

MGEUManitoba
Government
and General
Employees'
Union

HOME CARE / HOME SUPPORT UPDATE

MGEU Locals 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406 and 407

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from now on.

United Against Home Care Privatization - Celebrate April 16, Public Home Care Workers Day!

Component Director, Marlene Hrechka, recently wrote a letter to the government, asking them to proclaim April 16, 2018 **Public Home Care Workers Day**.

April 16 is a significant date for home care workers, as twenty years ago on that day workers from across the province marched to the legislature to present the government with 15,000 signed hearts that read, "My heart supports home care for people... not profit." The event demonstrated just how strong the resolve was for MGEU members and Manitobans to keep home care public.

Unfortunately, it appears the government doesn't share our enthusiasm for recognizing your vital work and the importance of keeping it public. They rejected the request to proclaim Public Home Care Workers Day.

So, if they won't do it, we'll recognize it without them!

On April 16, please show your support on Facebook by sharing our union's posts and change your profile to the "My heart supports home care for people... not profit" image we'll post that same day.

Let's continue to show this government that we care just as much about keeping home care public in 2018, as we did in 1998!

WRHA Privatization Update

As you know, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) has launched what they're calling an "enhanced home care" initiative, providing short-term, intensive assessments of patients transitioning out of hospital. The assessments are to determine whether these patients can return to the community or if they should go into a personal care home.

In September, the WRHA awarded three private contracts to do this work for at least the next few years. One contract is for 65 transitional beds; the other two are for the direct service work associated with this initiative. All three contracts are with firms based in Ontario!



On April 16, 1998, MGEU members presented the government with 15,000 signed hearts that read, "My heart supports home care for people... not profit."

Believing this to be the first step toward privatizing home care in Winnipeg, the MGEU has been fighting back. When we first got wind of this initiative, we met with senior WRHA officials on a number of occasions to voice our objections and talk about how this work should be done by the skilled members of our public Home Care workforce. We held media conferences and did a number of media interviews.

Finally, after they decided to go ahead, we filed a grievance because the Winnipeg Home Care collective agreement has a memorandum limiting the employer's ability to contract out. We've now filed for arbitration.

Stay tuned... we'll continue to provide updates as we move forward.

In Solidarity,
Michelle Gawronsky,
MGEU President

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