



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

In the Public Eye

CONSERVATION OFFICERS FACING DIRE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ISSUES

On June 30, a **CBC** story featured retired Conservation Officer, John Belanger (right), who



said retirements in the next few years will deplete Manitoba's already thin ranks, putting more pressure on officers who work longer hours but are paid significantly less than in other provinces. I pointed out that support is desperately needed, especially while Conservation Officers have more responsibilities than before, including waking up in the night to respond to night hunting and enforcing pandemic public health orders.

MAJOR BACKLOG AT VITAL STATS RESULT OF SYSTEM-WIDE CUTS, VACANCIES

On June 23, I told the **Wpg Free Press** that the challenges we're seeing at Vital Statistics is symbolic of what's happening in the Civil Services as a whole -- keeping up with demands is becoming more

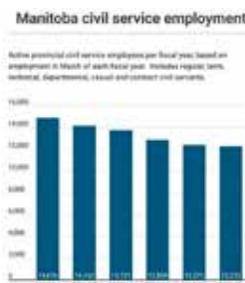
difficult due to cuts and vacancies. To stem the crisis at Vital Stats, we extended an agreement with government that allows for more staffing and for work to be done on weekends.

CENTRALIZATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICES MAY BE STEP TOWARDS PRIVATIZATION

I also spoke with **CJOB** on June 23 about government changes to centralize Manitoba Infrastructure offices and the need to keep these services public.

PUBLIC SERVICE SHRINKAGE MEANS FEWER SUPPORTS FOR MANITOBANS

On June 22, in response to a report that the Civil Service has been reduced by 2,644 positions since the Conservatives were elected, I told the



Wpg Free Press

that they are often deleting positions as soon as people transfer or retire, while contracting out some services to private companies outside Manitoba. It is time the government starts to value and respect those who provide our public services and the fact that Manitobans rely on them.

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.

At the Bargaining Table

COURT OF APPEAL HEARING: PDPS MAKES CASE

Last year, the Court of Queen's Bench ruled in the Partnership to Defend Public Services' favour that Bill 28 was a violation of members' rights to free and fair collective bargaining. Instead of accepting the result, the government appealed and chose to waste even more time and taxpayer dollars. On June 2, as the next step in that process, the Court heard from both sides in the Appeal hearing. We now await the Court's decision and will update members when it has been handed down.

RATIFICATION REVIEW

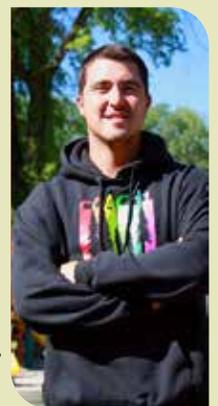
On June 15, members of **Winnipeg Clinic - Local 363** ratified a new four-year agreement that includes wage increases in each year of the agreement, increases to the uniform allowance, and new contract language around flexible hours of work and compassionate care leave.

On June 22, members of **Parkland Crisis Centre - Local 170**, who provide safe, non-judgemental and confidential support services to women and children who are fleeing intimate partner abuse, also ratified a four-year agreement. Highlights include wage increases in the last three years of the agreement and improvements to wellness and compassionate leave.

MEET Alex Anderson, MYS COACH

We are so glad that MYS Coaches like Alex Anderson are there to help kids stay in school and provide the support they need to help them through their academic and personal challenges.

Find out more at www.mgeu.ca/about-us/members-profiles.



In Your Workplace

WORKING GROUP TO TACKLE MCEO CONCERNS

In response to a number of issues identified by Motor Carrier Enforcement Officers at a virtual meeting last month -- including staffing levels and safety issues -- members and MGEU staff will be forming a working group to document the issues and then take them to employer.

GRIEVANCE RE: TRAVEL POLICY DIRECTIVE LEADS TO SOME CLARITY FROM EMPLOYER

When the employer provided direction re: travel outside of Manitoba for Civil Service members, we filed a grievance on the basis that the direction was unclear and unfair. Since then, we've worked with the employer to address these concerns and they sent out a new message this month. We will continue to monitor public health orders and their impact on members as the pandemic continues to shift and evolve.

MEMBERS HELP US PUT A FACE ON SERVICES DURING PUBLIC SERVICES WEEK



Many thanks to those members who sent in photos to help us put a "face" on those who provide our province's critical public services. We need to keep getting that word out to Manitobans!

WELCOME NEW MGEU LOCAL 457!



Welcome new members at the MB Ombudsman's office! We can't wait to begin working with you to ensure you have a strong voice on while on the job.

The Big Picture

MGEU MEMBERS MOURNED, STOOD IN SOLIDARITY WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Throughout June (which is National Indigenous History month), we both stood in solidarity with Indigenous peoples in our union and across the country who were mourning and revisiting the trauma and loss suffered because of residential schools, while also celebrating their many contributions on National Indigenous People's Day.



Residential School Crisis line 1-866-925-4419

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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