

# Community-Based Social Services

# Update



## COMMUNITY-BASED SOCIAL SERVICES COMPONENT

*Component Director - Melissa Dvorak*

*Chairperson - John Lewis*

*Vice Chairperson - Susan Grandbois*

Local 136: Main Street Project

Local 139: Project Neecheewam

Local 142: Career Connections

Local 155: COR Enterprises Inc.

Local 157: Tamarack Rehabilitation Inc.

Local 160: Osborne House

Local 170: Parkland Crisis Centre

Local 171: Westman Women's Shelter

Local 172: Knowles Centre

Local 178: St. Amant Community Homes

Local 179: YWCA Residence Inc.

Local 180: Parkland Residential and  
Vocational Services Inc.

Local 211: CFS Western Manitoba

Local 212: The Family Centre

Local 214: Family Services Family Support

Local 221: Macdonald Youth Services Crisis  
Stabilization

Local 263: Employment Projects of Winnipeg

Local 264: CFS Central Manitoba - Supervisors

Local 265: CFS Central Manitoba - Support

Local 266: Special People in Kildonan East

Local 301: Elizabeth Fry Society

Local 303: Family Visions Inc.

Local 353: Sara Riel Inc.

Local 358: NCN Family and Community  
Wellness Centre

Local 365: ANCR

Local 369: Macdonald Youth Services APHP

Local 376: Regional Occupational Service  
Enterprises Inc.

Local 377: After Hours Workers FS&H Flin Flon

*MGEU Staff Representatives*

**Steve Ash-Hamon**

**Brian Spender**

## Your New Component Elects First Executive



*Melissa Dvorak, Component Director; John Lewis, Chairperson; Susan Grandbois, Vice-Chairperson*

Thanks for taking a minute to read the latest edition of the Community-Based Social Services newsletter.

After the Convention this October, Community-Based Social Services officially became an MGEU Component and we elected our first executive (see sidebar on left).

It's a pretty exciting time for us as our locals see some of the benefits of being part of a larger component.

Even though some of our community-based Locals are as small as five staff and others have over 500, we all face similar issues.

Being part of this Component gives us an opportunity to share bargaining strategies and develop strategic approaches to common employment-related concerns. It also gives us a more powerful voice at the MGEU Board to speak to our specific concerns.

### YOUR LOCAL NEEDS YOU

#### Become A Workplace Steward



Now that we've got this Component off the ground, it's time to strengthen our Union by having stewards in every workplace.

As a steward, you're a resource to your co-workers, a representative at Local meetings and an important voice for workers in your workplace, who otherwise wouldn't have anyone to stand up for them.

If you choose to become a steward, you'll have the support of your Local table officers, staff representative and the MGEU Resource Centre. The union also provides training so that you can learn more about labour legislation, how the MGEU works, and how you can help your fellow members.

If you have a question about becoming a workplace Steward, please contact the MGEU Resource Centre at 982-6438 (toll-free at 1-866-982-6438) or e-mail resourcecentre@mgeu.ca.

In Solidarity,

Melissa Dvorak, Community-Based Social Service Component Director

## MGEU Board Makes Donation to MYS Shelter

On February 15th, the MGEU Board of Directors presented Macdonald Youth Services with a cheque for \$1,610 for their Youth Resource Centre/Shelter.

The MYS Youth Resource Centre/Shelter provides short-term emergency shelter to youth (ages 12 to 17 years) that are struggling with many challenges. The service is free and designed to assist troubled teens, to help them build better tomorrows.

"We would like to thank the MGEU for helping us to continue to grow futures for Manitoba youth, families and communities," said Erma Chapman, MYS Executive Director.

Each year, MGEU Board members choose a cause to personally support and the MGEU matches their individual donation through the Public Relations fund.



*Macdonald Youth Services receives Cheque from MGEU Board of Directors. From left to right: Melissa Dvorak, Community Social Services Component Director; Erma Chapman, Executive Director, Macdonald Youth Services; MGEU 2nd Vice President, Stephen Roznowsky; Brenda Neiles, Chief Steward, Local 369*

## Changes Made to Workplace Safety & Health Regulations

On February 1, 2011, changes were made to workplace, safety and health regulations, and new, expanded requirements were introduced to protect workers.

The amendments provide clear direction to employers and workers on the steps necessary to eliminate or control workplace hazards.

Most notably, MGEU members will be better protected as a result of the changes, which include: an expansion of the definition of harassment; a requirement to eliminate or control hazards through the design of the workplace, work processes or engineering controls; a requirement for the development of safe

work procedures, training and enforcement; and committee/representative training to ensure that workers can fulfill their duties.

Please check the following link for Safe Work Bulletin No. 274 for a complete listing of the Workplace Safety and Health Regulation MR 217/2006 amendments that recently took effect.

<http://safemanitoba.com/uploads/Bltn%20274.pdf>



## Lois Wales Becomes First Female 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

At the MGEU's 61<sup>st</sup> convention this fall, the union elected 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 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## 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 travelled 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 NUPGE.

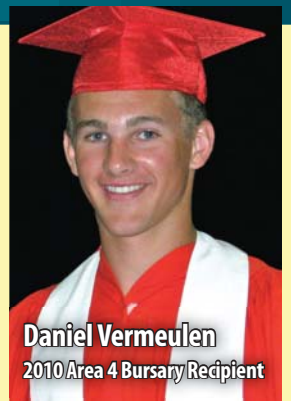
He begins his retirement as one of the most highly-regarded union leaders in the country after building the MGEU into one of the best public sector unions in Canada.

### 2010 - 2012 Provincial Executive

- PRESIDENT: Lois Wales, Technical/Professional/Paramedical
- 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: Michelle Gawronsky, Health Care Support
- 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: Stephen Roznowsky, GOLICO
- 3<sup>RD</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: Darren Darvill, Social Sciences
- 4<sup>TH</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: Jan Henley, Social Sciences

## 2011 MGEU/NUPGE scholarships now available

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



Daniel Vermeulen  
2010 Area 4 Bursary Recipient

their 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](http://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**

MGEU

Manitoba  
Government  
and General  
Employees'  
Union

### contact us...

MGEU Resource Centre:  
982-6438  
(toll-free 1-866-982-6438)  
TTY toll-free 1-866-982-6599  
e-mail: [resourcecentre@mgeu.ca](mailto:resourcecentre@mgeu.ca)  
[www.mgeu.ca](http://www.mgeu.ca)

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