

President's Message

by Bob Moroz, RTT
President, MAHCP



Bob Moroz

I would like to begin by wishing all members and your families the best of the holiday season. I hope you are able to take advantage of whatever it may be that brings you joy.

MAHCP Telephone Town Hall

On November 28, we held our second Telephone Town Hall. If you missed it, the Telephone Town Hall is like a meeting held in real time with people via a phone. All members across Manitoba (who we have a phone number for) were called at approximately 7:00 pm on the 28th to participate, or at least listen, in a discussion with myself and Executive Director Lee Manning and other members.

At the beginning of the Town Hall, Lee and I explained some of plans for Bargaining, and then members were able to answer polling questions. In addition to this, members were given the opportunity to ask their own questions directly of me or Lee - questions around bargaining, or just general questions. I believe it was very successful and I would like to thank the members who participated and stayed on the line until the end of the call. We intend to use the Telephone Town Hall as another way we can connect with members and foster a greater sense of engagement from you.

We are most definitely planning more of these events and I encourage each of you to take the time to participate. I know how difficult it can be to dedicate up to an hour of your time and that we may not be able to reach all of you. However, the more we can engage directly with you, the more we are able to know what you are thinking and what questions are out there. It also gives us a chance to directly inform you of what is happening in your union.

Bargaining Issues

I am sure most of you are aware that central table bargaining is right around the corner. The bargaining team has met so far for a total of six days in order to create our proposal document that we will be presenting to the employer. It is a huge amount of work and it can be a very slow process. That is of course why we began the process so early. We will be ready to bargain well before the agreements expire at the end of March, 2014. We have a further three days of meetings set up in mid-January.

I would like to thank all the members of that bargaining team for all of their hard work up to this point. It was decided some time ago that the same group that will be at the bargaining table is the one that creates the proposal package. This ensures a deep understanding of what the document contains and the background knowledge required to make good decisions.

Communication Updates

I have also been letting members know about our commitment to better communication around the bargaining process itself. Our communications committee has been working very hard at creating a solid plan around this. We will

be circulating a distinct bargaining update, called **Bargaining Beats**. Our plan is to have this update on a regular basis so you will know when to expect the latest news. As we get closer to the bargaining process itself, and especially during the negotiations, we will be sending these out as developments occur.

Bargaining Beats will begin in January with a first edition that includes an introduction to the bargaining team, the process involved and where we are in our preparations. I want you to know that we have an obligation to learn from any experience in order to improve our processes for the next time. This will be no different. We will be taking note once again of what needs to be improved further and what worked better this time around.

*Please make sure that the office has your correct email and phone number so that you can participate in the next Telephone Town Hall and receive your **Bargaining Beats** update. We all agree communication is important, and to do this we need to know your contact information!*

MAHCP Members Are The Pillars of Health Care!

The last item I will share with you is that MAHCP is embracing a position that the professionals who make up MAHCP are the "Pillars of Health Care." We need to promote the fact that there is no health care system without us. We need to step out of the shadows of the traditional view of who are the providers of Manitoban's health care. This is not a simple slogan, it is absolutely true and we need to be proud of what we provide to society. The work that you do is critical.

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I urge all of you to take every opportunity to speak proudly of the work you do. Go ahead and let everyone know how valuable this work is. We need to be in the same conversations as physicians and nurses when that conversation turns to healthcare. Michael Kleiman's article on the front page of this newsletter speaks to this very clearly - we all have a voice and we need to make ourselves heard!

Lastly, for those who are interested, I would like to encourage you to follow me on twitter. You can find me at @MorozBob . I will be sharing any news or events that have an impact on our members.

Once again, I want to wish you all a very happy holidays and all the best in the new year.