

# Trades

The MGEU Trades Component newsletter  
Locals 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55

# update

## your Table Officers & Stewards

Component Director: Len Caminha

Local 49, Area 1

President: John Luce

Quorum needed.

Local 50, Area 2

Chief Steward: Sean Hummerston

Steward: John Tomlinson

Quorum needed.

Local 51, Area 3

President: Randy Biles

Quorum needed.

Local 52, Area 4

President: Wally Fletcher

Chief Steward: Lawrence McEachern

Vice-President: Bride Meehan

Steward: Catherine Gibbs

Local 53, Area 5

President: Len Caminha

Chief Steward: Susan Smerchanski

Vice-President: Brigitta Urben

Members at Large: Clarence

Kennedy, Stacey Ledingham,

Brent Semenчук

Stewards: Stella Colbert, Gilles

Lafantaisie, Robert Savoy, Ken

Walford, Wayne Weedon, Marvin

Winter

Local 54, Area 7

President: Joseph Dooley

Chief Steward: Christopher Monchamp

Vice-President: Donald Tymchuk

Member at Large: Laurie Garcia

Stewards: Mark Foster, Russell

Johnston, Sean Savage

Local 55, Area 8

President: Clayton Bradbury

Chief Steward: Bruce Thorne

Steward: Frank Moore

## A small investment of time will reap rewards



Trades Component  
Director  
Len Caminha

My name is Len Caminha, and I am your new Trades Director. Some of you might recognize the face and name; I was your Trades Director for six years previously to 2009 and was re-elected in October 2012 for another two-year term.

I'd like to take this opportunity to ask for your help. Currently, there are several Trades Locals in the province with no Executive to represent them because we are not meeting quorum at the meetings to elect the Executive.

So while there are individuals seeking Executive positions, they cannot be elected because not enough members are in attendance to elect them.

### How You Can Help

Please watch for the next Local meeting in your area in Jan/Feb/March, and attend to help us elect an Executive for your area. Also, because this is a bargaining year, and we will begin collecting bargaining proposals in the fall of 2013 for the next contract (which expires March

2014), your input really matters.

If you're worried that by attending you'll be elected to a role you're unprepared to fulfill, don't worry – that is not the case. However, if you are interested in running for a table officer position, or as a Steward in your work location, by all means, please attend and let your name stand.

### Have Your Say at the Bargaining Table

I will be attending all of the Local meetings throughout the Province to assist you to elect members, discuss issues, and to start working on proposals for bargaining. Please come prepared to talk about ongoing issues in your Area relating to work, and suggest improvements to the contract. We will begin writing bargaining proposals that will be brought to meetings in September so that each Local can vote on them, and we can bring a comprehensive package to the bargaining table.

I am hoping to see you at these meetings, but I am also available through our Resource Centre at 1-866-982-6438, or by email at bod-trades@mgeu.ca.

In Solidarity,

Len Caminha,

Trades Director, MGEU

## Consultations and Comments from the MGEU on the upcoming Provincial Budget

Last month, the provincial government held seven pre-budget consultation meetings with Finance Minister Stan Struthers which were intended to give Manitobans – including all those who work for the provincial government, its Crowns and agencies – the opportunity to have their voice heard as the Government prepares its 2013 budget.

To take this process one step further, the MGEU will be meeting with Minister Struthers and suggesting budget alternatives, to remind the government that healthy workplaces and quality public services are the cornerstones of strong communities across our province, and that they need to continue to invest in our communities.

If you missed the consultation meetings, the government would still like to hear from you. You can complete this online survey at [www.gov.mb.ca/finance/consult/questionnaire.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/finance/consult/questionnaire.html) or write the minister at Budget Consultations, Room 103 - 450 Broadway, Winnipeg, R3C 0V8 (email: [minfin@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:minfin@leg.gov.mb.ca)).

## MGEU Elects New President: Michelle Gawronksy



*Now is the time to listen to you, the members and stand together so we can be the most powerful and effective union possible.* - MGEU President Michelle Gawronksy

At MGEU's Convention 2012, delegates elected a new President to the union: Michelle Gawronksy.

"Now is the time to listen to you, the members and stand together so we can be the most powerful and effective union possible," said Gawronksy in her election speech.

Michelle comes from one of the largest MGEU components: Health Care Support Services. She brings over 27 years of union experience to the office of MGEU President.

She began her working career as a Health Care Aide (HCA) in the nursing home in Vita in 1976 and began her union activism in the 1980's due to a workplace issue. Little did she know, it would very quickly become her life-long passion.

**2012 - 2014 Provincial Executive**

PRESIDENT: Michelle Gawronksy, Health Care Support

1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: Wally Fletcher, Trades

2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: Stephen Roznowsky, GOLICO

3<sup>RD</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: Peter Roberts, Clerical

4<sup>TH</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: Scott Cloney, Corrections

## Remember to Take a Break

### How to Deal with Workload Issues in the Workplace

Workloads remain a major issue for members, and while it may seem that the only solution sometimes is to work through your lunch hour or breaks, doing so will only add to the problem.

If you are consistently working through your breaks due to an unmanageable workload, you shouldn't be doing so and you should raise the issue with your supervisor.

They may grant overtime as a solution. But if the problem persists or the employer will not grant overtime, talk to your staff representative about what action can be taken. If you continue to work through breaks without notifying your employer, there is little the union can do.

To learn more about hours of work, rest periods and overtime, see the Government Employees' Master Agreement.

## How to Get a Safety and Health Issue Resolved

- 1) Talk to your supervisor. Explain the issue and suggest a solution. Often that's all it takes.
- 2) If you can't get any traction talking to the boss, address the issue with a member of the Health and Safety Committee in your workplace. Often they have a working relationship with management to provide simple fixes.
- 3) Your Health and Safety Committee may need to take it a step further and make a formal recommendation at their next meeting. Once that happens, the employer is required to respond in writing within 30 days as to how the issue has been or is going to be resolved.



Go to [www.mgeu.ca/educationvideos](http://www.mgeu.ca/educationvideos) for more information.

MGEU

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Government  
and General  
Employees'  
Union

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