



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

Civil Service Bargaining Committee to drive up pressure by hitting the road

Though arbitration dates have been scheduled for May 2016, the Civil Service Bargaining Committee is not prepared to wait until spring for a fair deal.

Throughout the week of October 26, 2015, they will be traveling across the province to hold information sessions and rallies, as well as meetings with MLAs. Their aim? To draw as much attention as possible to the fact that the Provincial government is not dealing fairly with its own workforce.

Why must we go through the delay and expense of an arbitration hearing when a fair deal, with a fair wage increase, is not too much to ask at the bargaining table?

In the coming weeks, please stay tuned for more information about the *Fair Deal* campaign coming to a community near you!

Local 911 arbitration hearings complete

The **Winnipeg Paramedics (Local 911)** Bargaining Committee and the employer made their arguments regarding compensation to an arbitration panel on Wednesday, September 16 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

It could be upwards of six months before the panel awards their decision, but the Bargaining Committee is hopeful they'll hear back sooner.

STRIKE WATCH

After the employer began bargaining with a long list of concessionary demands, including moving employees to a seven-day work schedule, it wasn't long before the members of **WRHA Community Programs (Local 220)** voted overwhelmingly for strike action.

Bargaining continued through the summer, but the seven-day work schedule demand remained on the table.

At this point, the Local 220 Bargaining Committee is meeting to explore all options and strategize next steps.

Welcome to the October edition!

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

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.

After holding an information picket outside their workplace on Tuesday, September 22, 2015, the **Health Sciences Centre Security (Local 249)** Bargaining Committee is considering their next steps, including the possibility of scheduling a strike vote.

In The News



• The media was out in force to cover the Province's announcement of **52 new, improved ambulances** on Manitoba roads. I was particularly happy to speak at the news conference because at the union's request, **the Province consulted our paramedics in the redesign process** to ensure those who use the equipment on a daily basis have input into how to make their workplaces safer.

• When over 300 HSC Security members and their supporters demonstrated outside the Health Sciences Centre on Tuesday, September 22, 2015, the media took notice. I spoke about their concerns — including the fact that **experienced security officers are leaving on a regular basis due to low wages and dangerous working conditions** — with **CBC** and **CTV** news, and the **Winnipeg Free Press**.



In Your Workplace

Postcards' Message to Minister: our voices must be recognized and respected!

Along with activists and staff who represent Prairie Mountain HCSS members, I met with Health Minister Sharon Blady on Tuesday, September 29, 2015 to discuss ongoing safety concerns and staff shortages in the region. 1,000 postcards signed by health care support workers and supporters helped us deliver the message: it's time to listen to those who provide the hands-on, life-giving care for our most vulnerable neighbours and family members.



Churchill visits bring northern workplace challenges to the fore

On September 23 and 24, I had the opportunity to visit many of our workplaces up in Churchill. It was an invaluable experience to see first-hand the unique northern challenges many of our members face, including equipment shortages and a sense of disconnect with their southern-based employers. I look forward to working with these members to tackle these challenges!

Paramedics grieve fire chief's "us versus them" language

After the Winnipeg fire chief cited single service EMS as a "threat to the fire-based model," at a firefighters union conference, we made the decision with our Local 911 paramedics to file a respectful workplace complaint with the City of Winnipeg. The grievance claims the language he used is inflammatory and creates an "us versus them" environment.

The Big Picture

Memorial honours The Pas Correctional Officer

On Sunday, September 27, 2015, I was honoured to stand beside dozens of Sheriff's Officers,

Correctional Officers and Natural Resource Officers who'd gathered at the Legislature to honour peace officers who've fallen in the line of duty — including one of their own, Manitoba Correctional Officer Rhonda Commodore, who died in a highway accident last fall.

The union also sent a delegation of Corrections activists to participate in a nation-wide memorial in Ottawa, where Rhonda's parents and son were in attendance.



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