



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

TWO TABLES REQUEST CONCILIATION

After reaching an impasse with their employers this month, the **Knowles Center - Local 172** and the **Liquor and Gaming Authority of Manitoba - Locals 425 and 426** both requested the aid of a third-party conciliation officer. The Conciliation Officer will aim to bring the Bargaining Committees and employers closer toward an agreement this summer.

RATIFICATION REVIEW

On May 7 and 8, members of **Université de Saint-Boniface - Instructors, Local 149** and **Professors, Local 148** both ratified new four-year agreements. Highlights include recall rights for sessional instructors and improved retirement benefits. The Instructors, Local 149 agreement now also includes eligibility for tenure for part-time members, while the Professors, Local 148 achieved increased research time stipends.

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.

In the Public Eye

CONCORDIA ER: FIRST STEP TOWARDS CLOSURE?

On May 29, I told the **Wpg Sun** that our fear about converting the Concordia ER to Urgent Care is that this government did the same thing at the Misericordia before closing it completely. The provincial government should've listened to local residents and just kept their ER open.

10 MORE PARAMEDICS WELCOME, NOT ENOUGH

On May 25, I told the **Brandon Sun** that though we welcome the creation of 10 new paramedic positions for Prairie Mountain, the EMS review called for 400 additional paramedics province-wide, so there is still much work to do.

SELKIRK LAUNDRY: MEMBERS DESERVE TO KNOW



On May 21, I told **CBC**, just as I told the **Selkirk Record** on May 2, that the government will not give us a straight answer re: whether they plan to close Selkirk Laundry. Our members, however, deserve to know ASAP if they're jobs are in jeopardy.

ATTACK ON PARAMEDICS: CALL FOR ACTION

On May 10, in response to Winnipeg paramedics being attacked with a hatchet while transporting a patient, I told the **Wpg Free Press** that the Province and RHAs must get serious about addressing patient violence.

SURVEY SAYS: CIVIL SERVICE MEMBERS REPORT GROWING DISSATISFACTION



On May 9, when the Premier told reporters that a recent survey showed government employees were increasingly dissatisfied with their jobs because "more people opted in to do it than before," I challenged him, telling the **Wpg Free Press, Sun** and **CBC** that such surveys are currently the only way our Civil Service members can actually say what's on their mind. They have to do it anonymously because they don't dare to put their hand up for fear of losing their job.

INSPECTORS' WAGES THREAT TO ALL OUR HEALTH

On May 2, when **CBC** reported thousands of restaurant and care-facility inspections are overdue because 8 out of 44 health inspector positions are vacant, I told them that it's difficult to keep inspectors here in Manitoba because our wages don't keep up with the rest of the country.

MANDATE RE: PRIVATE LIQUOR SALES WORRISOME

On May 1, after Crown Corporations received new mandate letters from government, I told the **CBC** and **Wpg Sun** that the marching orders given to Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries, asking them to find additional ways to expand private sector liquor sales, was particularly worrisome. Research shows that keeping liquor sales public works best and the MGEU is ready to fight for our public liquor workers.

In Your Workplace

SPEAK UP FOR NON-PROFIT PUBLIC FUNDING!



As part of what it's calling "a new strategy" for non-profits, the government is asking for feedback in an online survey that focuses on "identifying new partnerships" and finding ways to leverage "non-governmental dollars" through fundraising.

We're encouraging all members working in Community Based Social Services to complete the survey — you're already stretched thin and any further cuts threaten the vital services you provide!

POLICY GRIEVANCE WINS FOR HOME CARE

Thanks to two big grievance wins in May, members of **Southern**



Community Support, Locals - 404 and 406 will once again receive weekend premiums for EFT downtime, while **PMH Support - Local 402** will go back to clocking mileage from their home rather than a set boundary. Members will also receive retro pay for all lost payments during the changes!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

The MGEU is pleased to welcome **Macdonald Youth Services (MYS, Coach Program) Local 453** — who ensure Winnipeg students struggling within the educational system get the support they need to reach their potential.

The MGEU already represents members working at the MYS Alternative Parent Home and Crisis Stabilization programs.

The Big Picture

1919 WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE CENTENARY: REMEMBERING THOSE WHO PAVED THE WAY!



I was thrilled to join MGEU members and staff at events commemorating the 1919 Strike in May, including the Solidarity Forever Parade (photos above and right).



The MGEU is also sponsoring a free concert on Saturday, June 8, 2 pm to 10 pm at The Cube in Old Market Square — **Rise Up 100: Songs of a New Century** will feature Annie DiFranco, Bruce Cockburn, John K. Sansom, and more!

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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