

PARAMEDICS OF WINNIPEG BARGAINING BULLETIN

Negotiation news for MGEU Local 911: Paramedics of Winnipeg

Proposals for better care

In preparation for the City budget, our Local, with the assistance of MGEU staff, published and submitted a report to the City's Standing Committee on Protection and Community Services in December.

The report, *Medical Response: Proposals for better care*, outlined four proposals to reduce unnecessary ER transports and provide better, timelier and more effective emergency medical response. To read the report, check out the "Reports" section under "News and Multimedia" at mgeu.ca.

contact us...

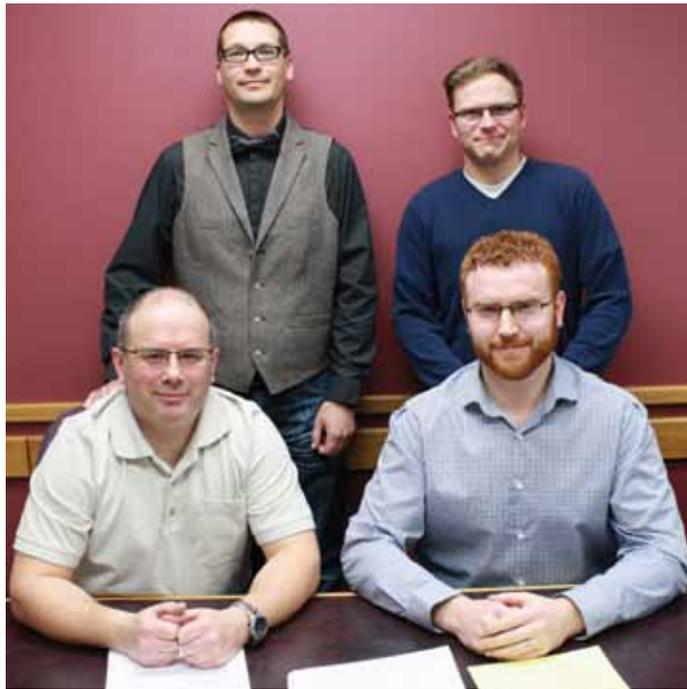
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Focus to shift to monetary items after eight completed bargaining sessions



your Local 911 bargaining team

From left

Back row: Keith Hancox (Vice-President), Colin Ghostkeeper (MGEU negotiator)
Front row: Mark Sisetski (Chief Steward), Chris Broughton (President)

Negotiations on our next Local 911 contract are well underway.

In November, Colin Ghostkeeper, our MGEU staff negotiator, and I delivered notice to bargain to Acting Chief, Bill Clark.

Local meetings were held on November 19 and 20, 2013 to debate and provide insight on bargaining proposals.

We also asked you to share

your thoughts in a survey about workplace issues and bargaining priorities. This was the first time our Local created this kind of survey and we had a great response from the membership. Once we were able to tabulate the results and collect the proposals, we put it all together in a comprehensive package of priorities to present to the employer.

From what was submitted by members, wage increases, health

benefit improvements and changes to working conditions were identified as our Local's top three priorities at the bargaining table during these negotiations.

We've met on eight different occasions with the employer's representatives since February 21. So far, we've had meaningful discussions about working condition issues and other improvements to the contract with respect to workplace policies and procedures. It's encouraging, but we also know these issues have little impact on the employer's budget. Monetary items (i.e. wages and benefits) will increasingly become the focus of discussions in the coming months.

When we've begun those discussions we'll post another update, either on the "At the Bargaining Table" section of the MGEU website or in another mailed bulletin. It's also a good idea to send the union your updated contact information, including your home e-mail address, to ensure you receive the latest bargaining developments.

If you're new to the bargaining process, please take a minute or two to look over the "How an idea becomes part of your contract" graphic on the other side of this newsletter.

In solidarity;

Chris Broughton, Local President

Staying Informed During Negotiations

News can happen fast during negotiations and the union isn't allowed to use the employer's e-mail system. Here's how to ensure you receive the latest information during negotiations:

1. Visit www.mgeu.ca

Click on the "At the Bargaining Table" button to read the latest information about Professional / Technical / EMS bargaining.

2. Send us your home e-mail address

The best way to make sure you receive all up-to-date details about negotiations, is to submit your home e-mail address. Visit www.mgeu.ca and look for the "Update Your Information" link at the top of the page.

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.

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.

READ MORE ABOUT HOW NEGOTIATIONS WORK: www.mgeu.ca/for-members/bargaining-for-beginners



Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union