



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## At the Bargaining Table

### RATIFICATION REVIEW

On August 28, members of **Family Dynamics - Local 212**, who provide coordinated, community-based supports for Winnipeg families, ratified a two-year agreement which includes improvements to leave and the addition of wellness days.

### NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE ON BEHALF OF HUNDREDS OF MEMBERS THIS FALL

Over a dozen MGEU Locals, many from the Community-Based Social Services Component, bargained through the summer and will continue into fall.

For instance, the Bargaining Committee for over 400 **Government Community Workers (Locals 251-256, 258)**, who provide home-based family supports throughout the province, will return to the table in September, and **Michif Child and Family Services**, with Locals in The Pas, Dauphin and Brandon, will resume negotiations in November.

Meanwhile, after eight months at the table, the **Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Superintendents - Local 431** Bargaining Committee is scheduled to resume bargaining on September 18, this time with the aid of a conciliator.

### SCHOOL'S IN, LET THE BARGAINING BEGIN

The Bargaining Committees for over 2,000 members in **Assiniboine Community College/Red River College Central Table - Locals 71/73** and **Seine River School Division - Local 134-135** are set to exchange bargaining proposals with the employer this fall.

### PREP FOR HCSS NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUES DESPITE LIKELY BARGAINING UNIT VOTE

The government has yet to reveal when their proposed legislation to reduce the number of health care bargaining units will be proclaimed.

In the meantime, the Health Care Support Services Central Table Bargaining Committee is finalizing its proposal package and moving forward to commence negotiations.

## Welcome to the September 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

### LISTENING TO YOU ABOUT WHAT HEALTH CUTS MEAN FOR YOU AND YOUR PATIENTS

I spent much of August visiting with those of you who work in Manitoba's hospitals and personal care homes.

In all, we traveled to 30 different communities!

- Winnipeg
- Brandon
- Winkler
- Morden
- Killarney
- Virden
- Boissevain
- Cartwright
- Killarney
- Melita
- Hartney
- Baldur
- Beausejour
- Pine Falls
- Grandview
- Stonewall
- Lundar
- Eriksdale
- Gilbert Plains
- Russell
- Rossburn
- Shoal Lake
- Lac Du Bonnet
- Hamiota
- Rivers
- Riverdale
- Minnedosa
- Neepawa
- Carberry
- Treherne



I want to thank each and every one of you who provide these services, day-in and day-out, and came out to take your break with us and talk about your concerns about government cuts!

## In the Public Eye

### SURVEY SAYS? MANITOBANS DISAGREE WITH CUTS!

On Monday, August 28, I spoke with the **Winnipeg Free Press** about a recent Probe Research poll commissioned by the MGEU that revealed **a majority of Manitoba adults (71%) feel the government's health care reforms are going too far, too fast.** An overwhelming majority of Manitobans (86%) also said the government should release the KPMG report that has guided the government's health care changes.

### PRIVATE MRIs WILL TAKE US IN A DANGEROUS DIRECTION

I also wrote an Opinion piece that appeared in the paper the next day, arguing that the **private MRI clinic** being proposed by the town of Niverville will NOT fix our diagnostic wait time problem — it will sell out Medicare for the benefit of a small group of profit-driven private investors. The quality of your health care should no be determined by the size of your wallet!

### FAILING TO PROTECT ALL FRONT LINE STAFF, PROGRAMS PUTS PATIENTS AT RISK

We held a news conference on August 15 to let Manitobans know the government has not yet lived up to its earlier commitment that there will be jobs for all front line staff in the WRHA. With MGEU members at Victoria Hospital facing lay-offs, this is deeply concerning and we continue to work with Local representatives to determine next steps.

### WATCH FOR OUR LATEST HEALTH CARE AD CAMPAIGN...STARTING OCTOBER 5!

Visit [carecomesfirst.ca](http://carecomesfirst.ca) for more info on what you can do to make your voice heard!



## The Big Picture

### SUMMER EVENTS GREAT WAY TO SHARE MESSAGE WHILE HAVING SOME FUN

On Sunday, September 3, I spoke at Winnipeg's annual **Labour Day March and Picnic at Vimy Ridge Park**, celebrating our proud history and uniting for the challenges ahead.

The weekend before, on August 26, I was thrilled to join dozens of our members at



Winnipeg's annual **Filipino Street Festival** parade (above) and to speak with folks about protecting their public services at our MGEU table throughout the day.

## Rally at the Leg!

### Concerned about the health care cuts?

Join the MGEU at **NOON** on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13** in front of the Legislative building and make your voice heard! Visit [mgeu.ca](http://mgeu.ca) for more info!

## Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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