



5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table



With many non-monetary items, like working conditions and contract language, complete, the **Civil Service** Bargaining Committee (representing nearly 15,000 members in Provincial government) has yet to receive a reasonable funding mandate from the employer.

As a result, I've been working with our negotiators to put pressure on government to provide a fair offer as soon as possible. If that doesn't change things, we may have to take alternative action.

Civil Service negotiations have an impact on other tables as well. For instance, the **All Nations Coordinated Response Network** (Local 365) and **Manitoba Housing Authority** (Locals 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132) Bargaining Committees have both been told by the employer that monetary negotiations are on hold until there is a Civil Service mandate.

Meanwhile, at the **Technical/Professional/EMS** table, the employer has requested conciliation after exchanging proposals with our elected Committee on April 9 and 10. The Committee is hoping conciliation starts quickly since six meeting dates have already been scheduled for May.

The University College of the North (Locals 69 and 70) Bargaining Committee, whose members voted to reject a tentative agreement in December, returned to the table with the employer in March, with further dates scheduled into May.

Members of the **Seine River School Division, Trades** (Local 143), as well as those offering service and support at the **Westman Women's Shelter** (Local 171) in Brandon voted to ratify new agreements in April.

Hit "Play" for your Update - So far, it's been a long and often frustrating round of negotiations for our 5,000 or so **Home Care Workers, Proctors, and Families First Home Visitors**. Check out my "Let's Talk Bargaining" video update, now playing on our homepage, for the latest from the Community Support bargaining table.



Strike Watch - After receiving a strong strike mandate from members, the **WRHA Community Programs** (Local 220) Bargaining Committee returned to the table and remains in negotiations.

Welcome to the May edition!

Here's what's been happening in our union over the past 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.

Members of **St. Amant Community Residential Program** (Local 178) also voted overwhelmingly for strike action in March. As a result, their Committee was able to send a strong message when they returned to the table with the employer, and reach an improved tentative agreement that members will have the opportunity to vote on shortly.

Meanwhile, 120 members of **Family Visions** (Local 303) in Brandon recently voted to reject a final offer. If the employer doesn't agree to our request to get back to the table, our Bargaining Committee will schedule a meeting for members to vote on a strike mandate.

Get your Regular Check-Up! - Is your Component or Local in bargaining these days? Look for the "**At the Bargaining Table**" button on mgeu.ca. It's updated regularly, so check back frequently for the latest bargaining news.

In Your Workplace

Celebrating our NROs - I was invited to speak to our **Natural Resource Officers** at their annual conference on March 28, 2015. What an honour! With the new Conservation Officers Act, NROs are finally being recognized for their critical role in law enforcement.

How words can keep you safe on the job - New safety and health legislation was recently introduced to help Manitobans remain safe at work. Our Safety, Health and Environment Committee is working with our communications team to ensure our members know their safety and health rights. Visit mgeu.ca/for-members/workplace-safety-and-health for more.

Is an employer decision or policy creating problems in your workplace? Let me know so your union can explore a solution!



THE BIG PICTURE

Survey Says! - Recently, we commissioned a poll, asking 1,000 Manitobans about their provincial priorities. The results show Manitobans value the services MGEU members provide every day. For instance, 77% of respondents believe the Manitoba government should not eliminate jobs because this would harm important services that families and communities depend on.

Work shouldn't hurt - It was a beautiful day for a sad occasion on April 28 as I walked with my fellow labour leaders to honour 26

Manitobans who died from work-related accidents or illnesses this past year. Here's hoping all the hard work that the Manitoba labour movement has put into enacting new workplace safety and health legislation will lead to fewer tragedies.

Check out our Budget recommendations

- Based on public polling and member feedback, I met earlier this year with the Manitoba Minister of Finance to discuss our member's priorities for the Provincial Budget, released April 30. Click the "**News & Multimedia**" tab on our site to see our pre-budget recommendations and our union's take on Budget 2015-16.

In The News



After about 500 members unexpectedly received memos from their employer, stating they would have to register with the new **Manitoba College of Social Workers** within a few weeks, MGEU leadership met to develop an advocacy plan.

By the time the issue hit the media, the numbers required to register as a condition of employment had been drastically reduced and I was able to reiterate that while our members are committed to accountability and professionalism in their work, we must all work together to ensure this in a sensible, achievable, and fair way.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

MGEU Resource Centre
204-982-MGEU (6438)
Toll-free 1-866-982-6438
TTY toll-free 1-866-982-6599
resourcecentre@mgeu.ca
www.mgeu.ca

