



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### CS BARGAINING COUNCIL MEETS

In preparation for upcoming bargaining on behalf of about 14,000 Civil Service members in 2019, elected reps from **Civil Service Locals** met on May 15 to review a core proposal package and get an update on government plans re: public services and our legal fight to overturn Bill 28 wage freeze legislation. On May 29 and 30, our injunction request against **Bill 28** was heard in court. A decision is expected sometime this summer.

### GOLICO REACHES TENTATIVE AGREEMENT

On May 18, after a tough round of negotiations, the **GOLICO** Bargaining Committee reached a tentative agreement with the employer on behalf of about 1,200

## In the Public Eye

### QUESTIONING CUTS TO INMATE TRADES TRAINING

On May 1, I told the **CBC** that cutting the ManCor Prison Industries program is a mistake — we all benefit when inmates are able to find gainful employment and contribute to society after they're released.

### AIR SERVICES ARE "ESSENTIAL" FOR GOOD REASON

On May 1, I told the **Wpg Free Press** that our members' Air Services jobs are an Essential Service because the safety of Manitobans is paramount and must not be auctioned off for a profit.

### GOOD NEWS, FINALLY: MORE PARAMEDICS

On May 1, I told the **Brandon Sun** that since a 2013 EMS report recommended more hiring, our members have been waiting — so news that the Province would finally be hiring 60 new full-time paramedics was very welcome!

### CHOPPING TREE NURSERY SHORT-SIGHTED

On May 4, I responded to the closure of Pineland Nursery near Hadashville, telling the **Wpg Free Press** and **CBC** that our Premier should act like a steward of our public assets and forests, not an auctioneer.

members who work for the *Manitoba Liquor Commission*. Members will now have an opportunity to vote on the agreement at province-wide ratification meetings.

### RATIFICATION REVIEW

Members of three Brandon Locals – **YWCA Westman Women's Shelter – Local 171**, **YWCA Meredith Place Residence – Local 424**, and **COR Enterprises Inc - Local 155**, who provide training and employment for adults with disabilities, ratified new four-year agreements this month.

Members of our three **HCSS (Trades) – Locals 93, 94 and 101** also ratified new contracts, with a 2% wage increase effective April 1, 2016 which will bring them into line with increases received by their HCSS counterparts in the last round.

### TIME TO TRULY LISTEN TO PUBLIC WORKERS

On May 10, in response to the gov's newly announced *Transformation Capital Fund*, I told the **Wpg Free Press** and **Wpg Sun** that I hope the Premier truly does finally listen to our members' ideas because he'll find that more cuts and privatization are not the answer to better public services.

### BILL 29 WILL ONLY DISRUPT HEALTH CARE

On May 11, I told the **Wpg Free Press**, **Brandon Sun** and **CBC** that union members on the frontlines of health care will now be subjected to a series of wasteful and distracting representation votes, all because the government refused to listen to their own health care workers.

### NEW AD: PRIVATIZATION A LOSING GAME



In mid-May, we launched a new ad to remind Manitobans that when the government contracts out jobs and privatizes public services, we lose public assets that we can never get back.

## Welcome to the June 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

### WORKPLACE TOURS GREAT WAY TO SHARE COFFEE BREAK, CONCERNS AND IDEAS

I was thrilled to spend part of May on the road, continuing to meet as many members right in their workplaces and in their communities as I could.

This spring, we visited dozens of work locations throughout the province and over the last few weeks, made stops in Beasejour, The Pas, Thompson and Steinbach. Hearing again and again about all the job positions not being filled in rural Manitoba really brought home the fact that we must do all we can to protect jobs and services in these communities.

The tirelessly hard-working fire crew in Marchand took an early-morning break with me to share some cookies and their concerns...and take this photo!



Members at the Provincial Building in The Pas took time out of their day to chat with me and their Area 1 staff rep (centre).



## A Big Thank You!

### HERE'S TO OUR INVALUABLE WORKPLACE REPS!



We've wrapped up our 2018 Appreciation Dinners in honour of all those amazing Manitobans who stood up, got elected to their union, and strive each day to help their fellow members. So happy this month to say a huge thanks to all of you in Beasejour, The Pas (above), Thompson and Steinbach.

## Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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## The Big Picture

### EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS ACT IGNORES ADVICE

On May 9, I was joined by members of Local



113 (above) at the Leg to question why the government is ignoring key Provincial *Labour Management Review Committee* recommendations — for instance, the Director of Employment Standards will now have exceptional new powers, effectively eliminating a worker's right to a fair process.

### MFL BRINGS UNIONS UNDER ONE ROOF TO PLAN TOGETHER

May 24 through 27, 270 MGEU activists (*like our Corrections members pictured below!*) joined me at the *Manitoba Federation of Labour Convention* in Winnipeg, where the provincial government's continuous attacks against public services was a key topic of discussion. So honoured to be re-elected as MFL Executive Vice-President!

