



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

In Your Workplace

MENTAL HEALTH TAKES CENTRE STAGE IN MAY

Since February, MGEU members have been wearing red the first Wednesday of each month to start the conversation about workplace mental health. On May 5th, we also wore red to recognize the *National Day of Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People*, honouring all those precious lives lost and joining in the call for action to end the crisis of violence.

Congrats to our Wear Red Wednesday winners,

who proudly celebrated *Canadian Mental Health Week's* theme -- #Get Real about how you feel.



And big thanks to all those who joined us for our *Ride Don't Hide* webinar on May 18. Virtual MGEU teams can collect pledges for workplace mental health in their local community and the MGEU will match funds raised! (see more below right).

CRITICAL ISSUES AT MI, VEMA DEMAND ACTION



The MGEU filed a grievance on behalf of MB Infrastructure (MI) and the Vehicle Equipment Maintenance Agency (VEMA) members in May, stating the employer has deliberately undermined the ability of members to deliver services. I told the Minister of Central Services and the Minister of Infrastructure that they must deal with the issues the union continues to raise regarding under-staffing, unfilled vacancies, contracting out, and ongoing restructuring.

SURVEY OF MEMBERS AT LOCAL 911 SHOWS URGENT NEED FOR CHANGE

We compiled the results of a Local 911 member survey in May and found bullying and harassment are prevalent in WPG Fire and Paramedic Service.

The results confirm that this is a deeply troubled workplace and with Chief Lane announcing his retirement, it's an opportunity for the City to make urgently needed change.

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.

At the Bargaining Table

PARTNERSHIP TO DEFEND PUBLIC SERVICES (PDPS) READY FOR BILL 28 APPEAL HEARING

Over the last several weeks, the MB Federation of Labour, on behalf of the MGEU and our PDPS partners, has been working to finalize arguments for the Court of Appeal hearing scheduled for June 2.

As you'll recall, last June, the Court of Queen's Bench ruled in our



favour that Bill 28 wage freeze legislation was a violation of our members' right to free and fair collective bargaining. The government appealed, further drawing out an already unnecessarily delayed, unconstitutional, and disrespectful approach to negotiations with us.

The Appeal procedures will take place virtually and we'll let you know as soon as there is a decision.

PEAK OF THE MARKET RATIFIES NEW AGREEMENT

Members of **Peak of the Market - Local 124** ratified a new collective agreement on May 13.



Highlights include wage increases in each year of the agreement, an increase to the health spending account, and improvements to bereavement and sick leave provisions.



Go to www.healthymindsatwork.ca/news-and-events for more about you can help invest in workplace mental health programs in your community!

In the Public Eye

NEW CHIEF MUST ADOPT WHOLE NEW APPROACH TO WFPS

On May 7, I told **Global** that Local 911 survey findings show this isn't a dispute to be casually dismissed as some kind of feud between union leaders at the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS), as the mayor has repeatedly done. The new chief needs to adopt a whole new approach, with the support of the most senior levels of city leadership.

DON'T PRIVATIZE PARKS, INVEST IN THEM



The government has talked about some very concerning ideas about how provincial parks are funded and maintained. In May, we continued our campaign to push back against such ideas, sending the message that Manitobans want investment, not privatization.

GOVERNMENT MUST SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR MOST VULNERABLE



Throughout the pandemic, frontline community-based workers have been there 24-7. But chronic government under-funding has resulted in low pay, limited resources, and constant turnover. Show your support at notjustajob.ca.

The Big Picture

WHAT'S BINDING ARBITRATION, AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT TO US?



Since the government announced it's sweeping changes to labour laws, we've been supporting the MB Federation of Labour's efforts to ensure union

members and all Manitobans understand what's at stake with Bill 16. Call the Resource Centre to find out how to register for an MFL webinar on June 23, where you can hear more about why the current rules for binding arbitration are good for workers and the economy.

DISPLAY A FAILING GRADE FOR BILL 64!

Help us defend public education by contacting the Resource Centre and requesting a #StopBill64 window sign today!



Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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