



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## In the Public Eye

### CRITICAL CHANGE AT WFPS MUST BE BACKED BY TOP CITY LEADERSHIP

After an investigation into allegations of racism in the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service



vindicated a Local 911 paramedic who accused two firefighters of refusing to provide medical treatment to an Indigenous woman, I told the **CBC** that though serious concerns about racist and disrespectful behaviour had previously been raised by our union, the city's senior leadership failed to challenge the culture of denying and even covering up such behaviour, and of shaming its victims.

Later in the month, when Mayor Bowman suggested that both the United Firefighters and the MGEU have refused to acknowledge racism in the department, I told the **CBC** that this was blatantly untrue. Such tactics only distract from the mayor's responsibility as the employer to ensure a workplace free from these behaviours.

### INVESTIGATION A MUST TO ENSURE FAIRNESS

On Feb. 17, we released a media statement in response to a tragic incident at

Headingley Correctional Centre, extending our condolences to loved ones, and assuring our members that their union will strive to ensure impacted Correctional Officers receive a fair hearing as the formal investigation proceeds. We also called on the Province to make counselling resources available for all involved.

### ALL FRONT-LINE WORKERS SHOULD BE PART OF WAGE SUPPORT PROGRAM

On Feb. 8, when it became clear that dietary aides would not be included as part of the pandemic wage support program, I told the **Brandon Sun** that we must recognize everyone who's been working together to try and limit the spread.

### RESEARCH SHOWS PRIVATIZING SNOW CLEARING IS A DANGEROUS PATH

On Feb. 4, in the **Brandon Sun**, I asked why our government is trying to "fix" provincial snow clearing operations when they aren't broken? I pointed to a 2015 Ontario's Auditor General's report that revealed private contractors used less salt, sand and anti-icing liquids on highways, while patrolling less often in order to maximize their profit.



## 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).

## At the Bargaining Table

### VIRTUAL METHODS KEEP THINGS MOVING

Many Bargaining Committees are currently using virtual and remote methods to gather proposals from members, negotiate with employers, and hold online Q&A sessions.

In Feb., four MGEU Locals ratified agreements through mail-in ballot.

**Members of the Western Manitoba Regional Library - Local 202** and **Canadian Blood Services - Local 200** both ratified five-year agreements that include wage increases, while members of **Parkland Residential and Vocational Services - Local 170**, who provide programs and services to adults with intellectual disabilities in the Dauphin area, ratified a three-year agreement that includes a wage increase in the first year.

**Manitoba Horse Racing Commission - Local 146** members, who will be transferring to the Liquor and Gaming Commission next year, ratified a two-year contract that expires after the upcoming race season and includes devolution and transfer of service provisions.

## In Your Workplace

### WEAR RED WEDNESDAYS, NEW WEBINARS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AT WORK



Huge thanks to all who participated in our first Wear Red Wednesday on Feb. 3!

We'll be continuing to build awareness about the connections between our work and mental health -- and what we can do to promote psychologically safe workplaces -- the first Wednesday of every month.

Also, watch for more on the first in our **TIME**

TO CONNECT webinar series scheduled for Tuesday, March 30 @ 7 pm.

You can request Wear Red merchandise for your Local, or register for the webinar, by contacting the MGEU Resource Centre.



This month we were proud to profile Prairie Mountain Home Care Attendant Katie Holness, who left her own home and job to assist at personal care homes experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks.

## The Big Picture



### BILL 16: LET'S NOT WRECK WHAT'S WORKING

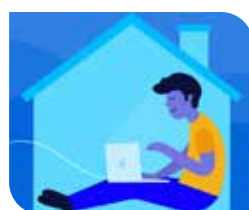
The Pallister government is re-writing our labour laws with Bill 16 (The Labour Relations Amendment Act).

Go to [mfl.ca/stopbill16](http://mfl.ca/stopbill16) for more about how this legislation will weaken fairness and increase conflict in the workplace.

### HOW'S WORKING FROM HOME WORKING FOR YOU?

Our National Union (NUPGE) is conducting an online member survey on working from home. All MGEU members are encouraged to anonymously share their opinions on working from home during the pandemic, as well as what types of options you hope to see for the future.

Go to [wfh.nupge.ca/survey](http://wfh.nupge.ca/survey) to participate.



### HAVE YOUR SAY! VIRTUAL LOCAL MEETINGS, ONLINE CONVENTION PLANNING UNDERWAY



Over the last month, we've been busy laying the groundwork to hold Local election meetings and the MGEU Convention using remote technology.

Local meetings this spring are your chance to elect those who will represent you in the workplace for a two-year term, as well as at the MGEU Convention in October '21. Don't miss this chance to help set the direction for your union as we head into a "new normal."

## Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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