



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### WAGE FREEZE CHALLENGE: MAY 2018

We have a date - May 29, 2018. That's when lawyers for our coalition of unions, or the **Partnership to Defend Public Services**, will argue in court that the government's Bill 28 wage control legislation is unconstitutional and should be blocked.

### HCSS: UNION HEADING TO LABOUR BOARD TO KICK START BARGAINING

MGEU leadership will be heading to the Labour Board early in the new year on behalf of thousands of **Health Care Support Services** members. We will argue that the employers should stop stalling

and begin negotiations immediately in good faith.

### TECH-PROF/EMS PREP FOR BARGAINING

Members of the Tech-Prof/EMS Component should watch their mail for notice of bargaining proposal meetings scheduled across the province in February 2018.

### GOLICO HEADS TO TABLE IN EARLY 2018

After gathering members' ideas for improving their collective agreement in November, the GOLICO Bargaining Committee pulled these proposals together into a package that they'll present to the employer on Jan. 11, 2018. Negotiations are scheduled to continue into March.

## Welcome to the January 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).

## In the Public Eye

### WFPS: "UNBIASED AUDIT" NEEDED

On Dec. 22, I told the **Wpg Free Press** that our Winnipeg Local 911 members are stretched too thin and called once again for an "unbiased" audit or review of the WFPS to examine the effectiveness of the service-delivery model.

### WESTMAN HEALTH CARE MEMBERS WORRIED PROPOSED CUTS, CLOSURES WILL HURT CARE

On Dec. 20, I told [discoverwestman.com](http://discoverwestman.com) that our members are deeply concerned about potential government health cuts in their communities. To truly improve care, decision-makers must consult with our members, who proudly provide front-line health care to their neighbours, friends and family everyday.

### FEWER INSPECTIONS = LESS SAFE JOBS

In the Dec. 16 **Wpg Free Press**, our Safety and Healthy Specialist, Blaine Duncan, pointed out that there are 8 fewer Safety Inspectors than two years ago and fewer inspections are being carried out in Manitoba workplaces. He said regular inspections are a critical part of ensuring everyone makes it home safe at the end of the day.

### GOVERNMENT CUTS MOST HARD ON WOMEN

On Dec. 7, I agreed with Shannon Sampert

of the **Wpg Free Press** — when the government talks about closing ERs and introducing private home care, it's primarily working women who are left dealing with job uncertainty.

### CITY EYES TRANSFER OF WPG PARAMEDICINE

On Dec. 5, I told **CBC** that our Local 911 members would need more details before determining whether transferring responsibility for ambulance services from the City to the Province could be good for paramedicine and patients in Winnipeg.

### QUICK CARE CLINICS TO CLOSE QUICKER

On Dec. 4, I told **CBC** that QuickCare clinics are a front-line service that Winnipeggers rely on and there was still time for the Premier to put a stop to the closures.

### FRONTLINE HAS PLENTY OF INNOVATIVE IDEAS FOR IMPROVING CIVIL SERVICE

In the Dec. 2 **Wpg Free Press**, I responded to the government's "civil service transformation strategy" mentioned in the Throne Speech, pointing out that frontline government workers understand better than most the effect on vulnerable Manitobans when supports and services aren't there. I asked the Premier, as I have many times before, to sit down and listen to the experiences of those on the frontline and consider their firsthand ideas for innovative solutions.

## In Your Workplace

### 2017 HEALTH CARE TOUR WRAPS UP

I wrapped up the **Care Comes First** tour for 2017 in Prairie Mountain – meeting with members in health centres and personal care homes to talk about their concerns about the future of health care services in Western Manitoba, where there's been talk of closing ERs in four communities.



### POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF WINNIPEG PARAMEDIC SERVICE TO PROVINCE: MGEU TO FOLLOW CLOSELY

In early Dec., the City of Winnipeg announced they would be exploring options for how to return ambulance services to either the *Winnipeg Regional Health Authority* (WRHA) or a new provincial agency, with a detailed report of recommendations expected within 90 days.

In response, our union has begun preparing for all possibilities to make sure Local 911 members are protected. For instance, if any potential new employer suggested they wouldn't honour seniority, wages and benefits under the current collective agreement, then the MGEU would begin taking whatever actions necessary to ensure the contract is respected. We will be monitoring this process closely and update Local 911 members as soon as more info is available.

## The Big Picture

### MGEU WOMEN'S CONFERENCE: APRIL 15 -17

Are you a woman looking to learn something new in the new year? Yearning for a new challenge or a way to make a real difference in your job or community? Then the MGEU Women's Conference — April 15 to 17 in Brandon — is for you!

All MGEU women members are eligible to attend. **Visit [mgeu.ca](http://mgeu.ca) to apply today.**

### HELP US BECOME AN ACCESSIBILITY LEADER!

We recently teamed up with the *Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities (MLPD)* to identify barriers and improve access to our offices and services. And you can help! If you received an email, please take the online survey by **January 8.**



## 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)  
[www.mgeu.ca](http://www.mgeu.ca)

