



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

BILL 28 COURT CASE: FINAL WRITTEN ARGUMENTS FILED

The MGEU and 28 other unions who are part of the Partnership to Defend Public Services (PDPS) challenging the Pallister government's wage freeze law, filed written arguments with the court in January. From Feb. 18-20, 2020, the court will reconvene to hear closing arguments.

CIVIL SERVICE RIGHT TO ARBITRATION: WRITTEN ARGUMENTS FILED

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 filed written arguments on Jan. 30, 2020. We expect the trial will happen in the early spring, with a decision soon after.

RATIFICATION REVIEW

Members of **Hecla Golf Course - Local 140**, who work at the 18-hole course

with majestic views of Lake Winnipeg, ratified a new three-year agreement on Jan. 15, 2020, while members of



Project Neecheewam Inc. - Local 139, who provide emergency and alternative care for youth in crisis, ratified a one-year agreement on Jan. 29 and members of **The Pas Regional Library - Local 440** ratified their first collective agreement on January 24, 2020.



Welcome to the February 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 Your Workplace

LATEST DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES DOCUMENT CAUSE FOR CONCERN



The provincial government released its 2020 strategy for the Department of Families and it's clear the department will be looking at cutting funding and privatizing services at a time when the need for supports and programs is only growing. We will be paying very close attention, and staying in close touch with our members, as this all plays out.

A GOOD FIRST STEP IN ADDRESSING THEFT, SAFETY

When brazen thefts in Liquor Marts across Winnipeg



turned violent, I called for an "urgent summit of law enforcement, addictions and social services, retailers, unions, and the provincial government" — and on Jan. 30, our community took a good first step. I was happy to participate in the Manitoba Retail Crime Roundtable along with reps from government, businesses, and law enforcement, where we began many good conversations. It's going to take leadership from all sectors to address this critical issue!

GLOBAL LOOK AT COMING MB HOUSING STRATEGY REVEALS DISTURBING OUTCOMES

Visit unionbug.com to read more about how the Pallister government's roadmap for public housing has resulted in growing wait lists and increased homelessness in the UK, Australia and New Zealand.

In the Public Eye

GOV'S DECISION TO CLOSE DCC WILL STRAIN CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM, DEVASTATE COMMUNITY



When the government announced it would be closing the Dauphin Correctional Centre, I told **CBC, CTV, the Wpg Free Press, Wpg Sun** and **CKDM** that it simply does not make sense. Cutting correctional spaces at a time when we're struggling with crime in our province makes no sense. Callously cutting over 80 stable, well-paying jobs in a city the size of Dauphin, makes no sense.

On Jan. 27, when **CTV** reported almost every Correctional facility in Manitoba was overcapacity, I pointed out that our members are very concerned that with the

closure of the DCC there will not be nearly enough space in the current system. Overcrowding poses safety risks for both Officers and inmates, adding stress to an already stressful job.

On January 30, I let the **Wpg Free Press**, the **Brandon Sun**, and **CKDM** know that the MGEU is holding a rally in Dauphin on Feb. 4, 2020 to sending the government a clear message: closing the Dauphin jail will strain our correctional system and the community of Dauphin to the breaking point.

TIME TO RE-EXAMINE CURRENT EMS SYSTEM

In response to reports that showed the same number of ambulances are responding to 31 percent more calls in 2019 than in 2015 while more first responders are getting injured on the job, Local 911 President, Ryan Woiden, told the **Wpg Free Press** that part of the solution is to do what many other Canadian cities are doing — not send two-person ambulances to as many calls.



The Big Picture

TOGETHER WE CAN SEND A MESSAGE TO STOP CUTS, SAVE COMMUNITIES



I recently wrote in unionbug.ca about the Pallister government's attack on rural Manitoba, which could be described as "death by a thousand cuts." I encourage you to share your story (premier@leg.gov.mb.ca) about how provincial cuts are impacting your family and your community. Let's remind them that good jobs keep our province strong!

At the Leg

2020 MGEU BUDGET SUBMISSION: TALK TO FRONT-LINE WORKERS, STAND BY PROMISES

On Jan. 23, I put forward the union's submission for the 2020 provincial budget, asking the government to stand by their word to give Manitobans a budget that strengthens public services and respects those who provide them. You can find our complete submission document at mgeu.ca.



Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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