



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

MANITOBA LIQUOR NEGOTIATIONS FOCUS ON NON-MONETARY FOR NOW

After several bargaining sessions with the employer throughout January and February, the **GOLICO** Component Bargaining Committee has made progress on non-monetary items, such as uniforms and accommodation and discipline procedures. Bill 28 wage freeze legislation continues to stymie any talks re: wages or benefits, something the MGEU and other public sector unions continue to challenge through the courts.

HEALTH CARE COMPONENTS CONTINUE TO PREP FOR NEGOTIATIONS

With their agreement set to expire at the end of March, nearly 5,000 **Community Support** members continue to meet with

their Bargaining Committee reps to share ideas for improving their current contract.

Bargaining Committee reps for about 500 **Diagnostic Services MB (Technical) Locals 388 to 393** members will also be holding bargaining proposal meetings throughout the province over the next several weeks.

Meanwhile, the **Westman Lab - Local 351** and **Technical-Professional/EMS** Component Bargaining Committees have wrapped up their proposal meetings and are now working to put a package together to present to their employers.

RATIFICATION REVIEW - FIRST CONTRACT

Members of **EMS Supervisors - Local 431** working in Southern Health-Santé Sud ratified their first contract, which includes wage increases and improvements to vacation and bereavement leave.

Welcome to the March 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

GOVERNMENT FAILS TO CONSULT, CIVIL SERVICE "TRANSFORMATION" NOTHING BUT BUZZ WORDS

On Feb. 28, I told the **Wpg Free Press**, **Wpg Sun** and **CBC** that the government's so-called Civil Service "transformation strategy" provided few details and failed to consult the actual people who deliver services day-in and day-out with fewer and fewer resources, so ended up sounding like nothing but an empty pep talk

PARAMEDICS, CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS TOP LIST FOR WORK-RELATED PTSD

On February 23, I spoke with **CTV** about recent studies

suggesting first-responders and those who work in Corrections report having suicidal thoughts more frequently than other



professions. I pointed out mental illnesses like PTSD must be treated as just that: illnesses. PTSD is a workplace hazard due to the stressful and often traumatic nature of the work.

CALL FOR "PAUSE" IN HEALTH CONSOLIDATION TO ALLOW SYSTEM/WORKERS TO ADJUST

Along with Sandi Mowat of the **MB Nurses' Union**, I told the **Winnipeg Sun** that given the bottleneck in acute care bed at the Victoria Hospital and staff lay-offs and disruptions, the WRHA should hold off on further consolidation until we're sure we have the capacity to deliver the best health care possible for all Manitobans.

MGEU ADS CONTINUE THROUGHOUT FEB/MARCH

Cuts weaken public services and the things you care about fall through the cracks.



Visit www.KeepUsTogether.ca

In Your Workplace

PARKLANDS TOUR: TALKS FOCUS ON GOVERNMENT CHANGES AND THEIR IMPACT

In mid-Feb, I headed out to the Dauphin area to hear directly from members about how health care and other government changes are impacting their workplaces.

Thanks to everyone at the Dauphin Hospital, Grandview Personal Care Home, Gilbert Plains Health Centre and PCH and Manitoba Infrastructure for taking the time to share their concerns and ideas with us.



Gathering with members at their Prairie Mountain Health Care Support Services - Local 412 meeting.

WPG CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES MEMBERS MUST HAVE A SAY IN REFORMS

I also held lunch-hour discussions with three Winnipeg Child and Family Services Locals. We talked about some of the critical challenges facing social work professionals right now, as well as what role the union, and members themselves, should play in guiding and influencing any proposed government reforms to our child welfare system.

The MGEU is committed to ensuring that the professionals who actually deliver day-to-day supports and services are actively and consistently consulted.

HARASSMENT: TRAINING, HR PRACTICES KEY

On Feb. 15, in the wake of reported allegations of sexual harassment in our Legislature, I wrote to the leaders of all parties requesting mandatory respectful workplace training for all elected officials and political staff, and a review of current HR practices for Legislative Assembly staff and Order-in-Council political appointees.

The Big Picture

PENSION TELE-MEETING: Q & A, CALL TO ACTION

We know the stability of pension plans and a secure retirement is extremely important to MGEU members. That's why on Thursday, Feb. 15, we invited those in the CSSB, HEPP, CAB and WCEPB pension plans for two tele-meetings about potential government changes to Manitoba pensions.

Besides answering questions, we encouraged all members to send a message to the Pension Commission, voicing their opposition to changes and calling on the government to protect pensions like they promised!

Thousands joined the MGEU's two pension tele-meetings to talk about potential changes to pensions and ask questions.



MGEU PENSION EXPERTS WEIGH IN

On Feb. 21, the union's pension experts also submitted four pages of recommendations to the government, citing studies and reports from across the country that definitely support MGEU's positions when it comes to a secure retirement for all Manitobans.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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