



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

In the Public Eye

CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS RECEIVE MEDICAL MASKS: FIRST STEP IN FIGHT FOR ADEQUATE PPE

In addition to filing a grievance on behalf of our Correctional Officers, I spoke out repeatedly in the media this month for the government to provide medical-grade PPE for all COs. When the Province sent out expired masks, we spoke out again and made sure they were immediately replaced. Thanks to such efforts, Justice is now providing medical-grade masks, but the MGEU will not stand down until all COs are granted the PPE they need.



STILL FIGHTING FOR ADEQUATE PPE FOR ALL STAFF AT CARE HOMES

I told the CBC and Brandon Sun that members in personal care home outbreaks, like Fairview in Brandon, are working in fear because of inadequate PPE. We've already filed a grievance on this issue, but we need the employer to act now.

SHORT-STAFFING, UNMANAGEABLE CASELOADS DRIVING MEMBERS TOWARDS BURNOUT

I told the Winnipeg Free Press on Nov. 24 that crushing caseloads and staff shortages are now driving our **nurse investigators at Manitoba's medical examiner's office** towards burnout.

Meanwhile, **members at Cadham Provincial Lab** are working well beyond normal capacity. We wrote to the premier and called on him to immediately invest in more capacity to process COVID-19 samples at MB's flagship lab.

GRANDVIEW CLOSURE EXPOSES HEALTH CUTS

With Grandview Health Centre now closed in the middle of the pandemic because staff are needed elsewhere, I told CBC that COVID-19 has exposed the government's dangerous cuts to rural health care.

RECONSIDER BRINGING COVID-POSITIVE PATIENTS TO SMHC

As the Province announced it would be moving COVID-positive mental-health patients to Selkirk Mental Health Centre, I immediately sent a letter on Nov. 26 to the Minister and told the CBC that Shared Health must reconsider bringing these patients into a COVID-free facility.

HIRING PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANY NOTHING BUT A BAND-AID

On November 18, I told the CBC that the government must have an actual plan for tackling emergencies and begin by investing in its own workforce instead of scrambling at the last-minute to hire a private company to assist with health order enforcement.

PARAMEDICS MUST HAVE ALL INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBLE THREATS

In response to a report stating our paramedics are sometimes not getting enough information when dispatched to a call that may pose a higher risk of violence, I once again told the CBC on November 3 that when members go to a call, they must be as fully informed as possible.

GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO HEED ITS OWN ADVICE, PROVIDE CONSISTENCY ON WORKING FROM HOME

With some Civil Service managers refusing to allow members to work remotely, I told the Free Press that the government must practice what it's preaching to other employers and be more consistent in its approach to working from home for its own workforce.

should be eligible and there are many on the front-lines who are not. We will continue to advocate for expanding the program, while reminding the Province it needs to get back to the bargaining table and deal fairly with all public workers.

INTERIM AGREEMENT ENSURES SHIFT PREMIUM FOR THOSE TRANSFERRED TO PCH OUTBREAKS

This month we worked to extend the Reassignment/Redeployment Interim Premium Agreement – which pays a \$25 shift premium to employees who do not hold a position in a PCH but have been assigned to one in a declared outbreak – in agreement with the Provincial Health Labour Relations Secretariat. We will keep members updated as negotiations to complete the COVID Redeployment Memorandum of Agreement continue.

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.

At the Bargaining Table

Members of Australian Lab Services (Local 166), who provide environmental testing services, including expert analysis of air, soil, sediment, and water, ratified a new four-year agreement this month.

Members of Willow Place (Local 160), who provide vital services and support for women and children in Manitoba dealing with family violence and abuse, ratified a two-year agreement.

The Big Picture

LIQUOR PRIVATIZATION PROMPTS CAMPAIGN RE-BOOT

In response to the premier announcing plans to pave the way for more private hard liquor sales, we're speaking out against this privatization and how it will result in less funding for our public services. Stay tuned for a re-boot of the MGEU's online Keeping Liquor Public campaign as we rev up our fight to keep liquor profits invested right here at home, in our schools, roads and hospitals.

HATS OFF TO COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICE WORKERS



November 6 was Community Social Service Workers Appreciation Day – a time to recognize the critical work of thousands of community-based workers here in Manitoba.

The MGEU represents almost 40 Locals working in addictions, child and family services, youth services, and disability services. Now, more than ever, it is important to acknowledge the amazing work they do!

In Your Workplace

We spread the message in November that our recently launched Healthy Minds at Work campaign is about getting us all talking -- especially these days -- about our mental health at work. Learn more at HealthyMindsAtWork.ca



WAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM NEEDS EXPANSION

When the government announced a new \$35-million Caregiver Wage Support Program for front-line workers in long-term care and other settings on November 27, we welcomed the \$5 top-up after months of pushing for such recognition. However, the MGEU was not consulted about who

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