



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### CLOSING ARGUMENTS FOR BILL 28 COURT CHALLENGE WRAP-UP

In February, the **Partnership to Defend Public Services (PDPS)**, which includes the MGEU and other public sector unions, delivered closing arguments in the court challenge against the government's wage freeze legislation for public sector workers.

Throughout the proceedings, the PDPS maintained that Bill 28 is unconstitutional, as it denies public sector workers of their Charter rights to sit down and negotiate fair wage increases with their employer.

Now that closing arguments are finished, both sides await the judge's decision, which may take several months.

### CIVIL SERVICE ARBITRATION: MGEU NOW AWAITS DECISION

After the government refused to appoint an arbitration panel to settle the **Civil Service** agreement -- as is required by the Civil Service Act -- the MGEU filed an application asking the Court of Queen's Bench to order the government to do so.

The union and the Province filed written arguments on January 30, 2020 and made their cases in front of the judge on February 27, 2020. We are now awaiting the court's decision.

### HEALTH CARE SUPPORT PREPARES FOR NEGOTIATIONS

After long delays due to the Bill 29 union representation votes and the government's un-proclaimed Bill 28 wage freeze legislation, preparations for negotiations are underway at **Beacon Hill Lodge - Local 80, Poseidon Care Centre - Local 81, Golden Door Geriatric Centre - Local 87, and St. Norbert Personal Care Home - Local 368**. Members will once again have an opportunity to share their ideas for improving their collective agreement at bargaining proposal meetings scheduled over the next few weeks.

The **Health Care Support Services (HCSS)** Central Table has also begun preparing for negotiations. Representatives of the HCSS Bargaining Committee met recently to discuss strategy and members should watch their mailbox for an upcoming proposal meeting notice.

## 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](mailto:president@mgeu.ca).

## In Your Workplace

### PLANS FOR WFPS MUST ADDRESS GROWING DEMANDS ON AMBULANCE-BASED PARAMEDICS

On February 28, MGEU Local 911 President Ryan Woiden told the **Wpg Free Press** that he's concerned the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service's recently released 15-year plan to consolidate fire-paramedic stations prioritizes fire response concerns over medical responses. This is particularly critical because on February 11, the **CBC** reported that 2019 was the busiest year for ambulance-based paramedics in four years and Woiden agreed, telling them Local 911 members can't believe the number of calls that are coming in as quickly as they are.



On February 3, in the **Wpg Free Press**, I urged the City of Winnipeg to sit down with the province to review how the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service is funded, how much duplication of services is occurring, and how much of that investment is actually going to ambulance-based services.

### REVIEW OF STAFF AT CROWNS CORPUS CAUSE FOR CONCERN

On Feb. 1, after the government announced it would be hiring a consultant to review job classifications and staff/management ratios of Crown corporations, I told the **Wpg Free Press** that decisions about our public services should be driven by what Manitobans need, not by arbitrary cutback targets.



## In the Public Eye

### MGEU SHARES EVIDENCE GOV IS PURSUING PLANS TO PRIVATIZE SNOW CLEARING

The MGEU held a news conference on Feb. 28, where I shared with **CTV** and other



media outlets a video illustrating mounting evidence that the government is planning to privatize Manitoba's snow clearing. I told reporters that Ontario privatized their snow clearing services, which led to a scathing report from the Auditor General.

### RALLIES/PICKETS SEND CLEAR MESSAGE: BUILD DAUPHIN CORRECTIONAL AND HEALING CENTRE!

Following a morning picket of the MB legislature on Feb. 19, I told the **Wpg Free Press, Wpg Sun, CBC, CTV** and **CKDM** the cancellation of plans to build the new Correctional and Healing Centre in



Dauphin will mean over 80 stable, family-supporting jobs leaving the city. On Feb. 4, these same media outlets reported on our rally in Dauphin (above), where 350 MGEU members and supporters in the region came together to urge the government to reverse their decision.

### PEOPLE BEHIND THE PUBLIC CAMPAIGN RETURNS

Throughout February, the MGEU once again featured members who work across the province providing a wide range of services, reminding all Manitobans that the services we rely on every day can't happen without the people to deliver them.



See more at [keepusttogether.ca](http://keepusttogether.ca)

## The Big Picture

### STANDING UP FOR FAIRNESS HERE IN MB AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

On February 19, we stood in solidarity with **Public Service Alliance of Canada** members who've been waiting four years for the Liberal government to properly deal with the Phoenix pay system and the problems of overpayment, underpayment and no payment to federal public service workers.

On February 12, I walked the line with **UNIFOR's** Co-Op refinery workers (right), who are currently locked out as they fight for the pensions they deserve.



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