



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

REFUSAL TO APPOINT ARBITRATION PANEL FORCES COURT CHALLENGE

After the Province refused to discuss wages and benefits with the Civil Service Bargaining Committee, we filed for arbitration and began working to prepare arguments on behalf of over 12,000 members.

Last month, however, the government announced they would not appoint an arbitration board -- so we'll be taking the Province to court, arguing that such a refusal denies members their legal right to have an independent, third-party hear from both sides and determine a fair outcome.

GOV WITHDRAWS MOTION TO ADJOURN

On October 8, the government introduced an 11th hour amendment to its wage freeze legislation (Bill 28), which is being challenged by the MGEU and other public sector unions in court.

Based on these amendments, the government asked the judge to adjourn the trial. The MGEU and its union partners disagreed that the amendments provided any real reason to adjourn the

proceedings and the government backed down from its latest stalling tactic several days later. They officially withdrew their motion to adjourn, which means the challenge will go to trial as planned on November 18, 2019.

RATIFICATION REVIEW



Nisichawayasihk Personal Care Home - Local 367 ratified a new five-year contract after voting in favour of potential strike action last February. The new agreement will bring wages closer to parity with workers at other Manitoba care homes.

Two new MGEU Locals also ratified first contracts in October. **Animikii Ozoson Child and Family Services - Local 443**, who serve families living in Winnipeg with ties to the First Nations of Ontario, and **Rod McGillvary Memorial Care Home - Local 447** in The Pas will now be working under the protection of collective agreements which includes the introduction of grievance and arbitration procedures.

Welcome to the November 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.

In Your Workplace

CELEBRATING (AND LISTENING TO!) THOSE WHO PROVIDE OUR PUBLIC SERVICES

The union continued to celebrate Manitoba's public services by hosting special member events in Steinbach, Selkirk, Portage, Dauphin and Brandon.



While out and about the province this month, I also took the opportunity to visit many of you at your work sites.

Thanks to everyone who came out and shared some food with us, as well as their thoughts, ideas and concerns!

WELCOME NEW LOCAL 454!

Members of the **Municipality of Westlake Gladstone - Local 454**, who work throughout the municipality's Public Works and Water Utility departments in roles ranging from administration to equipment operator, are the latest Manitobans to unionize with the MGEU! Welcome Local 454!

In the Public Eye

CIVIL SERVICE CUTS LEADING TO BURN OUT, INABILITY TO DELIVER QUALITY SERVICES

On October 2, in response to reports that the government has cut 2,000 Civil Service positions in the last three years, I told the **Wpg Free Press** that our members report high levels of burn out, with many being asked to do three or four different jobs. It's a situation that cannot, and should not, continue.

GOVERNMENT NOT PLAYING STRAIGHT AT THE BARGAINING TABLE

On October 7, I told the **Wpg Free Press** that the government's unproclaimed wage freeze legislation and their refusal to be up-front about it leaves us with no choice but



to seek an arbitrated settlement on behalf of Civil Service members.

THEFTS, SECURITY IN LIQUOR MARTS CONTINUE TO MAKE HEADLINES

At the end of October, I was in **regular communication with media outlets**, responding to the crisis in security at our Liquor Marts. I told them it's the responsibility of the employer to uphold safety in the workplace and I plan on bringing this concern up with both the MBL's new CEO and the Premier when we meet in the coming weeks.

The Big Picture

RECOGNIZING THE PLIGHT OF FAR TOO MANY INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

October 4 is Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Awareness Day in Manitoba and the MGEU showed their support by hanging red dresses in the office windows that face onto Broadway.

The Red Dress Project was started by Winnipeg-based Métis artist Jaime Black in 2010 to draw attention to "the gendered



and racialized nature of violent crimes against Aboriginal women and to evoke a presence through the marking of absence."

MOVING? EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGED?

Update your information at mgeu.ca to ensure you get the latest updates from your union!



Want to get this by e-mail?

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

204-982-6438 Toll-free 1-866-982-6438
resourcecentre@mgeu.ca
www.mgeu.ca

