



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### HCSS MEMBERS TALK BARGAINING CHALLENGES AT NOV. 6 TELE-MEETING

On Nov. 6, over a thousand **Health Care Support Service** members stayed on the phone line for an update on bargaining and ongoing changes in health care. Topics included our court challenge of the wage freeze legislation (Bill 28) and how the *Health Care Sector Bargaining Review Act* (Bill 29) is delaying negotiations.

### GOLICO PROPOSAL PACKAGE UNDERWAY

Over 1,100 members of **GOLICO - Component 9**, who work for MB Liquor and Lotteries, met with their Bargaining Committee on Nov. 5 to share their ideas for improving the collective agreement.

The Committee is currently working to pull these proposals together into a package to present to the employer.

### FIRST CONTRACT TALKS CONTINUE

The Bargaining Committees of four new MGEU Locals — **The Pas Library - Local 440, Dakota Ojibway Child and Family Services - Locals 435-437, End Homelessness Wpg - Local 439** and **Les Tournesols de Saint Vital - Local 441** — are at the bargaining table for the first time. Creating a new agreement is always a large task and most Committees expect to continue talks into 2018.

### EDUCATION LOCALS EXPECTED TO NEGOTIATE WELL INTO NEW YEAR

The Committees bargaining on behalf of nearly 2,500 members who work in education, including **Université de Saint Boniface - Locals 147-149, Seine River SD - Locals 143-145, and Assiniboine Community College/Red River College Central Table - Locals 71 and 73**, may remain at the table well into the new year.

## Welcome to the December 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

### TALKING ABOUT THE FUTURE OF LONG-TERM RESIDENTIAL CARE IN MB

On Nov. 23, MGEU cosponsored, along with the *Cdn Centre for Policy Alternatives*, a discussion about the future of long-term residential care. MGEU HCSS Component Director, Terry Rear, shared her experiences as a long-term care provider, along with Drs. Pat and Hugh Armstrong, who specialize in long-term care policy.



Terry Rear at the MGEU Care Comes First rally.

### ASK FRONT-LINE HEALTH WORKERS! WESTMAN CLOSURES ARE NOT THE ANSWER

In response to some alarming recommendations being made by a so-called "Health Care Task Force," we've written to the CEOs of the RHAs and DSM seeking information about the proposed closure of ERs, labs and EMS stations in Boissevain, Deloraine, Killarney and Melita. I also asked the Health Minister to meet face-to-face with MGEU health care workers to talk about the many ways we can improve our health services, rather than cut them.

### PARAMEDICS CHALLENGE BOSS'S DISRESPECT

Nov. 20 was the fourth and final day of an MGEU arbitration investigating Fire Paramedic Chief John Lane for creating a toxic workplace for Local 911 paramedics. The arbitrator will now decide whether the City must pay damages for Lane's behaviour.

## In the Public Eye

### WINNIPEG PCH CUTS: SENIORS WILL SUFFER

On Nov. 28, I wrote in the **Wpg Free Press** that funding cuts to Winnipeg personal care homes are no way to treat our seniors. Due to staffing shortages, workers are already always rushing, meaning less time to give baths or plan activities for residents.

### RESPONSE TO THRONE SPEECH: CUTS, PRIVATIZATION NOT THE SOLUTION

On Nov. 22, I told the **Wpg Sun** and **Free Press** that MGEU members and Manitobans remain worried about the government's cost-cutting agenda. Those working on the front-lines must be given the opportunity to share their ideas for improvements that don't involve job losses or put services at risk.

### GEOGRAPHY SHOULDN'T DETERMINE CARE

On Nov. 14, I told **CBC** and the **Wpg Sun** that residents of Westman facing potential closure of their ERs are alarmed. Our members striving to provide care in those communities believe all Manitobans, no matter where they live, deserve quality health care services.

### POT PLAN MEANS PUBLIC COSTS, PRIVATE PROFITS

On November 8, I argued in the **Wpg Sun, Free Press** and **CBC** that the government's plan to have private businesses sell marijuana not only ignores the evidence when it comes to public safety — it sticks the public sector with all the costs of policing and tracking the supply, while allowing private investors to reap the profits.

### "MIXED MODEL" = PRIVATIZED HOME CARE

On Nov. 8, I made it clear in the **Wpg Free Press** that the government must stop mincing words and be honest with Manitobans: the WRHA's new *Priority Home* program means big corporations are now officially a part of our home care program.

### LIFELIGHT NEEDS NEW HIRES, RECOUP UNFAIR

On November 3, I spoke with the **Wpg Free Press** and **CBC** about two issues:

- the need to hire a full complement of Life Flight pilots and what this might have to do with potentially privatizing our Government Air Services, and;
- our arbitration, scheduled in May 2018, re: the WRHA disregarding the collective agreement when it came to recouping overpayments to staff in a reasonable timeframe.

## The Big Picture

### EATING SPAGHETTI/BUILDING COMMUNITY A NOVEMBER TRADITION IN PORTAGE

On Nov. 1, MGEU members did a fantastic job serving up more than 500 plates of pasta and raising almost \$5,000 for the Portage Plains United Way!

### HONOURING THE SACRIFICES OF 1919

On Nov. 1, I was proud to join other labour leaders at the unveiling of the 1919 Strike Marquee in Winnipeg's Exchange District.



The new monument will remind us of the many thousands of Winnipeggers who bravely walked the job to take a stand and try to change things for the better.

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