

CIVIL SERVICE

BARGAINING BULLETIN

The bargaining newsletter for all MGEU Civil Service Components: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Your Elected Civil Service Bargaining Committee

Administration
Component Director
Pat Williamson

Clerical Component Director
Bev Schreyer

Corrections Component Director
Brian Parley

Health Component Director
Diane Arksey

Legal Component Director
Debbie Jamerson

Physical Sciences Component
Director
Grady Hunt

Social Sciences Component Director
Brenda-Lee Johnstone

Trades Component Director
Len Caminha

1st Vice-President, MGEU Chair,
Civil Service Bargaining Committee
Wally Fletcher

MGEU Chief Negotiator
Sheila Gordon

MGEU Staff Negotiator
Janet Kehler

Spring is around the corner (really)...

Have a question about upcoming bargaining? Want to know the latest? Get out and attend your Local meeting this spring!

connect with us...

www.mgeu.ca



Ready, Set, Negotiate: Bargaining will begin this spring

Over the last few months, we've been meeting regularly to sort through all bargaining proposals submitted at last fall's Local meetings. It's always an interesting process, and we now have a finished package that aims to represent the interests and concerns of over 14,000 civil service members!



your elected civil service bargaining representatives

back row, left-right: Brian Parley (Corrections), Len Caminha (Trades), Grady Hunt (Physical Sciences), Wally Fletcher (1st Vice-President), Pat Williamson (Admin), Sheila Gordon (negotiator), Janet Kehler (negotiator)
front row, left-right: Michelle Gawronsky (MGEU President), Brenda-Lee Johnstone (Social Sciences), Diane Arksey (Health), Bev Schreyer (Clerical), Debbie Jamerson (Legal)

Our MGEU proposal package is over 70 pages long...

In early April, we intend to exchange packages with Provincial negotiators. We will also meet with the Civil Service Bargaining Council (all Local Presidents) to go over our package, and discuss priorities.

Both we, and the Province, will then spend some time reviewing what the other side is asking for, and negotiations will begin shortly after that.

The previous contract remains in effect until new contract is ratified.

Given the huge number of proposals to consider from both sides, negotiations usually take about a year to complete. Until then, the previous contract remains in effect.

As negotiations proceed over the next several months, we encourage you to visit mgeu.ca for the latest updates.

- Your MGEU Civil Service Bargaining Committee



Ever wonder who volunteers for the long hours and stressful days of a Bargaining Committee member?

Meet Len Caminah, who works as a Fire Ranger 3 in Manitoba's Whiteshell, April through October.

Since the MGEU pays Bargaining Committee members by covering their regular wages when they're performing bargaining duties, that means Len, a seasonal worker, has spent the last four months volunteering his time at Committee meetings.

"This is my fourth round of negotiations," he says. "I'm a veteran now, guiding some of the new people. I guess I've always liked getting involved, being hands-on, and helping resolve things as well as we possibly can."

Like many members, Len first got more involved because he felt his employer wasn't being fair.

"I've never been one to back down when there's a problem," he says. "I may not be getting paid right now, but I know I'm making a difference!"

HOW AN IDEA BECOMES PART OF YOUR CONTRACT

All MGEU members work under the protection of a contract (aka collective agreement) negotiated with their employer. The MGEU oversees hundreds of contracts and each one is built upon democratic principles. Bargaining is a complicated process and no two rounds of bargaining are the same.

Here's generally how it works.



MGEU MEETING NOTICE
Affected union members receive a meeting notice

X Majority rejects tentative agreement

STRIKE – Can help apply pressure on employer. A majority must vote in favour, but a positive vote does not automatically result in job action.

ARBITRATION – Each party presents their case to a third-party arbitrator who assesses the arguments and makes a legally-binding ruling.

CONCILIATION – To help reach a resolution, the two parties each talk separately with a conciliator, who advises and makes proposals to each side but doesn't impose a settlement.

MEDIATION – Both parties return to the bargaining table with a neutral third party mediator who facilitates face-to-face discussion but doesn't impose a settlement.