



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

Health care, education Locals continue prep for negotiations

The Bargaining Committees of several Locals, including **Diagnostic Services of MB Facility Support - Locals 373/387/391, Tamarack Recovery Centre - Local 157, UWSA - Local 153** and **Seine River School Division - Locals 143/144/145** have finished meeting with members to gather ideas and proposals and are currently working to pull them together into a package to present to the employer.

Having finalized their bargaining package, the **Winnipeg Paramedics - Local 911** Bargaining Committee is set to begin negotiations with their employer on

Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

Meanwhile, MGEU leadership and negotiators have been meeting with members of **Westman Lab - Local 351** in Brandon to discuss collective bargaining strategies and options.

Ratification Review

Members of **Special People in Kildonan East (SPIKE) - Local 266**, who provide community living assistance to people living with intellectual disabilities, voted to ratify a new three-year collective agreement on February 21, 2017. Highlights of the agreement include modest wage increases in the first two years of the agreement (with wage re-openers in 2018 and 2019), as well as improvements to vacation and family leave, sick leave, and bereavement leave.

Welcome to the March edition!

Here's what's been happening in 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 Your Workplace

Over the last few weeks, I had the pleasure of meeting face-to-face with members to learn more about the issues they're facing, including those working in Corrections, Child and Family Services, and MIT in The Pas, and our Technical Professional Paramedical members in Dauphin and Selkirk. I will be bringing their concerns back to the union and look forward to working together towards solutions.

In the Public Eye

READY FOR ANYTHING: PARAMEDIC AD CAMPAIGN

In a medical emergency, skills matter — and a trained, paramedic professional can make a life-and-death difference.

You may have heard our ambulance and community paramedics sharing this message through a radio and online advertising campaign in February. Broadcast throughout the province, the ads show the breadth of skills required and the wide range of emergencies these members are trained to respond to. Messaging also touched on paramedic professional self-regulation, which the government recently committed to pursuing.

KEEP US TOGETHER: NEW ADS RAMP UP CAMPAIGN

The **CBC** covered our February 27 launch of new radio and online ads aimed at urging the Premier to keep his election commitment to protect the public services that Manitobans count on.

With the provincial budget coming this spring, now is the time to hold the government to their promises. Listen and watch for the ads airing throughout the province over the next four weeks.



MEDIA ROUND-UP

On **February 8**, I responded to the **Winnipeg Free Press** and **Winnipeg Sun** after the government announced they were cancelling more than \$1 billion worth of long-anticipated health care projects. I reminded the government that our Personal Care Homes are bursting at the seams and Manitobans are relying on them to keep their promise to open 1,200 more beds.

On **February 13**, I shared with the **CBC** how one of our quick-thinking Corrections Officers administered naloxone and saved the life of an unresponsive inmate at Headingley Correctional Centre.

On **February 15**, I told the **Winnipeg Free Press** that despite government threats of imposed contract settlements, we are ready to work with them to find balanced solutions. We know there are ways to address Manitoba's fiscal challenges and protect public services without resorting to heavy-handed legislation that interferes with fair collective bargaining.



The Big Picture

Labour gathers in support in wake of transit driver's death

After a Winnipeg transit driver was tragically killed earlier in the month, I joined hundreds of supporters who gathered at City Hall on February 17 to rally for improved transit driver safety and to mourn the death of one of ATU's fallen brothers.



President Gawronsky at the ATU Rally, where Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1505 President John Callahan said: "At the end of it all, it's one message. It's about health and safety and protection for all working people."

At the Leg

RULES ARE OFTEN THERE FOR A REASON

I recently met with the co-chairs of the government's new "Red Tape Reduction Task Force," MLA for Morris, Shannon Martin and Carmele Peter, President of *Exchange Income Corporation* to offer our union's recommendations for moving forward. We urged the co-chairs that this shouldn't be an opportunity to cut corners, especially when protecting the health and safety of workers on the job. For example, the MGEU has been a strong supporter of the "Safe Roads" campaign and has advocated for enhancing safety in construction zones. We wouldn't want these protections, which keep all Manitobans safe, to be eliminated.

WORKING TOWARDS A MODERN, PROGRESSIVE WORKERS' COMPENSATION SYSTEM

After consulting with members, and working in collaboration with the Manitoba Federation of Labour, we recently submitted our recommendations to the *Workers' Compensation Board Review Committee*. We look forward to their report in the coming months and hope their recommendations will reflect our vision of a modern and progressive workers compensation system.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

204-982-MGEU (6438)
Toll-free 1-866-982-6438
resourcecentre@mgeu.ca
www.mgeu.ca

