



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

On Strike

About 30 members of the **Nisichawayasihk Personal Care Home (PCH) - Local 367** in Nelson House began strike action on Monday, November 28, 2016.

For six years, members have been fighting to make the same wages as others doing the same work in Manitoba. Currently, for instance, health care aides in Thompson make \$4 more per hour though they all have the same level of training.

Last year, nurses working at this personal care home went on strike for the same wage parity issue and were successful in getting equal pay.



Local 367 members are bundled up and ready to walk the picket line on the first day of the strike.

Ratification Review

A diverse group of Locals, from those in the IT business to health care to child welfare, ratified agreements this past month.

Members of **UnionWare - Local 193** ratified a new three-year agreement with a number of monetary gains.

Members of **Winnipeg Clinic - Local 363** ratified a four-year agreement that includes wage increases in each year of the agreement and improvements to benefits and contract language.

Members of **Southeast Child and Family Services - Local 395** ratified a deal that includes wage increases in each of the three years of the agreement and improvements to maternity leave benefits.

Members of **Society for Manitobans with Disabilities (SMD) - Local 262** and **Government Community Workers - Component 18** will be voting on their tentative agreements in the coming weeks.

Welcome to the December edition!

Here's what's been happening in our union throughout November.

If you have any questions, please get ahold of me through our Resource Centre (204-982-6438 or 1-866-982-6438) or e-mail me at president@mgeu.ca.

In the News

While I spoke to the media about a number of newsworthy issues, including the strike in Nelson House, paramedic self-regulation, and home care issues in Southern Health, the Premier's suggestion they may not only freeze wages but reopen existing contracts became the month's big local news story.

Here's a quick summary of how we're responding to the government's threats:

- Recent Supreme Court decisions have affirmed that the *Charter of Rights* protects the rights of workers to bargain fair contracts. Just two weeks ago, the Court ruled against BC government legislation that interfered in the bargaining process with BC teachers. The MGEU would fight against any legislation that breaches the Charter rights of our members.
- The Premier's threats should be of concern to all Manitobans. Besides the threats to Charter rights, he is breaking promises made during the election. You don't protect and improve public services by disrespecting and threatening the people who deliver those services.
- During the government's pre-budget consultations, we suggested a number of constructive alternatives to cuts, including asking large corporations and upper income earners to pay more of their fair share of taxes, and working to balance the budget over a longer period of time.
- The Premier's suggestion that public sector wages are out of control is simply not true. Over the past decade, the reality is that provincial government wage increases have just kept pace with the cost of living.

In Your Workplace

On November 23, I was on hand when the government announced that plans are underway to implement self-regulation of Manitoba paramedics.

For years, the MGEU has been working with our paramedics and organizations like the Paramedic Association of MB to advocate for self-regulation. Together, we have argued that

paramedics are dedicated health professionals and self-regulation will provide greater consistency, transparency, and accountability in the delivery of emergency medical care.

I look forward to meeting with Reg Toews, who will be leading the consultation with stakeholders.



Speaking at the news conference, I was joined by several of the 1,000+ paramedics MGEU represents.

The Big Picture

Serving up support in Portage!

On November 3, I was proud to don my apron and join MGEU members and staff to serve up more than 540 meals in support of the Portage Plains United Way.

Now into its second decade, this year's **MGEU Spaghetti Luncheon** raised \$5,000 for United Way agencies in Portage.

Proud sponsor of inner city investment

On November 25, there was more great food at **LITE Winnipeg's Pancake Breakfast** in support of LITE's year-round employment and alternative Christmas hamper programs.

This time of year, LITE hires Winnipeggers in need of employment to assist in putting together hampers filled with goodies, either made by inner city residents or bought from businesses within the community.



I joined Area 4 MGEU activists like Ed Miller (right) on kitchen duty and congratulated everyone involved on behalf of the MGEU, a sponsor of the event.



Along with other event sponsors and dignitaries, I got a chance to go up on stage for a Metis jig, while community members at the breakfast visited our Keep Us Together kiosk to share what public supports are most important to them.

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

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