



5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

It's summer and our tables continue to turn up the heat...

At the end of June 2015, 25,000 members remained without a fair and reasonable wage offer from the government.

The Bargaining Committees of our two largest groups at the table right now — the **Civil Service** and **Community Support** — have continued to meet with employer reps and deliberate about how best to proceed at this point in negotiations. My thanks goes out to all our elected bargaining reps who've spent hours and hours poring over proposals, strategizing at the table, and exploring all their members' options.

While I know many of you are off enjoying your hard-earned vacation this month, I do encourage all of you to check your e-mail or mailbox now and then so you can stay up-to-date as events unfold.

PLUS DON'T FORGET: there are 2 things you can do right now to help us continue to turn the heat up on government:

1. Wear your "Still Without a Contract" button in your workplace. (still need some for you and your co-workers? Call the Resource Centre at 204-982-6438 or 1-866-982-6438).

2. Sign the petition (and encourage your friends and family to do the same!) at Elephanttalk.ca

Ratification Review

On June 2, 2015, members of **Diagnostic Services of MB, Support (Locals 387 and 391)** unanimously ratified the tentative agreement reached between their Bargaining Committee and the employer, and on June 10, 2015, members of **Child and Family Services of Central MB, Supervisors (Local 264)** voted overwhelmingly to accept their tentative agreement.

On June 14, 2015 members of **Seine River School Division, Education Assistants (Local 145)** ratified a new three-year collective agreement. Highlights include a personal day, which is a first for EAs in Manitoba.

A strong majority of members from **Family Dynamics (Local 214)** recently voted to accept a new three-year collective agreement that includes a 2% wage increase each year.

Welcome to the July edition!

Here's what's been happening in our union over the past 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.

Members of the **University College of the North (Locals 69 and 70)** also voted to accept their employer's final settlement offer in June.

Strike Watch

On June 29, Members of **Health Sciences Centre - Security (Local 249)** voted to reject the employer's offer and hope to return to the table shortly.

After rejecting their employer's final offer, 120 members of **Family Visions (Local 303)** will vote on whether to take strike action on July 2, 2015.

After members of the newly merged **Liquor and Gaming Authority (Locals 425 and 426)** voted for strike action on June 9, the employer requested a return to negotiations. Both sides have since agreed to proceed with the aid of a conciliator.

In Your Workplace

Prairie Mountain Health Care Support Locals Rally to Improve Care, Morale

In early June, I was happy to stand alongside HCSS members who have been struggling with serious safety concerns and staff shortages within their Prairie Mountain RHA workplaces.

Typical solutions, like labour/management meetings and grievances, have failed to yield results with the RHA, leaving us with no choice but to go public with rallies in Dauphin and Brandon.

You can help! Contact our Resource Centre and they'll send you out a postcard to mail to the Minister of Health, calling for healthier workplaces in these facilities now!

Is an employer decision or policy creating problems in your workplace? Let me know so your union can explore a solution!

The Big Picture

What a fun way to talk public services!

I was thrilled to celebrate National Public Services Week and the 40th anniversary of Manitoba's Home Care program by hosting members at lunch-hour/coffee-break events



It was so great to serve up some refreshments for our hard-working members and hear their thoughts about everything from ongoing negotiations to the value of their work in public services in Selkirk (left), Winnipeg (right) and Brandon (below).



in The Pas, Dauphin, Brandon, Portage, Winnipeg, Selkirk and Thompson this June.

Good food, great conversation (including how we can all work together for fair contracts and strong public services!) and some fun give-aways — what's not to love?



In The News

Public rallies in Dauphin and Brandon on behalf of our



Prairie Mountain Health Care Support Services Locals paid off with good coverage in the *Dauphin Herald* on Wednesday, June 10, and a front page story in the *Brandon Sun* on Friday, June 12, 2015.

On Friday, June 26, **Community Support** Component Director, Marlene Hrechka explained the challenges her members are facing at the bargaining table, including unpaid hours and lack of sick leave, to Marcy Markusa, host of *CBC's morning radio show*.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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