



Manitoba
Government
and General
Employees'
Union

www.mgeu.ca

Physical Sciences

The MGEU newsletter for Component 6
Locals 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41

update

your Table Officers & Stewards

Component Director:
Jennifer Stepaniuk

Local 35, Area 1

President: **Michael Armstrong**
Chief Steward: **Norman Monias**
Vice-President: **Troy Werstroh**

Local 36, Area 2

President: **Daniel Roberts**
Chief Steward: **Leanne Kalinowich**

Local 37, Area 3

President: **Curtis Storey**
Chief Steward: **Kevan Sumner**
Vice-President: **Zebina Ramsden**

Local 38, Area 4

President: **Stanley Zapotochny**
Chief Steward: **Murray Donald**
Steward: **Stephen Wilson**

Local 39, Area 5

President: **Jennifer Stepaniuk**
Chief Steward: **Jean-Camille Boily**
Steward: **Gary Toews**

Local 40, Area 7

President: **Grady Hunt**
Chief Steward: **David Blixt**
Vice-President: **Joe Brenot**
Member at Large: **Apollo Alvarez**
Member at Large: **Rheal Lafreniere**

Local 41, Area 8

President: **Jeremy Robinson**
Steward: **Denise Stairs**

Every little bit of union involvement goes a long way

Sometimes we lose sight of what a union like ours is all about. Often we hear people talk about our union as though it were some completely separated entity from our workplaces, when in fact we (the members) are the union.

Some of us choose to step forward and become elected activists: workplace stewards, local presidents, convention delegates and component directors. Everyone knows who these people are. When you think about your union, they're probably the first ones who come to mind. And while usually these folks have official titles within the union and some training to go along with it, the idea that you have to be one of these people to get involved with your union is changing.

Today our demographics in the Civil Service are more diverse than ever. Younger members are increasingly being hired to replace those who retire. We have members in offices and on-the-road, members in cities and remote communities; and the one thing we all have in common is that we're all MGEU members.

It's important now, more than ever, that we all do what we can to defend our jobs. Public services are under attack in Europe, in the U.S. and right here in Canada. The only thing we can do to defend them is be informed, show our solidarity, and voice our opinions when we need to.

If you've ever thought about workplace issues and wished there was more you could do to be a part of change, consider becoming a workplace contact for your local or a workplace steward. The union offers the training and resources you need for whatever role you take on. Please contact your Component Director if you're interested.

However, we know not everyone is able to make this kind of commitment. That's ok, but you can still be involved in your union. So, we're proposing a possible New Year's resolution for many of you: if you rarely read the union news that's mailed to you, read this newsletter all the way through and the annual report that's on its way; if you've never glanced at the contract, go to mgeu.ca and read it; and if you've never taken the time to attend a Local meeting, go to one. These are not huge commitments to make – they're just examples of what we can all do to get a little more involved with our union and make it work for us.

As your Component Directors, one thing we've all learned over the years is that knowledge truly is power. Learning more about the union, the contract and your rights at work will go a long way in improving each of our workplaces.

- Your Civil Service Component Directors

Special Wage Adjustments to be finalized in New Year

Special Wage Adjustment presentations were made throughout May and June of this year. We anticipate that final decisions will be made early in the New Year. Please stay tuned to mgeu.ca for updated information.

Happy Holidays!



Physical Sciences
Component Director
Jennifer Stepaniuk

I'd like to thank all of our elected activists for volunteering their time this year as they help make our workplaces a little better. Have a healthy, happy holiday season!

Revised Agreement to Hit the Presses



The presses will soon be rolling once again on the new Civil Service Collective Agreement. A few months ago, the MGEU suspended printing of the agreement after it was discovered that the Government had made some minor errors in Years 3 and 4 of the salary schedules including errors in the long-service steps due to a programming glitch.

The salary schedules have now been corrected and the Government has assured us

that all schedules are accurate. We are still waiting for one final piece of information on one set of scales. Once these are updated, the revised agreement will go to print right away and will be updated online at www.mgeu.ca/72.

Take the Safety and Health Survey

The MGEU's Safety, Health and Environment Committee is trying to get a better understanding of where the state of safety and health is at within our MGEU workplaces across the province.

The committee is trying to see where safety and health initiatives could be improved and gauge the average member's knowledge of health and safety procedures. Once all of the surveys have been tabulated, the committee will take the results to labour/management meetings and, where necessary, bargaining tables in an effort to make our workplaces safer. Please take a few minutes to complete this short survey at www.mgeu.ca/news/article/1763



Attend a Union Meeting and SCORE...

The MGEU is welcoming the Jets back to Manitoba and treating one lucky member with two tickets to see them in person at the MTS Centre this winter.

All you have to do is fill out a ballot at your Local meeting or at any MGEU office before December 19 to win:

- 1st prize: Two tickets to a Jets home game
- 2nd prize: A Jets jersey
- 3rd prize: Six tickets to an MJHL game of your choice

Deadline for entries December 19, 2011. Draw date: January 3, 2012. For complete rules and regulations visit www.mgeu.ca.



The Not-So-Personal Computer



Using Technology at Work

Computers, smart phones and other electronic devices have become essential tools in almost every workplace. But a work computer or phone should be used for just that: WORK.

In many MGEU workplaces, computer networks contain

highly sensitive and secured information. Using this information for personal reasons, such as searching names, addresses and other personal information violates computer usage policies. By using the employer's equipment for personal reasons you risk facing disciplinary action.

And if you use the employer's equipment to access your own personal e-mail, banking or social networking pages, you are also allowing your employer to gain access to your own personal information. **Don't mix business with pleasure. Only use a work computer or smart phone for work.**

- The MGEU Tech Change Committee

MGEU

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contact us...

MGEU Resource Centre:

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www.mgeu.ca



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