September 2014

Members Meet With MAHCP President Bob Moroz

by Bob Moroz

Normally, summer is considered to be a quieter time around the offices of MAHCP. There are usually a lot of summer vacations, fewer meetings and all that goes along with summer. This summer has been anything but quiet for me.

I have been making a point of getting out to as many facilities and regions as possible this summer to meet with members, provide some updates on central table bargaining and generally having conversations. I have met so many members who are more than willing to share their experiences with me in terms of the challenges they are facing in the workplace. I'd like to share some of the common stories I have heard in these meetings.

Almost without exception, there are tremendous workload issues everywhere I have been. Our members are being overworked at a truly alarming rate.

The reasons for this excessive workload are numerous. There is the major issue of recruitment; with so many of our professions working at or near the bottom of the national wage scale, this can hardly be surprising. I have heard that more often than not, sick calls and vacation absences are not being filled. We are continually being asked to do more and more with less and less. People are getting tired.

To the credit of many of our members, their concern tends to fall more on their inability to get the required work done in a normal day than the effect that this workload is having on their personal health and well-being.

Manitoba Association of

While this dedication to their work is beyond admirable, it is also dangerous. It is dangerous both to our members and to our patients who deserve to have the level of care of a fully staffed, trained and healthy professional workforce. I for one would like to know that the professional who is looking after me or my family is not someone who is so stressed and rushed that they simply cannot provide the attention that each patient is entitled to.



Wages and benefits are an important factor in recruitment and retention. I believe that as the employer continues to supply us with relatively low wages in Manitoba, these workload issues will continue to multiply and put more and more of us in serious danger.

As we go into central table bargaining on September 24, I would like to share that members submitted a great number of proposals related to these workload issues. That is one of the major themes that have emerged from the many meetings we have held to prepare our bargaining proposals.

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Of course, I would like to point out some of the positive things we have heard along the way as well. I have made commitments to improve our members' perception of our communications here at MACHP. From what a lot of you have told me, we are making progress. That's good. We continue to look at ways to continue improving our communications to members. There are more and more ways to communicate and we are working out strategies to make sure that you get regular, pertinent and useful information.

I would like to thank those members who did take the time to attend one of the meetings throughout the Northern Region as well as those in Winnipeg. I intend on making these in-person meetings a much more regular occurrence as one of the ways to make sure we hear what you are saying. I am always open to meeting with any group of members. If you have not had a meeting in your area yet, please feel free to contact me and I will make arrangements to come to your site to hear what you have to say.

Finally, we are holding our third Telephone Town Hall on September 11, 2014. You will hear an update from me and Executive Director Lee Manning regarding bargaining and other topics. You have an opportunity to ask questions that we will answer in a live setting. Please take the time to join us if you can.

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Revenues from advertising will be used to supplement the MAHCP Professional Development Fund.



Meeting Calendar

Visit the MAHCP Website Calendar for more meeting information: www.mahcp.ca/forum/calendar.asp

