



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### Civil Service deal means many Locals able to resume negotiations

On Friday, February 26, 2016, I signed the **Civil Service Collective Agreement** with Minister Responsible for the Civil Service, Kerri Irvin-Ross. As a result, the new agreement is now in effect and members will begin receiving retroactive pay in the very near future.

It also means many other Locals who've been stalled at the bargaining table are resuming negotiations.

Members of the **Deaf Centre Manitoba (Local 203)** recently ratified a new four-year agreement and members of the **Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (Locals 116-120, 378)**, the **Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation - Admin (Locals 359-362)** and the **Community Economic Development Fund (Local 154)** are all in the process of voting whether to ratify tentative agreements.

The Bargaining Committees for groups such as the **Manitoba Housing Authority (Locals 127-132)**, **Metis Child and Family Services Authority (Local 394)**; **Child and Family Services of Western MB (Local 211)** and the **All Nations Coordinated Response Network (Local 365)** are all back in negotiations, or will be shortly.

### After early strike vote, Local 220 reaches tentative agreement

After almost two years at the bargaining table, the **WRHA Community Programs (Local 220)** Bargaining Committee has reached a tentative four-year agreement.

Early on, the employer tabled a number of concessions relating to hours of work and benefits. But with a strong strike mandate from the Local in January 2015, the Bargaining Committee was able to push the employer back from their concessionary demands to ensure benefits were maintained.

### MPI heads to the table early, reaches tentative agreement

The **Manitoba Public Insurance (Component 10)** Bargaining Committee recently reached a tentative agreement with the employer after both sides had agreed to negotiate within an early finite time-period. In the end, the agreement was reached after four months of extremely tough negotiations, and ultimately through a conciliator, with only one day left until the mutually agreed upon deadline.

The Bargaining Committee is scheduling ratification meetings across the province to outline details of the tentative agreement, which include improvements in wages and benefits as well as employment security.

## Welcome to the March edition!

Here's what's been happening in our union throughout February.

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).



## Ready to share!

You've probably seen our ads on TV or online, but did you know you can keep the message going on social media by sharing our pre-made or custom-created **Keep Us Together** graphics?

To build your own image, visit [keepustogether.ca/create-a-meme](http://keepustogether.ca/create-a-meme), follow the instructions and share it on Facebook and Twitter to show your support!

## In The News

On February 19, I spoke with **CBC Radio** in support of Bill 8, which would establish 5 days of paid leave for domestic violence victims, arguing that "this enables a person to start seeking help while knowing they have the security of a job to return to."

I responded to critics of the new Civil Service contract's no lay-off clause with Op-Eds in the **Winnipeg Free Press**, **Brandon Sun** and **Opasquia Times**. Manitoba's public services are already stretched thin and short-changing them to provide tax cuts to those who need them least is not a priority for most Manitobans.

In response to the government's recent announcement that it will be training all Civil Service employees in Indigenous histories and rights, I spoke to **CBC** about the union's position that while worthwhile, such training should be funded from new dollars rather than training budgets that are already stretched too tight.

## In Your Workplace

### Paid job leave for domestic violence victims is the right thing to do

I recently spoke at a Legislative committee where I encouraged all MLA's to vote for new paid leave legislation that would guarantee victims of domestic violence time to deal with their situation without fear of losing their job.

### Our message: public liquor sales benefit all Manitobans

With talk of privatized liquor sales getting some press lately, we've been working with the GOLICO Component to create a fact sheet members can refer to when explaining why public liquor sales always offer the best mix of product selection, customer service, public investment and social responsibility.

### Behind the scenes: those who coordinate/schedule home care face challenges

I also toured several offices of our Home Care Case Coordinators and Resource Coordinators to learn more about some of the systemic challenges they're facing in managing home care plans for our most vulnerable Manitobans. I'll be visiting more offices next week and working with members to determine next steps.

## The Big Picture

### Port in a Storm for rural patients

The MGEU recently donated \$20,000 to **A Port in the Storm**, a non-profit organization serving rural adults who require medical treatment in Winnipeg. I had the opportunity to tour their current facilities with MGEU 2nd V-P Stephen Roznowsky and was so proud that our union is helping provide this kind of safe, supportive and affordable home-like environment for patients and their families.



MGEU 2nd Vice-President Stephen Roznowsky, A Port in the Storm President Patricia Benjaminson, MGEU President Michelle Gawronsky, and A Port in the Storm Executive Director Stacey Grocholski.

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204-982-MGEU (6438)  
Toll-free 1-866-982-6438  
[resourcecentre@mgeu.ca](mailto:resourcecentre@mgeu.ca)  
[www.mgeu.ca](http://www.mgeu.ca)

