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# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



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## At the Bargaining Table

### NEW LOCALS WORKING TOWARD FIRST CONTRACTS

After 13 months at the table, the **Animikii Ozoson CFS (Local 443)** bargaining committee and their employer have applied for the assistance of a conciliator to help reach their first contract.

Meanwhile, members of **Patient Transport Services (Local 451)** are preparing to bargain their first contract by collecting proposals.

Negotiations on the largest MGEU contract also began this month when the **Civil Service Bargaining Committee** met with the employer on April 10 and 11 to clarify proposals.

### RATIFICATION REVIEW

Members of **Université de Saint-Boniface Support (Local 147)** ratified a new four-year agreement on April 23. Other **Université de Saint-Boniface Locals (Professors, Local 148, and Instructors, Local 149)** received their offers from the employer late this month and will cast ballots at ratification votes on May 7 (Instructors) and May 8 (Professors).

The bargaining committee for **Canadian Blood Services (Local 200)** is determining next steps after members voted to reject a tentative agreement on April 10.

**Canadian Base Operators (Local 449)** ratified their first contract on April 29.

## Welcome to the May 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).

## The Big Picture

### GEARING UP FOR GENERAL STRIKE 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Dozens of events are planned throughout the city over the next few months to recognize the **Winnipeg General Strike Centenary**. Be sure to check out the Manitoba Museum's special exhibit *Strike 1919: Divided City* (sponsored by MGEU); the Solidarity Forever Parade on May 25; and a free concert presented by our union on June 8 in Old Market Square. More info about all 1919 events is available at [MFL.ca/1919](http://MFL.ca/1919).

### WELCOME LOCAL 452 MEMBERS!

This month we welcomed **WRHA Speech-Language Pathologists (Local 452)** – to the MGEU family. Local 452 members provide speech-language pathology services for pre-school children at Winnipeg Access Centres. They join more than 17,000 health care professionals in our union. Welcome!

### SHARING OUR STORY WITH OPSEU

On April 13, I presented to our Brothers and Sisters at our sister union in Ontario (OPSEU) to share our experiences in standing up against a government that is focused on cutting public services.



### HONOURING OUR FALLEN WORKERS

On April 26 we observed the National Day of Mourning (April 28) in Winnipeg. It was a very emotional day and I was so proud to walk beside my fellow MGEU members, labour activists, and Manitobans, to remember those we've lost at work. Stay safe out there!

## In Your Workplace

### GOV PLANS TO MOVE 1,000 MORE MANITOBA HOUSING UNITS

The Pallister Government is taking a thousand more units out of MB Housing's hands and sending them to community-based organizations over the next year. With the property at 185 Smith St. in Winnipeg sold and over 1,500 units now leaving MB Housing, we're worried these moves could make it harder for some Manitobans to access MB Housing services and affordable housing.



### GOV CLOSES NEWCOMER CHILD WELFARE UNIT

On April 1, the government unexpectedly closed the Winnipeg Child and Family Services Newcomer Unit – a specialized service that helps new Canadians navigate the legal and child-welfare systems. Six MGEU members have been reassigned.

### CROWNS' MARCHING ORDERS CAUSE FOR CONCERN

The government provided our Crowns with some concerning new mandates on April 30 — MLL was told to include the private sector in more liquor sales and distribution, the MB Centennial Centre that it must become self-sufficient within five years, and MPI that it must cut costs. I have written to the Minister on this issue. We must protect our Crowns, not cut!

### MORE MEDICS NEEDED

It's good news for all Manitobans that the government is lowering ambulance fees, but it will do little good if there aren't enough paramedics on the job to answer the calls. We continue to remind the Health Minister that more medics are needed, particularly in rural Manitoba.

### JOBS CUT AT MASC

A recent Dauphin radio station report revealed that the Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation is eliminating five vacant positions in response to the government's directive to shrink the workforce by 8%. Four additional positions are to be cut, but it is unknown if those positions are vacant.

## In the News

- When asked about the expiry of the civil service no-layoff clause, I told the Brandon Sun that there is **no more room for cuts in our provincial civil service**, as workers are already stretched far too thin.
- I told the WPG Free Press that we need **consistent safety standards for all Sheriff's Officers** where long trips, spotty cellphone service, and a lack of roadside facilities are putting a mental and physical strain on our members, particularly those in the North.



- In response to concerns over the **interim supply bill** – which could have left thousands of provincial employees without pay, had it not passed – Civil Service members and I told the WPG Sun and CBC News that the government needs to make immediate changes to ensure this doesn't happen again.

## Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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