



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### MB COURT OF APPEAL RULING: BIG LEGAL WIN FOR MGEU MEMBERS OPENS PATH TO FAIR DEAL

The Court of Appeal confirmed this week that the MGEU had a right to have an interest arbitration board appointed to determine the terms and conditions of the next Civil Service collective agreement.

This victory means that Civil Service members will finally get a fair hearing before an independent arbitration board.



After a terribly frustrating couple of years, this is an opportunity we are eager and ready to undertake on their behalf.

### RATIFICATION REVIEW

Members of **Manitoba Possible - Local 262**, who provide supports and services to Manitobans living with disabilities, ratified a new four-year collective agreement this month. Highlights include an increase to stand-by pay, improvements to family and bereavement leave, and enhanced provisions for over-time.

Members of **Brandon University - Local 135** also ratified a new four-year agreement that included wage increases and improvements to the Continuing Education Fund.

## 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).

## In Your Workplace

### HEALTHY MINDS AT WORK WEBINARS CONTINUE

Thanks to all who've participated in Wear Red Wednesdays (the first Wednesday of each month!), or took part in our introductory "Time to Connect" webinar last month. Stay tuned for our upcoming webinar on how you can **Move More! Give Back! Feel Better!** by raising funds for workplace mental health through CMHA's annual Ride Don't Hide event, June 21-27.

### ST. AMANT CUTS MAKE LIFE HARDER FOR THOSE WHO PROVIDE SERVICES, RELY ON THEM

The MGEU was deeply disappointed to learn that St. Amant Centre will be permanently closing its popular and much-needed Day Program Services as of May 28, 2021. The employer also notified staff that, as a result of a routine review, they will be eliminating two overnight positions at Mellowmead Home. After this challenging year, these job losses are particularly difficult and hard to fathom. It's one of the reasons we launched our most recent ad campaign, *Not Just a Job*.



"We deal with challenges and hazards every day. We protect the people, we protect the building, and we respond to medical emergencies. So that makes my day very interesting." -- Harsimran Singh.

Find out more about the essential role Protective Services Officers play at [mgeu.ca/about-us/member-profiles](https://mgeu.ca/about-us/member-profiles)

## Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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MGEU.ca



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## In the Public Eye

### UNFAIR LABOUR PRACTICE COMPLAINT: CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS DESERVE BETTER

On April 27, after the MGEU filed an unfair labour practice complaint re: the employer's refusal to provide a monetary mandate at the Corrections bargaining table, I told the **Winnipeg Free Press** that such a refusal is disrespectful to all those dedicated COs keeping our jails running through the pandemic. The employer has not even responded to the union's monetary proposals more than two years into bargaining, leaving us with no option but to file the complaint.



### DON'T PRIVATIZE PARKS, INVEST IN THEM

A Probe Research survey commissioned by MGEU shows that Manitobans are overwhelmingly against privatizing our provincial parks and want to see more investments by the Province in our parks to sustain and improve them. Learn more about how to voice your support of public parks at [mgeu.ca](https://mgeu.ca)



### MGEU/UFCW CALL ON GOV TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR MOST VULNERABLE

The MGEU and UFCW launched a joint ad campaign this month in support of frontline workers who are there 27-7 for our most vulnerable Manitobans. The campaign message is: *It's more than just a job. It's about making vital, personal connections.* But government underfunding has resulted in low pay, limited resources, and constant turnover.

Visit [NotJustAJob.ca](https://NotJustAJob.ca) and sign the petition!

### BUDGET FAILS TO INVEST IN MANITOBANS IN TIME OF GREATEST NEED

On April 7, I spoke with media about the Provincial budget, pointing out that our government provided nothing to reverse years of underfunding and staff shortages that have made it impossible for our province to respond sufficiently to the COVID crisis. Aggressive vacancy management and staffing cuts through attrition, along with ongoing threats to safety and health, have left critical public services struggling under the impact of COVID-19.

MGEU members and staff tuned in for the Manitoba Federation of Labour's virtual ceremony on April 28.

### BILL 64: WHAT'S AT STAKE, WHAT TO DO

On April 27, the MGEU was proud to co-sponsor an online panel discussion on Bill 64, which covered topics ranging from ways the Bill removes local democratic oversight of education to what other jurisdictions have done to fight back against similar threats.



## The Big Picture

### DAY OF MOURNING: MORE THAN A DOZEN FATALITIES ON THE JOB THIS YEAR

In 2020, we lost 14 Manitobans at work. Thought we couldn't gather to remember them in person,