September 1, 2014 • Labour Day MAHCP Office Closed September 10, 2014

• Executive Council Mtg 101-1500 Notre Dame 0845 to 1700 hrs

September 10, 2014

 General Staff Rep Mtg 101-1500 Notre Dame 1830 hours

September 11, 2014 • Telephone Town Hall

• Telephone Town Hal 1900 hrs

September 12, 2014

• Deadline for President Election

September 17, 2014

• HSC Staff Rep Meeting GH304, HSC 1130 to 1300 hrs

September 24, 2014

• DSM HSC Staff Rep Meeting NA227, HSC 1130 to 1300 hrs

October 8, 2014

• Executive Council Mtg 101-1500 Notre Dame 0845 to 1700 hours

October 8, 2014

• General Staff Rep Mtg Canceled please attend the AGM

October 9, 2014

 Annual General Mtg Holiday Inn, Airport West 1700 to 2200 hrs

October 13, 2014

 Thanksgiving Day MAHCP Office Closed

November 11, 2014

 Remembrance Day MAHCP Office Closed

November 12, 2014

• Executive Council Mtg 101-1500 Notre Dame 0845 to 1700 hrs

November 12, 2014

• General Staff Rep Mtg 101-1500 Notre Dame 1830 hours



November 19, 2014

• HSC Staff Rep Meeting GH304, HSC 1130 to 1300 hrs

December 25, 2014

 Christmas Day MAHCP Office Closed

December 26, 2014

• Boxing Day MAHCP Office Closed

January 1, 2015

 New Year MAHCP Office Closed

Januaryr 14, 2015

• Executive Council Mtg 101-1500 Notre Dame 0845 to 1700 hrs

January 14, 2015

• General Staff Rep Mtg 101-1500 Notre Dame 1830 hours

> Bring your collective agreement to all member meetings.

Moving? Name Change? Retiring? New MAHCP Member? Please let us know!!

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In order to keep our database current, please keep us informed of any information changes including addresses and names. **Don't forget to update your address with your employer too!**

Call 204-772-0425 or email info@mahcp.ca

2014 Presidential Election

This year we have two candidates for President; President Bob Moroz and Janet Fairbairn.

All members have been mailed a ballot for the MAHCP Presidential Election. All ballots must be into the office by September 12, so please review your election material, make your choice and mail it back to our office as soon as possible. Below you can read the candidates' statements again to help you cast your vote. The winner will be announced at the 2014 AGM on October 9.

Janet Fairbairn



My name is Janet Fairbairn and I am running for President of <u>YOUR</u> union, the **Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals**. My goal is to raise our profile. I want the public as well as our employers to know that the diagnosis, and prognosis, and quality of life for people (whether it be emotional or physical) in the province of Manitoba is dependent on the 164 different Health Care professionals of MAHCP. I know it, I want you to know it, and believe it too. We need to be adequately compensated for what we do for the public as we are skilled and trained professionals.

Technically the President is the head of the union. I want you to know that the voice of the members should run this union. I can promise you that I care about you, and what happens to you, and will fight for your rights every single day that I am President. Please give me the chance to be your voice. Vote for a change and make your check mark count.

Bob Moroz



During my time as President, I have made it a priority to improve our communication to members. We are making progress. I will continue to push further improvements. We have a social media presence. With improved technology in place, I commit that phone calls, emails, etc. will be returned within three normal business days. By accomplishing this goal, I believe we will vastly improve the service that you deserve. We are looking at staffing resources to allow us to become even better.

The majority of our members are covered under a central table agreement. I am asking you for reelection so that we can go into bargaining with a strong, consistent team and leadership. Once again, I will repeat my commitment that you will not be asked to vote on any tentative agreement without having the opportunity to review it and ask questions. Many of our non-central table agreements have been completed or about to begin the bargaining process. See my article in this edition for details.

We have doubled the Professional Development Fund.

Finally, I am looking into ways to modernize our union to make sure that every member knows who their Executive Council Director is, and to have access to that person. This is crucial to communication

Please take the time to mark your ballot and drop it in the mail. This is one of the critical ways that you can influence the direction of <u>your</u> union, MAHCP: the Health Care Union. morozbob@gmail.com



Register for the 2014 MAHCP AGM! Join us October 9th at the Holiday Inn Airport West Pre-Register now!

Featuring Guest Speaker Larry Brown

Larry Brown is the President of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and the Secretary/ Treasurer for the National Union of Public Government Employees. Larry is a lively speaker and always has many things to say about union issues.



Radiological Technologists -We Have A Vision

By Sandra Luke, CAE, ACR, RTMR, RTR Christine Preachuk, RTR

Radiological technologists, or X-ray technologists, are part of the diverse array of highly-trained professionals that make up the team of Medical Radiation Technologists (MRTs) in the health care field.

Radiological technologists are committed to providing empathetic "high touch" care to patients, while delivering critical "high-tech" services to physicians and other healthcare professionals. Radiological technologists are not only found in hospitals and clinics from coast to coast, but on the battlefields wherever the Canadian Forces are deployed; and in the dressing rooms of our professional sport teams. Radiological technologists are part of the interdisciplinary team that provides treatment to patients.

