



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

In the Public Eye

HEALTH CARE SUPPORT STRIKE MANDATE RESULT OF BEING UNDERVALUED

On Sept. 1, I told the **Brandon Sun** and **CBC** that our health care support workers got us through the pandemic, but saw nothing but concessions when they finally sat down at the bargaining table. As with the nurses, our members deserve to be valued and respected. If we can't reach a deal, then a third-party arbitrator should settle the agreement.

LIQUOR PRIVATIZATION BILL WITHDRAWN!

On Sept. 1, newly sworn-in Manitoba Premier Kelvin



Goertzen withdrew Bill 40, which would have opened the door to large-scale privatization of liquor sales.

Thank you to all liquor workers and other MGEU members for their hard work in helping us fight this legislation as part of our **Keeping Liquor Public** campaign. Your efforts in signing petitions, sending email messages, sharing information on social media, and even calling government MLAs helped sway the decision to stop Bill 40.

NEW WFPFS CHIEF HAS WORK CUT OUT FOR HIM

On Sept. 1, I told the **Wpg Sun** that the new Winnipeg Fire Paramedic chief has his work cut out for him in tackling what can

only be called a toxic work environment for our members. As a great beginning, he has already reached out with more willingness to work together.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS RISKS OF PRIVATIZING INFRASTRUCTURE AND VEMA



“According to the vast majority of workers, job quality, safety, efficiency, value-for-money, and the integrity of their workplaces are being compromised, and morale appears to be at an all-time low.”

In a new CCPA report, researchers surveyed our members in Manitoba Infrastructure and VEMA to get their perspectives on contracting out of Manitoba Infrastructure.

In an Aug. 24 Op-Ed in the **Wpg Free Press**, the report's authors pointed out that “instead of consulting its own staff, the government is relying on outside multi-national, for-profit finance and accounting firms with track records of promoting and profiting from privatization... Manitobans, along with public-sector workers, are already paying the price.”

WE NEED A PREMIER WHO BELIEVES IN PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICES

On August 11, following Premier Pallister's announcement that he would be stepping down, I told the **Wpg Free Press** we need a premier who isn't fixated on cuts and privatization, who will listen to the concerns of our members and restore and enhance all those public services Manitobans rely on.

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.

At the Bargaining Table

CORRECTIONS COMPONENT REJECTS EMPLOYER'S OFFER

Members of the Corrections Component overwhelmingly rejected an offer from their employer this month. The Bargaining Committee had recommended members say “no” to the offer, which contained no meaningful improvements specific to the Corrections Component. The MGEU is now in a position to file for arbitration.



HCSS, COMMUNITY SUPPORT DELIVER STRONG STRIKE MANDATE

Health Care Support Services and **Community Support** members in Interlake-Eastern RHA and Prairie Mountain Health delivered resounding strike mandates to their Bargaining Committees in August. Health care support workers have not had a renewed agreement, and their wages frozen, since 2017 and 2018. More bargaining dates are scheduled, but if negotiations break down, the Bargaining Committees hope the government will show them the same respect they showed the nurses and commit to having a third party arbitrator settle the contract.



RATIFICATION REVIEW

After more than a year of bargaining and with the assistance of mediation, members of the **Municipality of WestLake-Gladstone – Local 454** ratified their first collective agreement at the end of August.



On August 5, members of **Family Visions – Local 303**, who provide supports for adults living with intellectual disabilities in Brandon, ratified a new two-year agreement that includes wage increases and the introduction of a wellness leave day.

In Your Workplace

MEET RUSTAM DOW

HIFIS Specialist, End Homeless Wpg - Local 349



Don't automatically think of information management as a way to serve and support homeless Manitobans? Think again.

Read more: mgeu.ca/about-us/member-profiles

HOPE TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUR WORKPLACE, BUT NOT SURE WHERE TO START?-- Meet MGEU member Garvin Pinette

On **Tuesday, September 21 at 7 pm**, join me

in welcoming Blaine Duncan, MGEU Safety and Health Specialist, in conversation with MGEU member Garvin Pinette, who's led the charge in bringing real change to his work at the Manitoba Youth Centre and other Corrections Locals.



Contact the Resource Centre to register!

The Big Picture



JOINT LABOUR EFFORTS GET GOVERNMENT TO BACK DOWN FROM FIVE ANTI-WORKER BILLS

Bill 40, the government's legislation leading to more private liquor sales, was just one among five government Bills that had triggered massive opposition from MGEU and large numbers of Manitobans.

- **Bill 16** would dismantle our system of resolving long labour disputes fairly through binding arbitration;
- **Bill 35** would allow government to sidestep the independent public review process in setting electricity prices;
- **Bill 57** would interfere with our rights to peaceful protest; and
- **Bill 64** would abolish democratically elected school boards.

With the historic withdrawal of all five of these anti-worker Bills, I'm more convinced than ever that activism works; that working together for a common good can, and did, make a difference.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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