



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

On October 15th, all rural **Community Support Locals, WRHA Proctors and Families First Home Visitors** (2,645 members), accepted their new agreement, while 2,155 **Winnipeg Home Care** members voted to reject the agreement.

A key issue - the sick-leave policy, where the employee isn't paid for the first two days of sick leave, giving many workers no choice but to work sick with some of Manitoba's most vulnerable citizens. The WRHA has agreed to return to the bargaining table as soon as possible to resolve outstanding issues.

Negotiations on non-monetary issues, including seven-day scheduling, has continued throughout the fall for **WRHA Community Programs (Local 220)**. The focus will soon be shifting to monetary issues like wages and benefits with bargaining dates scheduled in November.

The **Technical Professional/EMS/DSM** negotiations, on issues like contract language and working conditions, have been progressing well this fall, but have yet to move on to financial proposals.

After spending the month of October collecting bargaining proposals and asking members to complete a survey on their bargaining priorities, the **MPI** Bargaining Committee is putting together their proposal package for the employer, as they get ready for negotiations in November.

This past week I travelled with the **Civil Service** Bargaining Committee across the province — holding information sessions and rallies, as well as meetings with MLAs. Our goal was to draw as much attention as possible to the fact that the Provincial government is not dealing fairly with its own workforce; we deserve the same offer that everyone else across the province has already been given.

Thousands have been without a contract for more than a year, and in some cases, two years — including bargaining tables for **Manitoba Housing, Southeastern CFS, Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, ANCR, Falcon Lake Golf Course, CEDF and MASC**.

The reaction from people we spoke with makes us confident that Manitobans will be telling their MLA to protect our public services and respect our workers.



### Local 911 Arbitration results

The arbitration panel that heard arguments from **Winnipeg Paramedics (Local 911)** last month regarding compensation delivered a speedy decision, ensuring that our members maintain parity with increases achieved by the Winnipeg Fire Firefighters. The Bargaining Committee is setting up Local meetings for members to learn more about the arbitration award.

### Strike Watch

The **Health Sciences Centre Security (Local 249)** Bargaining Committee held a strike vote in early October and received overwhelming support for strike action.

After the frustration of bargaining with the employer for over three years, the Bargaining Committee felt it had run out of options for making the employer understand the challenges of retention issues and the numerous safety risks officers face.

We will be returning to the bargaining table in November, with a strong strike mandate, as we work to reach a new, improved offer.

## Welcome to the November edition!

Here's what's been happening in our union throughout October.

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).

**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](http://mgeu.ca). It's updated regularly, so check back frequently for the latest bargaining news.

## In The News



We received excellent province-wide media coverage of the **Fair Deal Tour** for **Civil Service** members. We were featured in CBC Winnipeg, the Selkirk Journal, the Interlake Spectator, Portage On-Line, the Brandon Sun, CJ104 in Swan River, the Opasquia Times, and the Thompson Citizen, to name just a few.

A few weeks ago, CBC News reported that our **Université de Saint-Boniface (USB)** members are lobbying their employer to reconsider scuttling plans for an on-campus daycare. I am working with Post-Secondary Component Director Carole Reimer to send a letter to the employer, urging them to reverse that decision.

## Hitting Airwaves Soon!



In November you'll be hearing MGEU radio messages from members who deliver public services, explaining what they do, and why the service is so important to Manitobans. These messages are part of a larger campaign to engage the public about the vital importance of protecting our public services and those who provide them.

## In Your Workplace

### Online Petition sends message to Government

- On October 6, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Wayne Chacun and I delivered 5,787 petition signatures to several Manitoba Ministers, asking the government to provide MGEU members with a fair and reasonable offer.

**Members to be paid overtime for daylight saving time** - As a result of several grievances filed by our union, and a proposal at the Civil Service bargaining table, any Civil Service members on shift during daylight saving time (Sunday, November 1) this year will be paid overtime for the additional hour worked.

**UWSA part-time workers become MGEU's newest Local** - Welcome part-time workers of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association to the MGEU! I'm very much looking forward to working with members of our newest Local: UWSA Non-Admin Local 433.



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