



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At Convention 2016

Nearly 400 delegates gathered at the RBC Convention Centre on Friday, October 21 and Saturday, October 22 to set the direction for their union over the next two years.

It was gratifying to see many long-standing activists return, as well as many attending their first Convention. This certainly bodes well for our future — new people with new ideas have taken the step to stand up and have their say.

I believe in many ways MGEU Convention 2016 will be remembered as a turning point for our union, particularly in light of the fact that we are dealing with a new government that seems poised to make cuts to public services. From this Convention we emerge with a renewed energy and purpose: protect public services as well as the people who provide them.



160 delegates, or 44%, were first-time attendees of the MGEU Convention.



Delegates debated resolutions regarding finance and the MGEU Constitution.



With 13 members running for 5 positions, delegates were kept busy at the ballot box.



I'm so proud to serve once again as your president. Everyone who got involved in the democratic election of our Executive is committed and passionate about our union. I can't wait to work with each and every one of you as we move forward together.

Now that the elections are over, the Premier has said he's ready to meet. We have a number of important issues to talk about — top of mind is keeping our public services public!

1st V-P

Wayne Chacun, a paramedic from Virden, long-time activist, and six-year veteran of the MGEU Executive, was re-elected 1st Vice-President.



2nd V-P

Doug Troke, an auditor with Manitoba Taxation from Boissevain, has served on the MGEU Finance Committee and is an elected employee rep for the Civil Service Superannuation Board.



3rd V-P

Shelley Wiggins, a Social Services Worker from Minitona, became active as a Chief Steward in 2010 and has both sat on the MGEU Education Committee and co-facilitated MGEU workshops.



4th V-P

Charlotte McWilliams, a Correctional Officer from Brandon, became active as a chief steward twelve years ago and most recently represented Area 3 on the MGEU Board.



Many, many thanks to all the dedicated members who put their name forward and participated in the democracy of our union. Special thanks to Stephen Roznowsky, who's been an MGEU activist for 40 years and served as 2nd V-P for the past sixteen.

Welcome to the November edition!

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

If you have any questions, please get ahold of me through our Resource Centre (204-982-6438 or 1-866-982-6438) or e-mail me at president@mgeu.ca.

At the Leg

Expressing our priorities for Budget 2017

I recently presented at the Provincial pre-budget consultation meetings in Winnipeg and talked about how public employees are already "stretched thin" as they strive to deliver the kind of public services Manitobans expect and deserve. I also took the opportunity to remind the government about their election commitment to protect and improve public services, and that we will work every day to hold them to their word.

Speaking up against Bill 7

I also presented at a Legislative Committee hearing on Bill 7. For years now, our province has benefited by clear and fair rules about union certification. When a majority of workers freely sign union cards, their wishes have been respected without intimidation, harassment or unnecessary delays. Now the Pallister government is suddenly proposing to "fix" what isn't broken and make it tougher for Manitobans to join a union.

Send a message at mfl.ca and tell the Premier that **Bill 7 is not good for Manitoba**.

Emergency meeting with Pallister to address "unilateral wage freeze"

On October 28, a joint press release from the U fo M and U of M Faculty Association stated public bodies are being asked by the Province to extend existing contracts for an additional year at zero per cent in order to stabilize public sector compensation levels.

In response, I will be meeting with Premier Pallister on November 1 to discuss exactly what this means for Manitoba's public sector. We must have assurance from this government that bargaining will be fair and not dictated before it even begins.

At the Bargaining Table

Two tentative agreements in Winnipeg

A dozen Locals were at the table in October, with two reaching tentative agreements with their employers. Members of **Winnipeg Clinic - Local 363**, and **Unionware - Local 193** will be voting on whether to ratify the tentative agreements early in November.

Strike Watch

Members of **Nisichawayasihk Personal Care Home - Local 367** voted on October 13, 2016 to take strike action. Union reps are now discussing next steps with members, the employer, and funders. Health care aides in Thompson currently earn nearly four dollars more per hour than these MGEU members in Nelson House.

In Your Workplace

Red River College members vote to remain single bargaining unit

Members of Red River College - Local 73 recently voted on whether to pursue establishing two separate bargaining units: one for Instructors, and one for all other staff. On October 28, the ballots were counted and the Local will remain as a single bargaining unit. In order to go ahead with the change, two-thirds majority, or 67% of members who voted would've had to vote in favour of the restructuring.

Union attends first Joint Council meeting with new government

On October 17, MGEU 1st V-P Wayne Chacun, Brother Brian Parley from Corrections and I brought forward a number of issues to Ministers ranging from Justice and Health to Infrastructure, and senior government staff.

This "Joint Council" is a Labour-Management Committee intended to deal with labour or management issues at a macro level and work toward solutions. It's the first meeting we've had with the new government and represents an important first step in an ongoing dialogue with the employer.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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