



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### CIVIL SERVICE PREP BEGINS

The collective agreement between the Province and nearly 14,000 **Civil Service** employees expires this spring. Once the Bargaining Committee is elected following the MGEU Convention in October, members will have an opportunity to present their proposals for the new agreement at Local meetings currently being scheduled throughout the province.

### BILL 28 CHALLENGE: COURT DATES SET

The Court of Queen's Bench has scheduled Nov. 8 to Dec. 5, 2019 to hear the legal challenge mounted by the MGEU and other unions against the government's Bill 28 wage freeze legislation.

### VOTES DELAY HEALTH BARGAINING

On Sept. 13, the government clarified who will be taking part in Bill 29 representation votes. Negotiations for dozens of MGEU health care Locals,

including some not involved in the votes, such as private personal care homes, will be delayed until voting is finished and new bargaining units are created over the next several months.

### RATIFICATION REVIEW

Two new MGEU Winnipeg Locals recently ratified their first three-year contracts — **End Homelessness Winnipeg - Local 439** and **Les Tournesols de Saint-Vital - Local 441**, whose members provide Francophone early childhood education.

### Main Street Project - Local 136

concluded a long and frustrating round of bargaining complicated by layoffs at the agency. The new contract includes a wage increase and commitment to address workplace wellness.

### COLLEGES REJECT OFFER

Members of **Assiniboine Community College - Local 71** and **Red River College - Local 73** voted to reject a final offer in late Sept. The Bargaining Committee hopes to return to the table before seeking a strike mandate from the membership.

## Welcome to the October 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).

## In Your Workplace

### SO GREAT TO HEAR FROM SO MANY OF YOU!

Our union headed north west last month, visiting a wide range of work locations, from *Diagnostic Services* labs, *Highways* crews and *EMS* stations, to *MPI* and *Conservation* offices. It was so good to speak directly with members about their concerns on the job, especially about having to do more with less. I also stopped by several workplaces in and around Winnipeg, including *Main Street Project* and the *Health Sciences Centre*.



Stopping in to chat with members at Selkirk Laundry (Local 126), above, and one of our newest Locals, Rob McGillvary Memorial Home (Local 447) in the Pas.



## In the Public Eye

### A STEP BACK FOR INTERLAKE-EASTERN EMS

On Sept. 1, I told the *Wpg Free Press* that the RHA's move to provide only intermediate level EMS to area residents will prevent advanced care paramedics from doing what they're trained and licenced to do and will only exacerbate the lack of care in rural MB.

### MILNER RIDGE CLOSURES PUT PUBLIC SAFETY AT RISK

On Sept. 6, in response to the closure of 56 beds at Milner Ridge, I questioned what kind of impact this will have on public safety in the *Wpg Free Press* and on *CBC*.



### QUALITY HEALTH CARE REQUIRES A TEAM

On Sept. 11, I voiced my disappointment to the *Wpg Free Press* and *Global* that the government's Phase 2 health



announcement made no mention of the 23 Victoria hospital staff laid off during Phase 1. Ensuring quality care means supporting all dedicated health workers with the same guarantees as nurses.

### LIQUOR THEFTS REQUIRE JOINT STRATEGY

On Sept. 12, I told the *Wpg Sun* and *CTV* that the MGEU has written to Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries asking for an urgent meeting to talk about ways in which we can restore safety at retail liquor stores.

On Sept. 13, I told the *Wpg Free Press*, *CBC* and *Global* that our GOLICO members have valuable insight on how to improve safety in liquor stores and the union will be presenting their ideas at an upcoming meeting with management.

### CUTTING ADDICTIONS POSITIONS

On Sept. 13, I told *CBC* that cutting four positions at Compass Residential Youth Program in Portage will make it even harder to meet the critical need for addictions services just as issues are mounting for youth.

### QUESTIONS RE: MB YOUTH CENTRE RAISED

On Sept. 20, I told the *Wpg Free Press* that our members at the MB Youth Centre were concerned by news that the Province is considering moving or scaling back the only youth jail close to Winnipeg's courthouse.

### URGENT ACTION NEEDED: HSC SECURITY

On Sept. 26, I told the *Wpg Free Press*, the *Sun*, *CBC* and *Global* that with the increased use of meth and opioids, HSC Security Officers must have their legal status elevated immediately so they have the authority to intervene in violent situations. This would require more training and possibly more equipment, but it's a matter of public safety.

## The Big Picture



A big thank you to all the MGEU members who came out on their long weekend to celebrate Labour Day and what unions have achieved for working Manitobans.

## Want to get this by e-mail?

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

204-982-6438 Toll-free 1-866-982-6438  
[resourcecentre@mgeu.ca](mailto:resourcecentre@mgeu.ca)  
[www.mgeu.ca](http://www.mgeu.ca)

