



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

Pressure mounts for fair Civil Service offer as arbitration dates set

Over the summer, the MGEU continued to gather thousands of signatures (we're now over 5,000!) calling for a fair and reasonable wage offer from government, while also firming up a schedule for the arbitration process.

The arbitration panel will be made up of three experienced local labour lawyers: Michael Werier (Chair), David Shrom (union's representative) and Rob Simpson (government's representative), and presentations from each side are scheduled for May 2016.

Over the next several months, the union and government will prepare extensive written documentation containing their respective positions on each issue.

However, please stay tuned. The MGEU will continue to push hard for a fair offer sooner, rather than later.

Community Support stages rally over unpaid work, reaches tentative agreement

After organizing an over 300-person strong rally outside the WRHA office on August 6, the **Community Support** Bargaining Committee reached a tentative agreement with the employer on August 18, 2015.

Fall ratification meetings are scheduled throughout the province so all members have the opportunity to review the offer and ask any questions they might have.

TPP bargaining finally underway again

After several employer delays in bargaining this past spring, **Technical/Professional/Paramedical** negotiations finally began again this summer with the aid of a third-party conciliator. Further bargaining dates are scheduled into mid-December 2015.

RATIFICATION REVIEW

For the first time since the Component began bargaining at their own table to address Corrections-specific issues, nearly 2,000 **Corrections** members successfully ratified a tentative agreement at a series of meetings throughout the province in July. Civil Service-wide issues, including wages, will still be determined for these members through the Civil Service bargaining/arbitration process.

After taking a strike vote and then working through conciliation, 120 members of **Family Visions (Local 303)** have ratified a new three-year collective agreement which includes a 1% wage increase each year and improvements to the health spending account.

Members of **Manitoba Lotteries Food and Beverage (Local 260)** voted to ratify a new five-year collective agreement on July 15, 2015. Improvements include a 2% wage increase per year, and improvements to the safety footwear allowance and vacation.

After more than a year since their amalgamation – and after working through conciliation and voting for strike action – 90 members of the **Liquor and Gaming Authority (Locals 425 and 426)** ratified a new four-year agreement which includes a 2% wage increase per year. Benefits, which were a major issue this round, will also be protected in the new amalgamated agreement.

It's been a VERY busy summer!

Here's what's been happening in our union throughout July and August.

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.

STRIKE WATCH

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

This strong mandate helped move negotiations forward and bargaining continued throughout the summer.

In The News



- When the union requested that Civil Service negotiations proceed through the arbitration process in early August, I made two things very clear to the *Winnipeg Free Press* and *Brandon Sun*: **if the government comes back to us with a fair offer, we're more than ready to sit down and talk.**

Protest from home-care workers

Working extra hours to complete tasks, MGEU employees say



- Our rain-soaked home care rally outside the WRHA office on August 6 was covered by most Winnipeg media outlets, helping us get out an important message to the public: **to keep our home care system strong, we must invest in home care workers.**

- In an August 10 *Winnipeg Free Press* editorial, I responded to Liberal leader Rana Bokhari's campaign pledge to explore privatizing our public liquor system. Study after study shows that **public liquor systems offer better selection and safety controls than private scenarios in other provinces.**

In Your Workplace

Hundreds of postcards to send strong message to Prairie Mountain RHA

Thanks to all those who returned their *Situation Critical in Prairie Mountain* postcards! We're now working with activists to decide how best to use over a thousand signatures to send a clear message to government: working conditions in this RHA must improve now!



Memorial held for Beausejour paramedics

On July 27, 2015, I was honoured to march alongside my fellow paramedics to remember Keith Barrie and Manuel Cuadros, who gave their lives trying to save another 20 years ago.

Home care audit prompts meeting with Health Minister

In response to a review of Home Care services released by the Auditor General, I met with Health Minister Sharon Blady to highlight recommendations our members agreed with, including addressing task times, and those they did not, including income-testing of clients.



Michelle Gawronsky, Rana Bokhari, Ed Miller

MGEU discusses liquor review with Liberal leader

On August 25, GOLICO Component Director Ed Miller and I met with Liberal leader Rana Bokhari re: her party's intentions to explore privatization of liquor sales. We were able to share with her why we believe such a move would lead to not only less safety controls, but selection for Manitobans.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

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