



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## In the Public Eye

### HEALTH CARE RESTRUCTURING: WE WILL FIGHT FOR TIMELY ANSWERS, MEMBERS' RIGHTS

On Jan. 21, I told **CTV** the government should not be moving into its next phase of health care



restructuring given the current health crisis facing the province. Such changes will only add to the stress health care workers are currently under, but if they must go through this unnecessary process, we will adamantly defend our members' rights.

### MORE RURAL VACCINE SITES REQUIRED

On Jan. 20, I told **CTV** that rural members are being pulled away from the front lines to be vaccinated at super-sites in Brandon and Winnipeg. The Province must provide more opportunities for workers to receive the vaccine closer to home.

### ALL LIQUOR MARTS NEED SAFETY MEASURES

On Jan. 18, I told the **CBC** that our members at Liquor Marts are feeling safer than they did this same time last year with secure entrances and other safety measures in place — and now all Liquor Mart workers should feel the same level of security.

### MASC CLOSURES BIG HIT TO RURAL SERVICES

On Jan. 18, I told **The Carillon** that the government is trying to spin the closure of Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation by using words like 'modernizing' when it's simply a matter of making it harder for rural Manitobans to receive services. Over 200 members have been left wondering if they'll be forced to move or commute, or if their job is safe, and we're determined to get them some answers from government.

### MILLIONS FOR BROKERS, FREEZE FOR MPI STAFF: WHERE'S THE FAIRNESS?

On Jan. 12, I publicly asked the Premier in the **Wpg Free Press**: you're not willing to let MPI negotiate a fair and reasonable increase for their staff when just days earlier, you signed off on multi-million increases for brokers? Where's the fairness? Where's the transparency?

### WHY BREAK WHAT'S WORKING SO WELL?



Throughout January, we continued our **keepingliquorpublic.ca** campaign, making sure Manitobans understand the importance of keeping liquor sales public.

## 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](mailto:president@mgeu.ca).

## At the Bargaining Table

### NEGOTIATIONS A LITTLE DIFFERENT IN 2021, BUT MANY FORGING AHEAD

Dozens of MGEU Locals have resumed or are heading into bargaining despite public health restrictions. Bargaining Committees are meeting virtually with both employers and members, and for the first time, members are able to submit bargaining proposals online.

Review the latest in all MGEU negotiations at [mgeu.ca/at-the-bargaining-table](http://mgeu.ca/at-the-bargaining-table).

AT THE BARGAINING TABLE

### RATIFICATION REVIEW

Members of **Assiniboine Early Learning Centre - Local 445**, who provide quality childcare for over 50 children at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon, voted to ratify a new collective agreement on Jan 11.



Highlights of the two-year agreement include wage increases in all classifications as well as improvements to on-call pay and more flexible family-related leave.

### BUDGET 2021: HAVE YOUR SAY

We've begun preparing the MGEU's annual recommendations for the 2021 Provincial budget, which you can bet will include investing in the public services Manitobans rely on, especially during a crisis like the pandemic.

Help us get this message to the Finance Minister — have your say at [engage.mb.ca](http://engage.mb.ca)

## Want to get this by e-mail?

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

204-982-6438 Toll-free 1-866-982-6438  
[resourcecentre@mgeu.ca](mailto:resourcecentre@mgeu.ca)  
MGEU.ca



## In Your Workplace

### WEAR RED WEDNESDAYS START FEB. 3

On the first Wednesday of each month in 2021, I encourage



you to help start the conversation about the importance of psychologically safe workplaces by wearing something red to work. Or you can request pins, lanyards, masks, badge holders, or stick-on tattoos by contacting the MGEU Resource Centre.

Visit [healthymindsatwork.ca](http://healthymindsatwork.ca) for more.

### GOV SHUTTERS MDC DESPITE ALTERNATIVE USE IDEAS, DAMAGE TO PORTAGE ECONOMY

On Jan. 29, the government announced plans to close the Manitoba Developmental Centre (MDC). The facility's future has been unknown for some time and with more than 360 members there, we've been an active voice on the MDC Working Group, which provided several ideas for the future of the facility.



We will continue to seek clarity on whether re-purposing the facility for other critically needed public services is still on the table.

### CLC SURVEY: SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON WORKPLACE VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

The Canadian Labour Congress is conducting the first-ever national survey on workplace violence and harassment.



Go to [canadianlabour.ca/canadas-unions-launch-initiative-to-shine-a-light-on-harassment-and-violence-at-work](http://canadianlabour.ca/canadas-unions-launch-initiative-to-shine-a-light-on-harassment-and-violence-at-work) and scroll down to take the survey.

## The Big Picture

### SELLING MB HOUSING IS A BAD IDEA



Show your support for our members who strive to provide good, affordable housing to Manitobans every day. Go to [righttohousing.ca](http://righttohousing.ca) and tell the Province that by privatizing public housing they are driving down the wrong road at the worst possible time.