



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

Unions announce challenge of Bill 28 in courts

The *Partnership to Defend Public Services*, made up of the MGEU and over 20 other Manitoba public sector unions, continued to work with legal counsel to prepare a court challenge to the government's proposed Bill 28, which would legislate wage freezes and caps for thousands of public employees throughout the province.

The *Partnership* will argue that by ignoring employees' rights to bargain a fair contract, the government is going down a road that is not only unfair but unconstitutional.

Bill 29 continues to loom over Health Care Support Services (HCSS) Central Table bargaining MGEU leadership and elected HCSS reps continue to get ready for bargaining, while also preparing for the government's proposed restructuring of health care bargaining units. All affected members will be notified as soon as the government announces its plans.

Main Street Project - Local 136 heads back to table Negotiations were put on hold this spring when the employer announced layoffs at the agency. After union leaders publicly voiced concerns about the decision, the Bargaining Committee held elections to address the restructuring and now hope to head back to the table by the end of June.

Paramedics - Local 911 continue negotiations

Since bargaining began in March on behalf of over 300 Winnipeg paramedics, progress has been made but several significant issues remain on the table. Talks are scheduled to resume Monday, July 24, 2017.

Education Locals schedule talks into September

School is out and after six months of bargaining, the **Université de Saint Boniface - Local 148** Bargaining Committee will return to the table in early fall. The **Assiniboine Community College/Red River College Central Table** and **Seine River School Divisions - Locals 143-145** are scheduled to begin negotiations in September 2017.

RATIFICATION REVIEW

Brandon's **Westman Lab - Local 351** reluctantly voted to ratify a final offer from their employer, recognizing that the offer was essentially imposed by Bill 28. Members warn this will only worsen recruitment and retention problems in the region and threaten the diagnostic care of Westman residents.

Falcon Lake Golf Course - Local 356, who negotiated with their new employer, *Lakeland Golf Management*, for the first time, and the **Winnipeg Art Gallery - Local 150** also both ratified new agreements in June.

Welcome to the July 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.

In the Public Eye

On June 1 and 2, I made it clear to the **Winnipeg Free Press**, **Winnipeg Sun**, and **CBC** that the government's plans to contract out a new enhanced Home Care service bodes poorly for Manitobans. I said our members are very worried for their clients, because when it comes to private business, the bottom line trumps care.

On June 8, I told the **Brandon Sun** and **CBC** that until regional wage disparities are addressed, Brandon's Westman Lab will continue to struggle with recruiting and retaining qualified lab technologists.

On June 19, I told the **CBC** that the government is moving too far, too fast on a health care plan that puts cost-cutting ahead of patient care.

On June 20, in response to the government's planned review of provincial colleges, I told the **CBC** our members feared this could lead to more unexpected cuts to programs and options for rural students in particular.

I also told the **CBC**, **Global TV**, **Brandon Sun**, and **Winnipeg Sun** that Manitobans need to know what the government is up to when it comes to their air ambulance program: they've intentionally not hired pilots in order to starve the public program and justify privatizing the service.

The Big Picture

TAKING ACTION ON ACCESS!

During *Manitoba Access Awareness Week*, the MGEU announced it's teaming up with the *Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities* to conduct an accessibility review of all eight union offices across the province. It's the first step in ensuring the union does not just meet, but exceeds the requirements of the *Accessibility of Manitobans Act*.

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

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In Your Workplace

DID SOMEONE SAY PUBLIC SERVICE WEEK?

Time for some good food and good conversation!

I was thrilled to travel across the province in June, showing some appreciation to our members for the amazing work they do, and talking with them about their jobs.

In honour of *National Public Service Week*, we served up free barbecue to members in Thompson, Winnipeg, The Pas, Dauphin, Brandon, Portage, Steinbach and Selkirk, and I visited workplaces ranging from personal care homes to Autopac offices to Air Service runways.

With all the current government is throwing at us, it was so great to meet with members and hear directly from them about their concerns and ideas.



Sheriff's Officer sharing some lunch (courtesy of their union!) and some of their workplaces concerns with me at the Winnipeg celebrations in Memorial Park.



Chatting with Rideau Personal Care Home members during our day in Brandon.

CBS REPS GATHER TO STRATEGIZE IN 'PEG

I was honoured to kick-off the meeting of *Canadian Blood Services* union reps from across Canada in our own Olfert Boardroom on June 5. CBS members are facing a number of challenges these days, including the recent closure of our Brandon collection clinic. The two-day meeting offered a valuable opportunity to tackle common issues, such as such as Sunday-opening of clinics and management "streamlining."



Visiting with Child and Family Service members in Swan River, along with MGEU 4th VP Shelley Wiggins.