

**Your MCFS/Michif
Officers and Stewards:****AREA 1 - Local 385***President:* Luana Leader*Chief Steward:* Madelaine
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Muswagon**AREA 2 - Local 384***President:* David Mansell*Chief Steward:* Janice Wood*Vice-President:* Tennie Strand*Steward:* Tara Balak*Steward:* Codi Harrigan-Friesen*Steward:* Rosemarie McPherson*Steward:* Wendy McTavish*MGEU Staff Rep:* Rae Kujanpaa**AREA 6 - Local 383***President:* Sharon Spinks*Chief Steward:* Zane Kuipers*Vice-President:* Shauna Walsh*Steward:* Dave Baerg*Steward:* Sherry Culbreth*Steward:* Kathleen Gagnon*Steward:* Julia Higgins*Steward:* Darlene Meissner*Steward:* Sandra Ovid*Steward:* Eileen Sanderson*Steward:* Quinton Sanderson*Steward:* Kareen Thompson*Steward:* Majola Vergara*MGEU Staff Rep:* Janet Kehler**Local 383, 384, 385 Negotiator:
Janet Kehler****THE BARGAINING PROCESS BEGINS, CONTINUES THIS FALL**

Welcome to our first Bargaining Bulletin on behalf of Métis Child, Family and Community Services (MCFCS) and Michif Child and Family Services.

Membership meetings were held in several areas of the province this spring to elect your Bargaining Committee and stewards. We also used these Local meetings to hear from you about what you want in your contract.

Determining priorities

Those of you who attended the Local meetings let us know what is currently being provided by the employer that you'd like to maintain, as well as the workplace terms and conditions you'd like to see removed, or improved upon.

At these meetings, we discussed each of these issues to help the Bargaining Committee determine key priorities to bring forward at the bargaining table.

Putting together the package

Based on the member feedback gathered this spring, the Bargaining Committee created a package of proposals (including things like

Your Bargaining Committee (from left): staff rep Janet Kehler, Janice Wood, Luana Leader, Sharon Spinks, Dave Mansell, Zane Kuipers.



wages and benefit improvements, and remedies to workload and health and safety concerns) to present to the employer.

At the bargaining table

Earlier this month, your Bargaining Committee presented the package to the employer on your behalf. The employer also presented us with their own bargaining package.

Both sides then spent several days reviewing the contents of the packages, and answering any questions either side might have.

Two agencies, one agreement

Your Bargaining Committee and the employer both agreed that though MCFCS and Michif are now two separate agencies, we will bargain one contract. There may be some issues that apply only to one agency, and in those cases we can simply specify that in the contract language.

continued on reverse...

...cont'd from the Bargaining Process

Next Steps

The bargaining process may last several months, usually involving a kind of give and take as each side accepts, amends, rejects or withdraws the proposals put forward.

We have confirmed with the employer four additional bargaining days in September, two in October and four in November. At all times, your Bargaining Committee will be working to maintain and/or gain as much as possible for you and your fellow members.

Until negotiations are finished and the agreement is ratified, nothing is set in stone. That's why it's not always possible for your Bargaining Committee to share all the details being discussed at the table.

Throughout negotiations, your Committee will do its best to keep you informed. But to avoid damaging their negotiating position, there are times they won't be able to share every detail, since any information sent to members will inevitably be read by management.

Like a game of cards, we don't want the employer to know what our strategy is as the bargaining process unfolds. So we'll keep you as up-to-date as we can, while sometimes holding our cards close to our chest.

Questions?

If you have a question about negotiations, please feel free to contact one of your bargaining reps through the MGEU Resource Centre (numbers listed below).

Do you have this card?



If not, YOU'RE MISSING OUT on the benefits of union membership.

Your employer doesn't automatically forward your address to the union. You must fill out a membership application so we can keep you up-to-date on how bargaining is going, and other union activities. By signing your union card application, you're also entitled to a number of key benefits which include:

- Discounts on everything from fitness passes and concert tickets to furniture and smartphones;
- The latest news about union campaigns, and issues affecting your Local – all available by mail or e-mail; and
- Access to scholarships and bursaries for you and your family.

To get your MGEU card, just talk to your steward, contact our Resource Centre or visit www.mgeu.ca/6 to download an application.

MGEU

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and General
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contact us...

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