The majority of RTRs in Manitoba are trained through Red River College in the fully accredited Medical Radiological Technology Program. This is a two year diploma program with a prerequisite of University 1 taking specified courses. Second year is spent in a hospital setting to gain clinical experience. Upon completion, graduates are required to write a national certification exam in order to be certified and eligible for employment across Canada. Certification is through the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists.

Radiological technologists (RTRs) achieve competence based practice through a comprehensive and specialized education program. Program content includes:

anatomy/physiology



Sandra Luke and Christine Preachuk

- radiographic technique (positioning of patient)
- delivery of patient care in different circumstances
- pathology
- physics
- knowledge of equipment/image acquisition
- · radiation safety
- quality assurance

Radiological technologists use x-rays to produce images of body parts and systems, including general imaging, mobile exams, operating room procedures, and fluoroscopic procedures. They are experts in the use of complex medical equipment which is used to better differentiate between normal and diseased tissue, while at the same time providing comprehensive, compassionate care to each patient.

Some of a RTR's professional responsibilities include:

 Able to interact compassionately and effectively with patients who range from healthy to critically ill

- Provide quality patient care
- Confirm an accurate patient history
- Perform a wide variety of imaging and obtain high quality diagnostic images
- Identify a wide range of pathologies
- Alter imaging techniques/patient positioning based on patient presentation and clinical history
- Critique images and use independent judgement to recognize the need to extend the scope of the procedure according to the diagnostic findings
- Assist Radiologists during specialized imaging procedures
- Collaborate with physicians and other members of the healthcare team

Radiological technologists work in a very physically demanding occupation. As an RTR, one must:

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Scholarship Candidates Continue to Impress Us

by Shelley Kowalchuk, Communications Chair

Each year MAHCP awards scholarships to children of MAHCP members who are entering their first year of post-secondary education, or first year of an allied health profession. As part of this competition, each student submits an essay - 'The Benefits of Being a Union Member' for the MAHCP Scholarships and 'Why Enter a Healthcare Profession', for the Monique Wally Scholarship.

Why do they write on these topics? Since we are a union, we want the next generation to be exposed to the ideals of unionism, and what better way to learn about it than to research and write about it? We are hoping that through this, they can appreciate the struggles of those that came before all of us, and can see the importance that unions continue to hold in society today.

By the same token, through the Monique Wally Scholarship, we wish to encourage those young adults considering their career choices to think about the rewards of working in a health profession.

Every year we receive many deserving applicants, with stellar grade point averages and extracurricular activities that astound us. We would like to acknowledge all of the students' hard work and dedication. We cannot give scholarships to each and every one, but their strong work ethic leaves no doubt in my mind that they will all find success in the future.

Winners of the 2014 MAHCP Scholarships

- Yu Qi Wu, daughter of Qi Clair Wang, Health Sciences Centre
- Hannah Chan, daughter of Ashley Chan, Health Sciences Centre
- Elisabeth Findlay, daughter of Samuel Findlay, Health Sciences Centre
- Matthew Litke, son of Carla Litke, St. Boniface Hospital
- Chantale Bosc, daughter of Lois Bosc, Misericordia Health Centre

Winners of the Monique Wally Memorial Scholarship

- Hannah Chan, daughter of Ashley Chan, Health Sciences Centre
- Elisabeth Findlay, daughter of Samuel Findlay, Health Sciences Centre



The Benefits of Being a Union Member

by Hannah Chan, daughter of Ashley Chan

In the days before unions, workers were forced to work for long, exhausting hours - often twelve hours a day, six days a week - for extremely low wages. They also faced unfair workplace practices such as hazardous working environments, child labour, and unequal treatment of men and women. However, complaints were few. Individual employees were afraid to speak up for themselves because they felt that approaching their employers were their concerns and requests were too daunting of a task, and many were afraid of potentially losing their jobs.

Fast forward to the twenty-first century and one will find that the collective bargaining of labour unions plays a vital role in our everyday working lives. Labour union in Canada are organizations formed with the goal of defining, promoting and striving for the collective interests and rights of a group of workers. Unions cooperate with employers and governments to maintain a coherent and fair working environment, but when their member's interests are at stake,

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Voices of other scholarship candidates...

