



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### BILL 28 HEARINGS UNDERWAY

The MGEU and 28 other public service unions began our constitutional challenge of the Pallister government's wage freeze law on November 18.

MFL President Kevin Rebeck and I were among the first to give our testimony. Others were called to testify as well, including economists, labour experts, and several of our MGEU staff. All of this testimony will add to the body of evidence placed before the judge, which already includes 37 affidavits and more than 100 pages of agreed upon facts.



From February 18-20, 2020 the court will reconvene to hear closing arguments.

### DEFENDING CIVIL SERVICE MEMBERS' RIGHTS TO ARBITRATION

After the government refused to appoint an arbitration panel to settle the Civil Service agreement, the MGEU filed an application asking the Court of Queen's Bench to order the government to do so. The union and the Province are in the process of filing their evidence and written arguments with the Court, and then a hearing will be scheduled. We expect the hearing will happen in the early spring, with a decision soon after.

### RATIFICATION REVIEW

On November 21, members of **UnionWare - Local 193** voted to ratify a new three-year agreement. Highlights include a new annual salary review process and pension plan, as well as improvements to vacation leave.

## 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

### GRIEVANCE WIN RESTORES FULL-HOUR PREMIUMS FOR GOLICO MEMBERS

An arbitrator recently determined that many GOLICO members are owed back pay thanks to an MGEU grievance win re: how members have always been compensated for working into the next hour on a evening or weekend shift.

### PRIVATIZING HIGHWAY SNOW CLEARING WILL PUT PUBLIC AT RISK

The government's privatization push took the next big step in Nov., when they quietly posted several requests for proposals for private contractors to bid on snow clearing services. In response, we sent a letter to the Minister of Infrastructure sharing members' concerns about the current shortage of staff and equipment available throughout the province.

## In the Public Eye

### SPOTLIGHT ON SECURITY IN LIQUOR MARTS

Following a violent attack at the Tyndall Park liquor mart, I told media outlets including the **Wpg Free Press**, **CBC** and the **Canadian Press** that while we welcomed the employer's introduction of the Secure Entrance Initiative, the crisis remains bigger than that. I appealed to the Province to bring together key players in our community -- law enforcement, addictions and social services, public and private retailers, unions, and the Province-- for an urgent summit to get this crisis under control.



The next week, I stood with MGEU member, **Randi Chase**, one of the victims of the violent attack, as she shared with reporters how she's feeling now.

The next day, dozens of GOLICO activists attended question period at the Legislative building and shared with MLAs their first-hand accounts of the security crisis and what must be done to finally bring about real change.

### CALL FOR IMMEDIATE REVIEWS AFTER LATEST ATTACKS AGAINST CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS

In response to two attacks on Correctional Officers by an inmates in the space of a week in November, I told the **Wpg Free Press**, **CBC**, and **CTV** that we are calling for a health and safety review at all provincial correctional facilities, as well as a review of routines and how inmate checks are performed.

### SURVEY: LOW EMPLOYEE MORALE NO SURPRISE

After the **CBC** reported that a MB Justice staff engagement survey revealed employees feel they are undervalued, have concerns about the leadership in their office, and note a lack meaningful recognition, I confirmed what our members have been telling us for some time: they don't feel valued at work and morale is at an all-time low.



Nov. 6 was "Community Social Service Workers Appreciation Day" and our Community-Based Social Services Component Executive spent the morning discussing many of the common issues facing their workplaces across the province. They also visited the Legislative building to accept an official proclamation from the Minister of Families.

## The Big Picture

### HO-HO-HO AND HAPPY START TO THE HOLIDAYS!



Thank you to all members, staff, friends and family who walked, waved flags, handed out lollipops and spread cheer on the MGEU Santa parade float!

## At the Leg

### LOTS TO DISCUSS AT MEETING WITH PREMIER

On Nov. 28, I met with Premier Pallister, to identify a number of areas of concern for MGEU members, including:

- Keeping snow clearing and equipment maintenance services public;
- Demystifying the upcoming amendments to the Public Services Act;
- The need for a summit on public safety;
- Health and safety in public sector workplaces; and
- The future of rural health care.

## Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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