



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

Members of Civil Service ratify new five-year agreement

On Thursday, January 28, the Civil Service Bargaining Committee finished counting all ballots and the majority of members voted to ratify a new five-year collective agreement.

In early summer 2015, after failing to get a fair and reasonable offer from the employer, the Bargaining Committee decided to proceed to arbitration, where a third-party arbitrator would hear arguments from both sides and then impose a binding settlement.

While arbitration dates were set for spring 2016, the Bargaining Committee kept up the pressure on the Province. The union organized rallies, ran advertising campaigns and met with MLAs, arguing that a negotiated settlement is always preferable and a fair and reasonable offer not too much to ask.

After MGEU members flooded the Legislative gallery in a sea of red t-shirts that

said "Still Without a Contract" on December 1, 2015, the employer finally agreed to a return to the table. After a number of back-and-forth meetings, the sides reached a tentative agreement on December 30, 2015.

The Bargaining Committee made a neutral recommendation to members, opting to hold information meetings across the province to explain the pros and cons of the two options — accept the tentative agreement or proceed to arbitration.

The new five-year agreement includes general wage increases over the course of the agreement, a fund for special wage adjustments, and expanded job security.

The new Civil Service agreement will likely mean that several other Locals, who've been waiting for a funding mandate from the Province can move forward with negotiations.

MPI, health professionals to continue negotiations with aid of conciliator

In January, the employer informed the **MPI Bargaining Committee** that they had applied for conciliation. The Bargaining

Welcome to the February edition!

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

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.

Committee did not believe they had reached an impasse, but did agree that the process could be helpful, and bargaining dates with the conciliator have been scheduled into February.

Meanwhile, the **Technical Professional/EMS/Diagnostic Services of MB** Central Table Bargaining Committee began discussing monetary proposals for the first time in January when the employer decided it would be beneficial to request the aid of the conciliator. Negotiations with the conciliator are scheduled to resume in February.

In The News



In January, I spoke to several media outlets, including CBC, CJOB, and Global News about the Civil Service tentative agreement. Several business lobby groups had plenty to say about the agreement's no lay-off clause, suggesting it was fiscally irresponsible of the government. Over and over, I reiterated that Manitoba's public services are already lean and our members have been doing more with less for years. Polls show Manitobans value their public services above all and cuts and privatization are what's truly irresponsible.

In Your Workplace

New Health Authority, Manitoba Housing key concerns in Churchill

On Monday, January 18, I attended the Churchill Health Centre's Local meeting, where members expressed their concerns about the future of the facility and changes made since the Churchill Regional Health Authority (RHA) amalgamated with the Winnipeg RHA.

The next day, Local President Derek Gaboury, staff rep Laura Nelson and I met with the new COO of the Health Centre to discuss these issues. We also met with members of Manitoba Housing to discuss the unique challenges they're facing in this sub-arctic town.

The Big Picture

Leg hosts "Women in Politics"

On January 28, I was thrilled to join the MGEU Women's Committee for their *Women in Politics* tour. Put on by the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, it recognized the 100th



anniversary of voting and political milestones for women in Manitoba and is part of a larger initiative to celebrate women's equality and notable female firsts in Manitoba.

Canadian Health Coalition lobbies MPs in Ottawa

I was in Ottawa in late January, working with my fellow labour representatives to bring forward key challenges within our health care system (including those that members in Churchill are currently facing) to elected Members of Parliament. I met with several Manitoba MPs and it was a truly informative, productive, and jam-packed couple of days!



On the Air

Watch for our TV and online ads!

In mid-February, we'll begin running both TV and online ads reminding Manitobans about the importance of strong and cohesive public services in our lives. The online ad features a Manitoba family (pictured above) whose morning is ruined by some very noticeable cuts.

The ads are just part of our ongoing efforts to ensure Manitobans understand that cuts and privatization, whether on the front line or behind the scenes, put the services we count on at risk.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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