



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



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## HealthyMindsAtWork.ca

**OUR JOBS AND OUR MENTAL HEALTH ARE CONNECTED**

In response to a resolution endorsed by members at our last Convention, we are excited to be launching our Healthy Minds at Work campaign!

Healthy Minds at Work aims to engage MGEU members around workplace mental health by:

- raising awareness of mental health as a workplace issue;
- helping members have conversations about mental health;
- connecting members with mental health resources and supports;
- providing members with tools and information to advocate for more psychologically healthy workplaces.

It's time to talk about our mental health at work.



Given the stressful times we're in right now, as the pandemic changes the way we work and live, the timing couldn't be better.

I encourage you to visit the campaign website at [HealthyMindsatWork.ca](http://HealthyMindsatWork.ca).

If you or anyone you know is in crisis, call the 24 hour Clinic Crisis Line at **1-888-322-3019** or 911.

For other province-wide resources, visit **211.ca**.

## 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](mailto:president@mgeu.ca).

## At the Leg

### LETTER TO PREMIER: CADHAM LAB AT BREAKING POINT

On Oct. 19, we sent a letter to the Premier, pointing out that Medical Lab Technologists (MLTs) at Cadham Lab were working at about three hundred percent of their normal capacity -- processing thousands of samples per day and working tremendous amounts of overtime.

Since the onset of this pandemic, the province has focused on expanding private testing, rather than expanding capacity at Cadham Lab, but by investing in additional staff, the flagship lab can quickly meet the growing pressure on our lab testing capacity.



### CONSERVATION: GOV FAILS TO PUT MONEY WHERE MOUTH IS

During the same week as Conservation Officers Day -- which was established by the Pallister government in 2017 to show "appreciation for the vital role these officers play in the protection of wildlife and fisheries" -- the MB Civil Service Commission annual report revealed the government oversaw a significant drop in staffing levels in the Conservation and Climate Dept. since they took power.

We took the opportunity to call on Pallister to do as he said in 2016 and protect public services, not cut them.

## In the Public Eye

### NO ADDITION TO AMBULANCE FLEET IN NEARLY 10 YEARS: RESOURCES NEEDED NOW

On Oct. 15, I told the **Wpg Free Press** that the game of hot potato between the Province and City when it comes to



properly funding ambulance services must be resolved. The service has been, and continues to be, desperately underfunded and understaffed.

### MB HOUSING WAIT LIST: GOVERNMENT HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR

On Oct. 14, I told **CBC** that given the growing wait list for MB Housing, the Pallister government needs to explain why their current scheme has left 1,800 units vacant and upkeep ignored. It's time to restore funding to Manitoba Housing.

### COVID OUTBREAK AT HCC CALLS FOR REVIEW

On Oct. 14, with the first COVID cases hitting Headingley Correctional Centre, I spoke to the **Wpg Free Press** and called on the employer to immediately review policies and protocols at the facility.

### LIQUOR SALES FUND CRITICAL PUBLIC SERVICES

On Oct. 9, I told the **Wpg Free Press** and **Global** that public liquor sales garner high levels of customer satisfaction and earn over \$280 million in profits to fund crucial public services like health care, education, and infrastructure. Why would Pallister want to increase privatization and take money away from those services right now, when public costs related to COVID continue to grow?

### COVID FIGHT: PEOPLE MUST COME BEFORE DOLLAR

On Oct. 7, I told the **Wpg Free Press** that our members continue to go into work because they're dedicated and because they care. But given the second wave gripping our province, the government must put people before dollars, and do what it takes to bring the COVID crisis under control.

### LACK OF HEALTH INSPECTORS LEAVES US AT RISK

On Oct. 5, I told the **Wpg Free Press** that Manitoba's health inspectors have the second lowest wages in Canada and often leave the province, leading to a revolving door of employees and a lack of opportunity for mentorship and succession planning.



## The Big Picture

### BILL 16 A CYNICAL ATTACK ON WORKING MANITOBBANS

On Oct. 23, we joined other labour groups in condemning the Pallister government's Bill 16 legislation, which will significantly change collective bargaining rules in Manitoba and tip the scales against workers and unions. It is a cynical and petty attack on working people and the unions that fight for them.



Add your voice and tell the Premier that this is the wrong plan for Manitoba!

Go to [mfl.ca](http://mfl.ca) and send a message to the government.

## Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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