



PLEASE POST!

5 The President's -MINUTE UPDATE



Michelle Gawronsky

At the Bargaining Table

MYS Crisis Stabilization members return to work

Macdonald Youth Services and MGEU Local 221 reached a Return to Work Agreement on August 18, 2016 that ended the strike by youth crisis stabilization workers.

The Return to Work Agreement was negotiated after the provincial government provided formal notice that funding to MYS will continue to be frozen, and that the province is prohibiting MYS from using its budget surplus to fund a settlement with these front-line workers.

MYS CEO Erma Chapman and I have made a joint request for an urgent meeting with Scott Fielding, Manitoba Minister of Families, to ensure he understands uncompetitive wages are leading those who work with youth in crisis to leave for better paying jobs in the adult system.

Under the Return to Work Agreement, MYS has agreed to resume bargaining at the earliest opportunity and will work with us to secure the provincial funding needed to sustain youth crisis stabilization services into the future.



Speaking to MYS picketers and supporters striking over fair and competitive wages for youth workers.

Paramedics, Health Professionals receive final offer from employer

After **IERHA Tech-Prof/EMS (Locals 411 and 418)** members held information pickets in Selkirk, Beausejour and Gimli in mid-July, then delivered a strike mandate shortly after, the employer agreed to return to the bargaining table in August.

Both sides met on August 24, and again on August 31, 2016, when the employer presented a final offer. The Bargaining Committee is now planning ratification votes and recommending acceptance of the offer.

Diagnostic Services members deliver strike mandate, receive final offer

After province-wide votes were held throughout August, ballots were counted and members of **Diagnostic Services of MB (Locals 388 - 390, 392 and 393)** delivered a strike mandate. The employer then requested a return to the table and presented members with a final offer on Thursday, September 1, 2016.

Welcome to the September edition!

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

If you have any questions, please get ahold of me through our Resource Centre (204-982-6438 or 1-866-982-6438) or e-mail me at president@mgeu.ca.

The Bargaining Committee is now planning ratification votes and recommending acceptance of the offer.

Ratification Vote Review

Members of **Sara Riel Inc (Local 353)**, who provide housing support, rehabilitation and employment counselling for adults who are transitioning into the community from hospital, ratified a new three-year collective agreement on August 4, 2016.

The agreement, which covers about two dozen members at the non-profit organization, includes general wage increases in each of the three years along with improvements to bereavement and sick leave.

Parkland Crisis Centre (Local 170) reached a tentative agreement with the employer on August 25, 2016. Members will vote on the new four-year agreement on Friday, September 16, 2016.

In the News



I was in frequent contact with print, radio and TV media outlets both in Winnipeg and across the province as the **MYS Crisis Stabilization** strike and the **IERHA Tech-Prof/EMS** and **Diagnostic Services of MB** strike votes continued to make headlines throughout August.

On Wednesday, August 31, I was also quoted in the **Winnipeg Free Press**, **Winnipeg Sun** and **Global TV** in response to news that the Federal government is closely watching the implementation of Manitoba's recently passed Bill 8, which allows victims of domestic violence to take time away from work — including five paid days. I said I know first-hand that having that time and security can make all the difference for victims of violence and their families.

At the Leg

We've been closely following what the government's been saying about their first 100 days in office and it appears they've been laying the groundwork to break their commitment to Manitobans to protect front-line services and jobs.

In an Alternative Throne Speech while in Opposition, the Progressive Conservatives said, "We will guarantee no front-line civil servants will lose their jobs." But now they are referring to those commitments as "goals" or "a moving target".

For those who strive every day to provide effective public supports and services, this is cause for concern.

Read more in my blog post at unionbug.ca.

The Big Picture

Fall 2016: time to elect leaders, determine priorities

The MGEU's biennial Convention is fast approaching and I'm very much looking forward to meeting over 400 delegates at Winnipeg's newly renovated Convention Centre on October 21 and 22, 2016.

Last spring, Locals elected the delegates who will be charged with the important task of electing the union's leadership, debating resolutions put forward by their fellow members and determining the MGEU's direction for the next two years.

As we all head back to our routines in September, I encourage everyone to attend your fall union meeting and help elect the Local leadership who will represent you for the next two years.

If you have questions about Convention or how union decisions are made, feel free to contact me at president@mgeu.ca.



A delegate speaks in support of a resolution at the 2014 MGEU Convention in Winnipeg.

Want to get this by e-mail?

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

204-982-MGEU (6438)
Toll-free 1-866-982-6438
resourcecentre@mgeu.ca
www.mgeu.ca