"Fair wages and benefits are also an important component of a job and unions help negotiate wage increases as well as benefits"...*Jared Prendergast, son of Sharon Wazny Prendergast*

"Manitoba has a long and colourful history in the development of unions. The Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 helped to solidify the importance of worker's rights in our province. Fueled by high unemployment, inflation and extremely poor working conditions, unionized and non-unionized workers united in collective protest"...*Inga Christianson, daughter of Jeff Christianson*

"The major benefit of belonging to a union is being part of a collective group. When negotiating terms with employers, you stand as a group of employees instead of as a single employee"...*Chantale Bosc, daughter of Lois Bosc*

"It is important to keep in mind that many people in the past have fought hard, many with their lives, to obtain the rights that workers have because of the union movement"...*Elisabeth Findlay, daughter of Samuel Findlay*

"I believe that unions are important in that they provide a voice for the people of a workplace. If the members of a workplace have concerns or issues, they are able to approach their union to act on their behalf"....*Madelaine Lapointe, daughter of Patricia Walsh*

Benefits of Being a Union Member

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the unions will stand up and fight for their members.

In a non-union organization, workers would have to negotiate the terms and conditions of their employment as individuals, protected by minimum legal standards. One the other hand, in a union, each and every individual employee is never alone. By acting together through collective bargaining, union workers can negotiate various issues with upper management via their union. Thus unions allow workers' voices to be heard in all phases of employeeemployer relations.

Other excellent and worthwhile reasons to become a union member include job security; improved wages that take into account the rising cost of living; a reasonable workweek; a healthy workplace no matter what your age, sex or race is; establishment of proper grievance procedures and more access to benefits to union members. These benefits include satisfactory retirement programs, vacation time, and sufficient maternity and sick leave, to name a few.

Also, if it weren't for unions, you would be on your own when it comes to dealing with unfair treatment by employers, such as dismissal without a just cause, harassment and discrimination in hiring, promotions and layoffs. Union dues not only protect jobs and the people that the union serves, but they are also used to fund negotiations for better wages and working conditions, support systems for workers and income protection during a strike.

For years, unions have been formed out of the fundamental recognition that there is strength in numbers and that the workers are stronger when their voices unite to negotiate with their employers. Aside from the fantastic benefits that come with being a union member - fair wages, fair treatment, reasonable hours and benefits - the establishment of unions all around the world has helped to make the workplace a balanced and fair environment for employees and employers alike.



Ortho Tech Assists Northern Medical Diabetes Prevention

One of our members, Orthopedic Technologist (Advanced Standing) Vince Choy was recognised in the Caribou Heard, the J.A. Hildes Northern Medical Unit publication, from the University of Manitoba. The Northern Medical Unit highlighted some of their work providing diabetes education and interventions to northern communities. Vince Choy, who also works at Health Sciences Centre, is one of the professionals who flies up to Norway House, for two days, twice a month to work in a foot care clinic, applying Total Contact Casting (TCC) for patients with foot injuries complicated by diabetes.

TTC is a standard treatment for plantar foot ulcers and fractures. It is a special cast with a small amount of padding that distributes the patient's weight over the whole lower leg and foot, and special training is needed to apply them. Correctly applied casts help to speed up healing of the ulcer and prevent further fractures which could lead to total destruction and amputation of the foot.

A diabetic foot ulcer in a TCC may take 10-12 weeks to heal, and fractures can take approximately 6-8 months, substantially longer than the average for non-diabetics. Casts are changed frequently; the first one is changed at one week intervals until the fourth week, then every 4 - 6 weeks after that.

Having Vince fly up to Norway House to change the TCCs as needed provides timely intervention and at the same time saves many air trips for patients and their escorts.



We Believe in Professional Development!

We've been able to double the dollars for our **Professional Development Fund**

to benefit you, our members now \$20,000 for the 2014-15 year! Forms are available on our website at mahcp.ca

Apply Today!

St. Boniface DSM Lab Receives Forensic Accreditation

Many of us would love to work as a CSI scientist after watching the TV dramas, but some MAHCP members are working hard in this environment already.

