



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

UCN, GOV'T COMMUNITY WORKERS PREPARE FOR RATIFICATION VOTES

On Jan. 17, after a difficult round of bargaining due to wage restraint legislation (Bill 28), the **University College of the North - Locals 69 and 70** Bargaining Committee received a final offer from the employer. Ratification votes are scheduled in Thompson and The Pas. Meanwhile, the **Government Community Workers - Locals 251-256, 258** Bargaining Committee recently reached a tentative agreement with the employer. Nearly 400 members who provide front-line community support to

families in crisis and individuals who need extra support to live independently will vote on the agreement in February.



STRIKE NEWS

Members of **Nisichawayasikh Personal Care Home - Local 367** voted in favour of potential strike action on Jan. 24. Local 367 members currently make 14% less than workers at other care homes, even though they have the same training and do the same work.

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 the Public Eye

PRIVATIZED ROAD WORK = HIGHWAYS-AT-RISK

When we learned dozens of road work maintenance jobs will be privatized once the construction season resumes, I told the **CBC** and **Wpg Sun** on Jan. 3. that privatization will worsen the quality of our highways because private companies are driven by their bottom line.

"LIGHTEARTED" HR STUNT INSENSITIVE

On Jan. 5, in response to an email from the head of the Civil Service introducing all employees to a garden gnome billed as the government's "engagement champion," I told the **CBC** that the MGEU is all for meaningful engagement and strong communication, but when the people who deliver our public services are facing so much uncertainty, sending a ceramic statue around to government offices is insensitive and disrespectful.

CAN'T PUT DOLLAR VALUE ON CHILDREN IN CARE

On Jan 7, when the government said they were pursuing \$3 million in private investment for a program to reduce the number of days children spend in care, I told the **CBC** that such social impact bonds put too much focus on business opportunities and returns on investment instead of what's best for moms and kids.

NO MEDICAL TEAM IN THE AIR, NO LIFEFLIGHT

In mid-Jan., I told the **CBC**, **Wpg Free Press** and **Wpg Sun** that given LifeFlight doctors believe the current program is underfunded and potentially unsafe for patients and medical staff, we've advised MGEU's air ambulance nurses not to board flights without a doctor onboard.

SECURITY OFFICERS NEED MORE SUPPORT, MUST HAVE AUTHORITY, NOT JUST RESPONSIBILITY

In the wake of two violent incidents at a Winnipeg EIA office in Jan., I told the **Wpg Free Press**, **CTV** and **CBC** that the government must sit down immediately with Protective Services Officers and front line workers to talk about what's going on and what must be done to ensure the safety of both workers and the public.

MEMBERS DESERVE TO KNOW GOV'S REAL AGENDA

At the end of Jan., when the government announced a new law redefining bargaining units for community and facility support workers, we made sure our members and Manitobans knew the real agenda: to move home care and health care aides throughout the system more freely. We told the **CBC**, **Wpg Sun** and **Wpg Free Press** that this is a real concern for our members, and could lead to less consistent patient care.



In Your Workplace

MGEU STANDS UP FOR HEALTH WORKERS AFTER MINISTER FORCES MERGER



On Jan. 23, the government announced it was going to force home care workers and health care aides to merge into the same bargaining unit as part of the upcoming health care representation votes. The MGEU immediately responded, ensuring both our members and those Manitobans who rely on them understand what's at stake.

There is no question about the government's real agenda in forcing the merger — to enable employers to move home care workers and health care aides among hospitals, personal care homes, and community assignments. In fact, when he announced the new merger regulation, the Health Minister mentioned their consultant's report that says merging bargaining units will enhance "the effective use and mobility of healthcare workers."

Our message

to all those involved in the votes is simple: MGEU has a proven



track record of bargaining the strongest contracts and we are the union best prepared to negotiate protections against unreasonable reassignment of health workers in the future.

The Big Picture

STANDING WITH ATU: WE'RE STRONGER TOGETHER!

Proud to join fellow MGEU members and stand with transit drivers, mechanics and their union to advocate for their right to safe work!



LOCAL HEALTH COALITION, NATIONAL PHARMACARE!

As part of the MB affiliate of the Canadian Health Coalition, MGEU activist Jessie McNeill, Southern Tech/Prof (right), Rebecca Clifton, Interlake Eastern EMS (2nd from right) and I had some very productive meetings with Members of Parliament, including MP for Winnipeg South, Terry Duguid (3rd from right) about the need, right now, for a national, universal Pharmacare program for all Canadians.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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