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# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### HEALTH CARE BARGAINING PROCESS WILL RESTART FOLLOWING VOTES

As soon as the health care representation votes wrap up on August 22, the MGEU will move as quickly as possible to hold proposal meetings with current MGEU members and new members.

In instances where we've already gathered Local proposals, these proposals will form the basis for discussions with the entire new bargaining unit.

The new Bargaining Committees will then work to put together a bargaining package that takes into consideration the ideas and priorities of all members.

## In the Public Eye

### LIFELIGHT PRIVATIZATION: SHAMEFUL

In early June, I told the **Wpg Free Press, Sun, CBC, Global** and the **Thompson Citizen** it's shameful that the Pallister government did not listen to the repeated and serious safety concerns of the doctors, nurses, pilots and maintenance staff who understand the critical service best. They've gone ahead and privatized LifeFlight, another risky move in their gutting of health care.

On June 27, I told the **Wpg Free Press, Sun, CBC and CTV** that in the government's rush to privatize this service, they failed to put together any kind of contingency plan to replace laid off workers.

### BILL 29 VOTES: LAST THING THOUSANDS WORKING IN HEALTH CARE NEED RIGHT NOW

On June 14, I told the **Wpg Free Press** that while there is no good time for such votes to be held, this is an especially challenging period. Hospital reorganization has created concerns about job security, workloads, and now which union will represent them.



## The Big Picture

### JUNE EVENTS WONDERFUL WAY TO CELEBRATE, SUPPORT OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES



On June 8, a little rain didn't stop our happy crew of MGEU members from greeting parade-goers with a shout of "Mabuhay!" and handing out lollipops at the annual Winnipeg Filipino Street Festival.

During this time, all members remain covered by their existing contract until a new one is negotiated.

### RATIFICATION REVIEW

Members of the **Manitoba Horse Racing Commission - Local 146** recently voted to ratify a new one-year agreement, after which the government plans to transfer responsibility for the regulation of horse racing to the Liquor, Gaming, and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba. Highlights include wage increases and improvements to the vision and drug care plans.

Members of **Sara Riel - Local 353** also ratified a one-year agreement which includes new paid breaks for short shifts and personal leave days.

### SEVEN OAKS ER: CLOSURE = CHAOS

On June 21, I told **CBC** that the government must listen to Manitobans and health care workers and reverse their decision to hastily close the Seven Oaks ER. This would end the chaos for patients and staff, and let health care workers focus on providing safe, quality patient care.

### A CENTURY AFTER THE STRIKE: A FEW THOUGHTS

In response to two **Wpg Free Press** features on Manitoba's labour movement today, I told them that despite the tension of the current union representation votes in health care, the MGEU will not bash other unions because labour must stand in solidarity, and when it comes to unionized women, despite some real advances, there's still a lot of work to be done in areas like pay equity.

### KEEP LIQUOR PUBLIC CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

Check out our new radio and online campaign about the benefits of keeping Manitoba's liquor sales public, and sign the petition at [KeepLiquorPublic.ca](http://KeepLiquorPublic.ca)



MGEU members were out in full force at Pride events, including the Winnipeg festival at Memorial Park.



### PROUD TO HOST NATIONAL UNION

The MGEU was thrilled to host our National Union's annual convention during the General Strike centennial. 3rd V-P Shelley Wiggins (right) was one of many MGEU leaders who got up to speak about the issues of most concern to Manitobans.



## 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](mailto:president@mgeu.ca).

## In Your Workplace

### HEALTH CARE WORKPLACES TO HOST CAMPAIGN KIOSKS THIS SUMMER

Starting July 11 until Wednesday, August 7, all unions involved in the health care representation votes will have an opportunity meet with union members at tables or kiosks set up within workplaces.

The MGEU campaign team can't wait for the chance to sit down, answer questions, and chat with health care workers about why the MGEU is the clear choice.

Learn more about the votes and how the MGEU has the people, the know-how, and the resources to fight for health care workers, and win, at [CareComesFirst.ca](http://CareComesFirst.ca).

### RALLY OVER FUTURE OF SELKIRK LAUNDRY



The Minister of Health recently hinted in comments at the Legislature that Selkirk Laundry may be on the chopping block and Local 126 members are worried about the future of their workplace. On June 3, members and supporters rallied in front of MLA Dr. Alan Lagimodiere's office in Selkirk to express their concern and demand some answers.

### CELEBRATING PUBLIC SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Provincial employees gathered on June 7 to recognize the efforts of all who deliver service excellence every day. As a sponsor of the event, we were especially proud of long-time MGEU activist, Diego Garcia, Dept. of Families, who won the Leadership Award.



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