Within the last year, the St. Boniface Toxicology lab, a division of DSM's Biochemistry and Genetics Discipline, received accreditation by the American Board of Forensic Technology (ABFT).

The lab has received the distinction of becoming only the second ABFT accredited laboratory in Canada and only one of 37 in North America. The accreditation process was a lengthy one, taking a number of years to ensure alignment of the lab processes with the American requirements, and involving the whole team of scientists and technologists.

The lab holds a unique position, providing both Clinical Toxicology services under Manitoba Health and Forensic Toxicology under Manitoba Justice. The forensic testing the Lab provides has been used by the Manitoba Medical Examiner's office since 1996, but at times their services are used by Nunavut, Ontario and Saskatchewan.



The need for ABFT accreditation was required because College of American Pathologists (CAP) accreditation does not include forensic technology services. The St. Boniface Toxicology lab was CAP accredited to provide clinical toxicology and therapeutic drug monitoring services. However, to be able to provide forensic toxicology, the ABFT accreditation was necessary.

Congratulations to the Forensics team for their hard work!

Back By Popular Demand...

The MAHCP Telephone Town Hall September 11, 2014 At 7:00 pm

Listen in real time to President Bob Moroz and Executive Director Lee Manning talk about bargaining and other issues; all members who tune in can ask questions and discuss issues they are concerned about!

You will be phoned at 7:00 pm to give you the chance to join in. Listen to the prompts and you can be part of the conversation—or just listen to the meeting, all without leaving home.

MAKE SURE WE HAVE YOUR PHONE NUMBER!

Call (204) 772-0425 to add your number to our contact information or email info@mahcp.ca

Radiological Technologists

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- Be in good physical and mental health and be able to stand or walk for extended periods of time without resting
- Be able to safely transfer large and heavy patients who may have limited or no weight bearing capabilities
- Be able to lift and position patients, some of whom are in a state of unconsciousness

Not only is this occupation physically challenging but it is also mentally challenging as RTRs may encounter aggressive and agitated individuals as well as be exposed to extreme patient injuries. There is simply no such thing as a routine x-ray exam and never a dull day.

Despite the technical nature of a radiological technologist's job, a large part is patient focused and requires an effort by both parties to achieve the best experience. RTRs can be seen in a variety of settings. These may include but are not exclusive to medical emergencies, trauma in the ER or post mortem imaging.

Areas for advancement include CT, breast imaging and interventional radiography. A specialized imaging certificate is required for the previously mentioned specialties. RTRs can also advance into management careers, education and into commercial applications with companies such as GE, Philips, Siemens and others.

Diagnostic imaging is a dynamic and rapidly advancing area in the health care field. As with other allied health professionals, RTRs are lifelong learners.

As one can see, radiological technologists are not "button pushers" but well educated professionals providing physicians with "a look inside" to support a patient's course of treatment.

MRTs are recognized annually during MRT week which is held the first week of November. This year MRT week is November 2-8. Watch for events to be held at some medical facilities and learn a little bit more about this profession.

MAHCP Member Retirees

We are counting on you . . .

If you are retiring or know of someone who is retiring, we would like to hear from you. Neither the Employers nor HEPP provide us with that information so we are counting on you to let us know. You may contact us through email, phone, fax, through your staff representative, board member, on the web site or 1-800-315-3331.

MAHCP would like to congratulate all members who have recently retired. We wish each and every one of you all the best on your retirement.

- **Barb Cortens,** Occupational Therapist, Health Sciences Centre
- *Azel Navarro,* Occupational Therapist, Health Sciences Centre
- *Clare Edwards,* Spiritual Care Coordinator, Northern RHA
- *Mary Wenger,* Sonographer, Health Sciences Centre
- *Linda McKellar,* Social Worker, St. Boniface Hospital



Our sincere apologies for anyone that has not been included in this list. We know that there are many more retirees out there.

