



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

RHAs, PRIVATE FACILITIES UNWILLING TO SCHEDULE BARGAINING DATES: BILL 29

Though agreements have expired and **Health Care Support Services (HCSS)** Bargaining Committees are eager and ready to begin negotiations, employers remain unwilling to schedule dates.

With Bill 29, the government has said they want HCSS workers in each region to be covered by one union and one collective agreement, but they haven't told the unions or the employers exactly how this will happen or when.

The MGEU is arguing that our members deserve a new agreement. Therefore, bargaining dates must be scheduled.

EDUCATION BARGAINING CONTINUES

Both the **Assiniboine Community College/Red River College Central Table** and **Université de Saint Boniface - Local 148** Bargaining Committees are scheduled to continue bargaining into December, while the **Seine River School Division - Local 145** Bargaining Committee will begin negotiations in November, the first of three Seine River SD Locals (143-Trades and 144-Support) to go to the table.

RATIFICATION REVIEW

Members of **Knowles Centre (SAIL) - Local 432** ratified a new three-year agreement that includes the introduction of a Mental Health Day, while **Macdonald Youth Services N/ADPH - Local 369** ratified a new four-year agreement with wage increases based on an interest arbitration award from July.

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 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

MGEU ON "RED TAPE," TUITION HIKES

On Oct. 23, I presented to a Legislative Committee on "Red Tape" Reduction, warning the government must exercise caution when putting safety and health protections on the chopping block. I gave examples such as the Walkerton tainted water and Quebec train derailment tragedies and suggested the regulatory environment would be most enhanced by an open and transparent government.

On Oct. 25, MGEU 1st V-P, Wayne Chacun, presented on Bill 31, arguing that more investment in post-secondary education, not tuition hikes, is the only way to ensure public education is more accessible, not less.

In Your Workplace

LOCAL 911 CALLS FOR RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE

At an arbitration hearing in mid-October, Paramedics - Local 911 and MGEU legal counsel made their case that Fire Paramedic Chief John Lane contributed to a disrespectful workplace for paramedics.

Over the three-day hearing, witnesses testified to feeling ostracized and ignored by the leader of their own organization.

Arbitrator Arnie Peltz is expected to rule on the issue in the next few months.

WORKING SHORT-STAFFED REMAINS KEY CONCERN FOR FRONT-LINE HEALTH MEMBERS

In late October, I traveled to Selkirk, Teulon, Gimli, Arborg, Ashern, Swan River, Benito, Roblin and McCreary to talk with members about their workplace concerns and the ongoing changes in health care.



Visiting with members at Roblin Health Centre and Crocus Court PCH.

In the Public Eye



To celebrate Health Care Support Services Appreciation days in October, we shared a video and images of how much our members care about the Manitobans who rely on them!

UNION PARTNERSHIP TAKES NEXT STEP TO CHALLENGE WAGE FREEZES IN COURT

On Oct. 20, the MGEU and the *Partnership to Defend Public Services* announced they would be proceeding with filing evidence in the Court of Queen's Bench against Bill 28.

Using expert opinions and affidavits, the *Partnership* will show how the government is undermining the collective bargaining rights of more than 110,000 public workers.

The court challenge will proceed over the next several months.

TOO EARLY TO ASSESS IMPACT OF CHANGES

On October 27, I told the **Winnipeg Sun** that after all the cuts and upheaval in our health care system, we all want to believe that this

will somehow result in better patient care. But so far, our health care workers haven't seen that. What we need before any assessment is information coming from the WRHA on a monthly basis from all sites.

IN RESPONSE TO THE KPMG REVIEW TO FIND COST SAVINGS WITHIN GOVERNMENT:

On October 7, I told the **Winnipeg Free Press** that the recommendation to sell parts of public housing to the private sector made no sense. Such services were set up in the first place because private companies need to make a profit over the need of low income families to have an affordable place to live.

On October 3, I told **CBC** that the recommendation to cut our public service by 8% over 3 years is the opposite of what our government promised Manitobans they would do — protect our public services and the people who provide them.

VISITED CareComesFirst.ca YET?



Now's the time to tell the Premier to stop the cuts and put care first!

The Big Picture

IT'S OUR 5th NEW LOCAL IN 6 MONTHS!

It's my pleasure to welcome the MGEU's newest Local — **Animikii Ozoson Child & Family Services, Local 443** — a Winnipeg-based agency that works with families from Ontario First Nations who live in the city. The roughly 50 foster care workers, direct service workers, unit supervisors and admin staff join nearly 700 other MGEU members working in similar CFS agencies throughout the province.

Local 443 is the fifth new MGEU Local to certify in the last six months!



OUR ST. AMANT MEMBERS HAVE TRUE SPIRIT!

Had a fabulous day with other fabulous members on Saturday, September 30, celebrating the incredible care our **St. Amant Locals 92,93 and 178** members provide to Manitobans with development delays and autism.

Funds raised from the *Free the Spirit Festival* will go towards equipment like specialized wheelchairs and more recreational outings for St. Amant residents.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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