



PLEASE POST!

# 5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

## Latest re: C-19

### MGEU BOARD MOVES TO POSTPONE IN-PERSON PRE-CONVENTION MEETINGS

Given the latest pandemic circumstances in Manitoba, we held a special meeting of the MGEU Board of Directors on Thursday, August 27. After much discussion, we decided to postpone the pre-Convention Local Executive meetings to elect Convention delegates and Local positions until further notice.

We will continue to monitor the public health situation over the next few months and keep you updated as things evolve.

For any in-person meetings still being held this fall, masks will be mandatory and made available where required.

### COPING WITH COVID: YOU'RE NOT ALONE

Members of our Education Committee had an important message to share this past month: if you're struggling to cope with the "new normal" of the pandemic, you're not alone. And supports and resources are available.



## 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 the Public Eye

### PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH GRIEVANCE: EMPLOYERS MUST PROVIDE APPROPRIATE PPE/FACE MASKS TO ALL WORKERS

It's unacceptable to treat some employees differently than others by not providing the same protective equipment to do their work. That's why on August 27, I told **CTV** that the union has filed a grievance on behalf of MGEU members in Prairie Mountain Health. Employers must provide the appropriate PPE to all workers, particularly if it's required to do their job.



On August 5, I told the **Winnipeg Free Press** and **CBC** that most of the



employees I heard from support the employer's decision to mandate the wearing of face masks for all MBLL workers while on the job.

I said our members recognize that we all have a responsibility to ensure our own safety, as well as the safety of our co-workers and those customers coming through the door. I also encouraged all Liquor Mart customers to consider wearing a mask when visiting a store.

## At the Bargaining Table

### GOVERNMENT APPEALS BILL 28 RULING: PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS PLAN NEXT STEPS

On August 17, the Pallister government announced it would be appealing



Justice Joan McKelvey's June ruling that their wage freeze law was "draconian" and violated union members' charter right to associate and collectively bargain.

The MGEU was central in coordinating the *Partnership to Defend Public Services (PSPD)* which filed the challenge, and we remain adamant that the lower-court ruling was clear and should be respected. We are now faced with a government who has chosen to drag this process out even further instead of bargaining fair contracts.

On August 26, the public sector unions and *Manitoba Federation of Labour* involved in the PDPS met to discuss strategy and next steps.

We will keep members updated as these discussions proceed.

### MGEU'S NEWEST LOCAL HEADS TO THE TABLE

While far too many of our Bargaining Committees are frustrated by government obstacles holding up negotiations, the MGEU's newest Local began negotiations for their first contract this summer. Members of the **Municipality of West Lake-Gladstone - Local 454** had an opportunity to put forward their ideas and proposals back in January, and after a delay due to the pandemic, talks began in July and are will continue into the fall.



### RATIFICATION REVIEW

Members of the **YWCA Thompson Residence - Inc. - Local 179** as well as **Falcon Lake Golf Course - Local 356** ratified three-year agreements in August, while members of the **Macdonald Youth Services (Alternative Parent Home Program) - Local 369**, who were awarded wage increases in each year of their two-year contract by an arbitrator in July, ratified the rest of their collective agreement, including improved contract language, on August 26, 2020.

### CONGRATS TO THE 2020 MGEU BURSARY WINNERS!

We're pleased to announce the 2020 recipients of nearly \$30,000 in MGEU education scholarship and bursaries.

Even with all the uncertainty around returning to classes this fall, it was great to see so many MGEU members and their families put their names forward.

Our union is about building a better life for our members and these bursaries give people the chance to pursue an education and upgrade their skills.

## The Big Picture



## 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)

