

your bargaining committee

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Negotiations move into monetary items

Prior to the start of bargaining for the fourth Technical Professional Paramedical Agreement, your bargaining committee was committed to ongoing communication with TPP members.

Part of that commitment is why we're sending you this very bulletin, but we also wanted to make sure that if members had questions, we'd be available to talk face-to-face. That's why, at Local meetings this month, we've been talking to members about what stage we're at in negotiations.

This round of negotiations has certainly been productive, with both sides working hard to advance their own position, while making progress at the table.

In December, the two sides completed the non-monetary portion of the bargaining process (i.e. changes to contract language and policies that don't affect the employers' bottom line). We've tackled all of the issues put before us, achieved some new language, and enhanced and clarified some of the existing articles.

Once we completed the non-monetary issues, we tabled our monetary proposals, of which we have a significant number, including monetary improvements to meals, mileage, premiums, and qualification pay to name a few examples. Of course, we have put forward market and special wage adjustments, standardization for paramedics, as well as a fair wage increase for all.

The Employer's negotiator has also tabled their proposals and we have nine more days of negotiations scheduled, which will take us into early March. So stay tuned!

Essential Service Agreements

At this stage in negotiations, we're working towards revisiting the Essential Service Agreements (ESAs) that were worked on during the last number of rounds of bargaining.

In the event that the membership ever rejects a tentative agreement and chooses to strike, ESAs would be put to use.

continued on reverse...

Latest MGEU ad depicts how health professionals gave man "his life back"

THE GOAL: produce a television ad that conveyed the vital importance of Manitoba's health professionals who aren't doctors or nurses, including paramedics, lab and cardiology technologists and professionals such as speech pathologists and case coordinators.

THE CONCEPT: re-create the real life story of one man's brain surgery with a focus on the MGEU members who were critical to his survival and recovery.

On January 8 and 9, the MGEU teamed up with a local production company, Frantic Films, a number of local actors as well as MGEU Professional/Technical/Paramedical members, to bring this story to the screen.

Interlake physiotherapist Ron Tomyk, for instance, was on hand to ensure the scene where the man pulls himself up to walk appeared accurate. Lab technologist, Lorie Hebert helped actress Lois Brothers to properly pipette fake blood and Component Director / Paramedic Wayne Chacun oversaw the entire day of shooting.

In the coming days, the ads will start running on most Manitoba television stations. As we enter into a critical stage of bargaining, the timing is perfect to remind Manitobans of the critical role you, MGEU's health professionals, play when illness or trauma strikes.



Essential Service Agreements continued...

Back in 2001, the union and the Regional Health Authorities established a document to outline the general principles that would be used if Essential Services ever needed to be implemented - essentially a guide to help the parties negotiate ESAs.

Again, negotiating ESAs would only happen if the component voted down a tentative agreement and then, in a separate vote, decided to take strike action.

To help you understand ESAs a little better, here are some of the most commonly asked questions and answers about Essential Services:

Q: During a work stoppage, can the employer hire contract workers?

A: No. As long as the union and its members provide essential services during the work stoppage (i.e. strike), the employer cannot hire outside workers to perform work normally performed by any MGEU member. The employer is not permitted to extend the scope of current volunteer and/or contracted out services.

Q: In the event of a work stoppage, who will perform essential work functions?

A: During a work stoppage, only qualified MGEU members, deemed essential, can report to work in order to ensure that essential work functions are maintained.

Q: Who assigns staff to perform these work functions?

A: The union is responsible for assigning employees to provide essential work functions, selected from among the members considered qualified to perform the work.

Lois Wales, Former TPP Member, Becomes MGEU President



Our members are our union, and we're stronger together. Now let's get to work! We've got lots to do! - MGEU President Lois Wales

MGEU bids farewell to its longest serving president, Peter Olfert

After nearly a quarter of a century of memorable battles on behalf of the workers he represented, Peter Olfert stepped down at Convention as president of the MGEU.

After taking over as president in 1986, Peter led the MGEU during the Conservative years of Premier Gary Filmon when public sector workers were forced by the politicians of the day into a relentless fight mode.

Through this tumultuous period, the union truly came of age under Olfert's leadership, becoming the largest and most innovative trade union in Manitoba.

Olfert traveled the province regularly, trying especially hard to keep in touch with members in rural Manitoba. At the same time he held executive positions with the Manitoba Federation of Labour (MFL) and the National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE).

He begins his retirement as one of the most highly-regarded union leaders in Canada after building the MGEU into one of the best public sector unions in Canada.

At the MGEU's 61st convention this fall, the union voted in a new president for the first time in 25 years – and for the first time in the union's history, it was a woman.

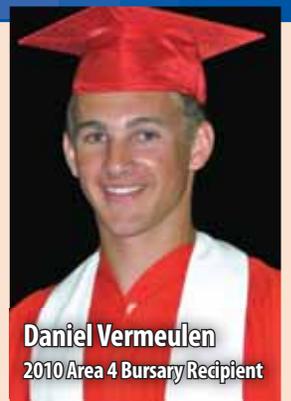
On October 23, 2010, Lois Wales (Cardiology Technologist - Area 5 Technical/Professional/Paramedical Component) became the MGEU's first-ever female president.

Lois begins her tenure at a time when government cutbacks and dwindling resources for the government-funded agencies are the norm. However, she's well-prepared for the job, having served more than three decades as an MGEU activist and as the MGEU's 1st Vice President since 1998. She's also chaired many of the union's standing committees and has sat on the Civil Service Master Bargaining Committee for more than a decade.

"Our members are our union, and we're stronger together. Now let's get to work! We've got lots to do!" exclaimed Wales in her acceptance speech.

2011 MGEU/NUPGE scholarships now available

Every year, the MGEU and its National Union (NUPGE) award several scholarships to union members and their



Daniel Vermeulen
2010 Area 4 Bursary Recipient

families, in order to help them succeed in their educational goals. More details and applications for all bursaries/scholarships are available for download at www.mgeu.ca/90.

MGEU Area Bursaries

Right now there are eight MGEU bursaries, worth \$1,000 each (one per area) available to any registered, dues-paying member, or spouse of a member, or child or ward of a member.

Application Deadline: May 9, 2011

NUPGE Post-Secondary Scholarships

Once again, the National Union of Public and General Employees is sponsoring a number of scholarships for children of NUPGE members throughout the country. All MGEU members are eligible to apply for the four scholarships available (worth \$1,500 each).

NUPGE scholarship deadline: June 30, 2011

2010 - 2012 Provincial Executive

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