2013-14 Executive Council

Officers

Unicers				
President	Robert Moroz CCMB, Radiation Therapist	Lee Manning Executive Director lee@mahcp.ca	Janet Beaudry Executive Assistant janet@mahcp.ca	
Vice President	Al Harlow DSM - Concordia Hospital Laboratory	Joan Ewonchuk Administrative Assistant	Cathy Langit Administrative Assistant	
Treasurer	<i>Chad Harris</i> Cancercare Manitoba Medical Physics	joan@mahcp.ca	cathy@mahcp.ca	
Secretary	Shelley Kowalchuk Health Sciences Centre Physiotherapist	Jacob Giesbrecht Legal Counsel jake@mahcp.ca	Rachiel Langit Administrative Assistant rachiel@mahcp.ca	
Directors				
Cardiology	<i>Colleen Bemister,</i> Health Sciences Centre	Michele Eger, LRO: michele@mahcp.ca	Health Sciences Centre (all other HSC Members not included under Ken's listing), Concordia Hospital, Manitoba Clinic, WRHA Corporate Program	
Clinic	Sherry Lussier, Gamma-Dynacare Medical Labs, Laboratory Technologist			
Community Therapy Services	<i>Margrét Thomas,</i> Physiotherapist	Marcya Ervick, LRO: marcya@mahcp.ca	St. Boniface Hospital (non-DSM), Misericordia Health Centre (non- DSM), Jocelyn House, Breast Health Centre. <u>Interim</u> : Society for Manitobans with Disabilities, Northern Region, Rehab Centre for Children.	
EEG	<i>Jodi Kent,</i> St. Boniface Hospital			
Laboratory	<i>James Stevenson,</i> DSM St. Boniface Hospital			
Scientist	<i>Matt Gilmour,</i> DSM HSC, Laboratory Scientist	Walter McDowell, LRO [.]	DSM - St. Boniface Hospital, DSM - Misericordia Health Centre, Gamma- Dynacare Medical Labs, Seven	
Occupational Therapy	Ann Patton, Health Sciences Centre	walter@mahcp.ca		
Orthopedic Technology	<i>John Reith,</i> Health Sciences Centre	Oaks General Hospital, Aboriginal Health & Wellness Centre. <u>Interim</u> : Actionmarguerite, Brandon Clinic, Victoria General Hospital and DSM VGH, DSM Southern Region.		
Pharmacist	Bob Bulloch, HSC			
Radiology	Michael Kleiman, HSC	Birgit Molinski, LRO:	Currently providing support to HSC	
Recreation	Zana Anderson, DLC	birgit@mahcp.ca	and HSC DSM and will be assuming HSC portfolio duties.	
Respiratory	<i>Michael Bachynsky</i> , St. Boniface Hospital		nise pontono dutes.	
Social Work	Sylvie Theriault, HSC	Ken Swan, LRO: ken@mahcp.ca	Health Sciences Centre (Lab, Diagnostic Imaging, Pharmacy,	
Spiritual Care	<i>Michael Thibert</i> , St. Boniface Hospital	kon e manepieu	EEG, Sleep Lab), Deer Lodge Centre, Community Therapy Services,	
Burntwood RHA	Tanya Burnside, Pharmacy Technician	Winnipeg Clinic. <u>Interim</u> : CancerCare Manitoba		
Northern RHA	<i>Lesa Nordick,</i> Community Health Developer	LRO position currently vacant.		
Winnipeg Region	<i>Janelle Morissette,</i> DSM-HSC, Laboratory	Phone: 204-772-0425 or 1-800-315-3331 (toll free) Fax: 204-775-6829		

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RADIOLOGY WORD SEARCH

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Have You Seen Our Facebook Page?

You can find us at Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals - a long handle, but once you get there, you will find a lot of interesting items, pictures of members and some union announcements (because we want to keep you informed).



We want to raise our profile with your colleagues and friends - so we are announcing another contest!

Help us reach 500 likes on Facebook

Help us reach 500 likes on Facebook - you have to like the actual page - and your name will get in a draw for a \$50 gift card at the place of your choice. To make this more effective, don't forget to like us and share something you have found interesting. You do not have to be a member to win the prize, so don't be shy - share!



101-1500 Notre Dame Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3E 0P9 Phone: 1-204-772-0425; 1-800-315-3331; Fax: 1-204-775-6829 Email: info@mahcp.ca; **Website: www.mahcp.ca**