.

THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT RATIFIED

On July 11, members of **Parkland Residential and Vocational Services Inc. - Local 180**, who deliver programs and services to adults with intellectual disabilities in Dauphin, voted to ratify a new three-year contract, which includes an increase to overnight shift rates,

improvements to compensation leave, and strengthening of layoff and recall language.

BILL 28: CONSTITUTIONAL CHALLENGE TO BE EXPEDITED

We were disappointed, but not surprised on July 20th when the judge ruled against the Partnership to Defend Public Services Bill 28 injunction. The injunction was brought forward by the partnership (made up of many provincial unions including the MGEU) to block the implementation of the Pallister government's wage freeze legislation (Bill 28 The Public Sustainability Act). However, this ruling has no bearing or influence on our constitutional challenge, and in fact the judge said that the main trial will now proceed on an expedited basis and we remain confident in our position as we move forward.

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

PARAMEDICS RECOGNIZED WITH STRETCH OF ROAD IN WINNIPEG

On July 9, I was proud to stand with



Local 911 President, Ryan Woiden, Local 911 Vice-President, Troy Reidy, and EMS Component Director, Rebecca Clifton as the honorary designation of Paramedic Way was given to part of St. Mary's Road, between St. Anne's Road and Mager Drive. Winnipeg's St. Vital Coun. Brian Mayes was instrumental in championing the honorary naming of this stretch of road to ensure their contributions are highlighted.

Paramedics provide a valuable public service, are a vital part of our city and province, and this recognition is well deserved.

PRIVATIZING MANITOBA GOVERNMENT AIR SERVICES (MGAS) IS TOO GREAT A RISK

On July 26, in response to the government's request for proposals (RFP's) to privatize MGAS which includes Lifeflight and forest fire suppression I told the **CBC, CTV, Global, Wpg Free Press** and **Wpg Sun** that the report by the Breakwater Group (independent research consultants), commissioned by the MGEU, confirms that it is too risky and will

not generate savings without reducing the quality and speed of lifesaving emergency services to rural and northern Manitoba.

In Your Workplace

VISITS TO WORKPLACES CONTINUE THIS SUMMER

This month, we're continuing to meet as many members as we can, right at their work locations. I was thrilled to spend part of July touring the province, making stops in many places including



Portage la Prairie, Morden, Winkler, Carman, Morris, Steinbach, and Notre Dame. It has been visits full of great conversations, sharing information and concerns. We even have public folks stopping by to say how grateful they are to know that MGEU is lobbying for ALL Manitobans for the services they rely on. I'm so proud of the work we do - and a huge thank you to all who took the time to stop by. Every visit reminds me that we must continue to do all we can to protect jobs and services in these communities.



On July 26, Jennifer Keith (centre), and Jesse Hajer (right), of the Breakwater Group, and I held a press conference to release the results of their independent report which confirms that privatizing MGAS will put Manitobans at risk.

At the Leg

THE FUTURE OF OUR FORESTS IS AT STAKE

This month I sent out a petition asking people to tell the Pallister government that selling the Pineland Forest Nursery near Hadashville threatens the province's forests and that we need to keep the facility public. Not only will selling the massive facility eliminate eight full-time and 17 part-time jobs (not including all the seasonal employees), but because Pineland provides highly specialized services no other nursery in Manitoba provides, its closure threatens the security of the seed bank for Manitoba trees of many varieties and raises questions about where Manitoba will get the millions of new trees needed to sustain our forests each year. Without the Nursery, our forests will suffer.

We've also put up a billboard along the Trans-Canada Highway, near the nursery, reminding Manitobans of what's at stake with the loss of this valuable public service.



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Get this 5-minute monthly update delivered to your inbox.

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