



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

Hard-fought negotiations pay off with ratifications as 2016 draws to close

After more than two weeks on the picket line, about 30 members of the **Nisichawayasihk Personal Care Home (PCH) - Local 367** ratified a new two-year collective agreement on December 15, 2016.

The workers, who provide round-the-clock elder care in Nelson House, voted to strike over the fact they earn significantly less than other Manitoba workers who have the same training and do the same job.

While the new agreement does not address the disparity entirely, it offers a significant improvement, with the employer committing to working toward securing the necessary funds to achieve parity in the near future.



Members of Nisichawayasihk PCH in Nelson House kept warm through solidarity!

In the News

On Wednesday, December 21, I spoke with **CBC** and the **Winnipeg Free Press** about our invitation to meet with the government in the new year. I pointed out that meeting face-to-face was certainly better than having to follow their plans in the media, which has been the case too often lately.

I also took the chance to repeat that in a recent poll, 46% of Manitobans surveyed

Several other Locals — **Rose Inc. - Local 376**, **Society for Manitobans with Disabilities (SMD) - Local 262** and **Government Community Workers - Component 18** — whose members provide ongoing support to Manitoba children, families and adults in their communities also ratified agreements in December.

Thousands of members in Health Care, Education at the table in 2017

The nearly 8,000 members of the **Health Care Support Services (HCSS) - Component 14** have begun attending Local meetings to share ideas for improving their collective agreement, while the **Paramedics of Winnipeg - Local 911** and the **Assiniboine/Red River Colleges Joint Table Bargaining Committees** have wrapped up their meetings and are currently working on proposal packages to present to the employer.

Meanwhile, **Université de Saint Boniface - Local 147 (Support)** recently reached an impasse with their employer and has decided to pause, allowing **Local 148 (Professors)** to begin their Local-specific negotiations in January.

believe that the government's top priority should be protecting our public services.

On Friday, December 30, I spoke with the **CBC** about another recent poll, where 65% of Manitobans surveyed said that when legalized, marijuana should be sold in government-run stores that aren't attached to liquor stores. I also drew attention to the MGEU's recently-released position paper that outlines our recommendations for creating a responsible public model for marijuana sales in Manitoba.

The Big Picture

Paramedics, Bear Clan join forces

On December 19, the MGEU sponsored a day for our Local 911 paramedic members to share their CPR and basic first aid expertise with Winnipeg's Bear Clan Patrol.

The Bear Clan, who sustain themselves with community support, keep an eye out for anyone who might be in an unsafe situation and this training will be an invaluable tool as they continue their efforts patrolling Winnipeg streets.

Holiday relief for laid off Churchill workers

MGEU members in Churchill contacted their union and initiated a \$2,500 donation to brighten the holidays of their neighbours who were laid off from the Port of Churchill in August 2016.



TOP: I was so proud to join our paramedics and members of the Bear Clan Patrol to announce this important initiative. RIGHT: A member of the Bear Clan Patrol practices chest compressions during an MGEU-sponsored CPR training session with Local 911 paramedics.



When the MGEU donated \$2,500, the workers' own union, the Union of Canadian Transportation Employees (UCTE) matched the donation, for a total of \$5,000 in Northern Store gift cards

Welcome to the January edition!

Here's what's been happening in our union in the last month.

If you have any questions, please get ahold of me through our Resource Centre (204-982-6438 or 1-866-982-6438) or e-mail me at president@mgeu.ca.

At the Leg

PROVINCIAL BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

In early December, I submitted the MGEU's comprehensive budget recommendations to the government. Titled *Protecting Public Services*, the submission urges government to listen to Manitobans and take a measured approach to balancing the budget so the services Manitobans value don't suffer.

UNIONS MEET WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE

On Thursday, January 5, I was invited to meet with Cameron Friesen, Minister of Finance, along with the MFL and other leaders of Manitoba's largest public sector unions.

After the meeting, we jointly delivered the following statement:

This was the first of what we expect to be several face-to-face meetings. We are hopeful that future meetings will include the Premier and all of Manitoba's public sector unions.

In the brief meeting, the Minister maintained the government's focus on balancing the provincial budget and confirmed that, as reported in the media, they are considering wage freezes, reopening contracts and restructuring bargaining units, but did not provide any additional information.

We reminded the Minister of the Premier's election commitment to protect and improve the public services that all families count on and to balance the budget over a period of 8 years.

Manitoba's labour movement will continue to ask questions, seek clarification when needed, and always meet with the province in good faith.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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