



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

In the Public Eye

MORE ON FRONT LINE TO GET VACCINE, STILL MORE MUST BE ADDED

On Dec. 24, I told the **Wpg Free Press** that we were encouraged to see more front-line workers added to the next group of those to get the COVID-19 vaccine, but we're looking forward to even more of our members being added to the list in future.

GOV MUST REVERSE DECISION STRIPPING NEW MOMS OF ONE WEEK MATERNITY PAY

On Dec. 10, I told the **CBC** that the MGEU is calling on the government



to reverse a shocking decision that would strip new moms who work for Manitoba's Civil Service of a week's maternity pay.

By refusing to do so, they are robbing young Manitobans with growing families of a benefit that comes at no increased cost to them as an employer.

PROVINCE MUST SET REMOTE WORK EXAMPLE

On Dec. 3, I told the **CBC** that the MGEU has filed a grievance with the Province because some Civil Service managers aren't following Dr. Brent Roussin's guidance to work from home to protect as many Manitobans as possible.

"KEEPING LIQUOR PUBLIC" TAKES AIM AT PALLISTER'S LATEST PRIVATIZATION PLANS



On Dec. 14, we relaunched the *Keeping Liquor Public* campaign in response to Pallister's plan to privatize more liquor sales in Manitoba. More than \$280 million in profits every year generated by Liquor Marts are invested back into public services, like schools, hospitals, and roads (not funneled to out-of-province shareholders);

Have your say! Help us tell the Premier that public serves us better at keepingliquorpublic.ca

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.

At the Bargaining Table

BILL 28 APPEAL, REMEDY PROCESS CONTINUES

Having lost in court in June, the Pallister government appealed the court's ruling against its restrictive wage freeze law (Bill 28). The government is expected to submit supporting documentation for its appeal later this month and the Partnership to Defend Public Services (PDPS) (which includes the MGEU and other public-sector unions) will have 30 days to respond. The government's appeal will be heard in court this spring.

Dates in Nov. 2021 have also been set for the second part of the Court of Queen's Bench trial, to determine additional remedies that go beyond having Bill 28 struck down. Meanwhile, the MGEU and the other PDPS partners continue to focus on trying to get Locals back to the bargaining table.

RATIFICATION REVIEW

Members of **Elizabeth Fry Society of MB - Local 301**, who provide advocacy and support to women who are in conflict with the law, and **Tamarack Rehabilitation - Local 157**, who provide addictions treatment and recovery services, both ratified new agreements in December.



"Our goal is always to prevent things from escalating. We bring the specialized skills to talk it through and provide support in a way that protects people's dignity."

Go to mgeu.ca/about-us/member-profiles to read the latest MGEU member profile about Amanda MacBeth, Crisis Clinician with Local 420.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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January 2021

In Your Workplace

"HEALTHY MINDS AT WORK" TO HELP BUILD AWARENESS, TAKE ACTION IN 2021

Being there for Manitobans, no matter what, can



take a toll on our mental health. That's why we've launched "Healthy Minds at Work," a campaign aimed at working with MGEU members and their employers to create psychologically safe workplaces.

COMING SOON:

On February 3, WEAR RED to help build awareness of how our mental health and our workplaces are connected -- and what you can do to make a difference.

Visit healthymindsatwork.ca for more.

NEW HEALTH CARE MOA WILL COMPENSATE FOR REDEPLOYMENTS RETRO TO NOV. 1

After advocating vigorously on behalf of members in health care who are being redeployed due to COVID outbreaks, the MGEU negotiated a new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) which now includes compensation retro to Nov. 1, 2020.

PARKS ARE FOR PEOPLE, NOT PROFIT

The government is proceeding with a plan to privatize our Provincial parks. That's why I recently wrote the Minister of Conservation and Climate on behalf of our members who work in our parks and campgrounds to remind the government that parks are for people, not profit!



Visit CPAWS MB and send a message!

The Big Picture

WE WILL HOLD A REMOTE MGEU CONVENTION, WITH ELECTIONS, IN 2021

The MGEU Board of Directors has adopted a plan to hold a two-day virtual convention in October 2021, where delegates will:

- elect the union's Provincial Officers;
- review and approve the audited financial statements and annual budget;
- discuss other constitutional considerations given the pandemic.

SEVERAL MGEU LOCALS, THOUSANDS OF MANITOBANS, RELY ON UNITED WAY FUNDING



United Way is a major funder of community-based social service agencies that are a lifeline to vulnerable Manitobans. I was proud to virtually present a cheque to the United Way on behalf of MGEU staff before the holidays.