



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

Sea of red at Legislature sends message, Civil Service reaches tentative agreement



On December 1, 2015, over 60 MGEU members who represent a dozen different bargaining tables entered the Legislative gallery to send a message to government. All wore red t-shirts that said, "Still Without a Contract." Members of the Civil Service Bargaining Committee, who are elected to negotiate on behalf of nearly 14,000 Provincial Civil Service employees, were on hand, as well as many other Bargaining Committee members whose Locals historically follow the Civil Service funding mandate.

On December 17, the Civil Service Bargaining Committee resumed negotiations with the employer, and on December 30, the employer came back to the table with an improved offer.



Given these improvements, the Committee felt it was time to take the offer back to the membership.

Voting will take place in January by both mail-in ballot and ratification meetings throughout the province.

If the majority of voting members accept the employer's improved offer, a new agreement will come into effect. If they don't accept it, the MGEU will proceed to arbitration hearings in May to argue for the best deal possible in front of a third-party arbitrator.

## Strike Watch

**HSC Security - Local 249** members recently avoided strike action when they accepted a new five-year contract.

A strike was scheduled to begin Tuesday, December 15, but was postponed until December 22 when the two sides reached a tentative agreement.

The new agreement includes wage increases, a wage adjustment, and a commitment from the employer to review the training needs of HSC Security Officers.

## Other RHA Negotiations

The **Technical/Professional, Paramedical, Diagnostics Services of MB** and **Community Programs - Local 220 Bargaining Committees** have both concluded the non-monetary portion of negotiations with their employers and will continue monetary talks into January.

Meanwhile, after rejecting the employer's previous offer, members of **WRHA Home Care/Home Support - Local 113** voted to ratify a new five-year agreement which includes gains to scheduling of work, sick leave, and wages.

## Welcome to the January edition!

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

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).



## On the Air

Public employees keep giving over the holidays: radio ad

You may have heard me on your favourite radio station over the last few weeks talking about the round-the-clock services many of you provide over the holiday season. Stay tuned for our TV ads in 2016 that will remind Manitobans about the need to invest in their public services, not cut them.

## In The News

On December 10, we published a **Winnipeg Free Press** Op-Ed with the **Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives** that outlined the benefits of publicly-controlled liquor sales — the same day that Liberal Leader Rana Bokhari announced her party would be looking into privatization.

On December 21 and 29, I spoke with **CTV** Local and National news and **CBC** radio's *The Current* about new Workers Compensation Board legislation that as of January 1, 2016, will recognize post-traumatic stress disorder as an occupational disease. This is important news for many of our members who deal with traumatic incidents on a regular basis.



## In Your Workplace

Leader of Home Care Leadership team met with members December 29 and 30

During the Christmas week, I was pleased to help organize and attend consultation meetings between our members who work in home care and Reg Toews, leader of the Home Care Leadership Team. Many thanks to those Home Care Workers and Resource and Case Coordinators who took the time to share their thoughts and help make our Home Care program the very best it can be!



## In Your Community

### Proud to open new Steinbach location

On December 14, we officially opened a new location in Steinbach to service about 800 members in and around the area.

Our union has grown over the past few years and we wanted to make sure members in Southeastern Manitoba had

supports and services closer by. The MGEU has always believed in being an active part of our members' communities and so we're proud to invest in the growing city of Steinbach. The new office, located at B-98 Brandt Avenue, includes meeting space and will be the home-base of staff representative Chris Drosdoski.

## Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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