

President's Message

Bob Moroz

Another Annual General Meeting has come and gone. I have written already that I believe it was a tremendous event, full of positive energy.

This, of course, is despite the fact that we have been forced into a situation by the employer to go to a large percentage of our members for strike mandates.

I believe it was a great evening because of that strength shown by our members to provide our bargaining committees with the support they need to get fair collective agreements at the bargaining table. I once again congratulate the members for showing the employer that it is time we are given the respect we deserve as Health Care Professionals in Manitoba.

Our first venture into the world of electronic voting proved to be a huge success. I have heard a lot of positive comments on how this process provided our members with the ability to become involved in decisions that shape our union and I am quite sure we will be expanding the use of this excellent tool. As another reminder, we need your personal email address in our database, not your work email.

At the AGM, we talked about the need for us to re-examine, re-build and strengthen the role of our staff representatives. Our labour relations staff has been working on a plan to do just that and I anticipate it will be presented to Executive Council very soon.

We also presented in very clear terms the challenges that all unions in Health Care in Manitoba are facing. Despite our best efforts, issues in the workplace seem to no longer be able to be resolved in any kind of reasonable timeframe.

This is adding workload onto our Labour Relations Officers at a tremendous rate. As was announced at the annual meeting, Executive Council has approved the hiring of an additional Labour Relations Officer and we hope to have that person in place very soon.

Some of the things I would like to share with you now relate directly to how your union is doing in terms of advocating on your behalf, not only in the workplace, but with the public and with government.

I was pleased to be invited by the Manitoba Federation of Labour (MFL) to attend the MFL/NDP Caucus Labour Liaison Meeting. I was invited to speak about the length of time that public sector (specifically health) bargaining takes.



MAHCP admin assistant Joan Ewonchuk and President Bob Moroz take a moment for a photo just after sending out the emails for our organization's first electronic vote on Sept. 18, 2015.
Photo by Bernice Pontanilla

I also was able to remind the Caucus that the very same members who will be hopefully voting on a tentative agreement are the very same members who are facing management styles and issues that have no place anywhere, never mind in Health Care.

Some of you may be aware that I have been named Chair of the Manitoba Council of Health Care Unions. This is a group of all of the unions who have anything to do with Health in Manitoba and can be a very strong voice. My goal is to help to better coordinate and use that collective strength in order to ensure all health employees are treated with respect and dignity.

I had the pleasure to attend the Government of Manitoba's Throne speech on November 16.

In that speech the Government has pledged a number of strategic investment in such things as eliminating wait lists for childcare spaces, enhancing home care without introducing user fees, introducing paid leave to support the victims of domestic violence and to support a brand new state of the art CancerCare Manitoba building. The speech also indicated the governments renewed commitment to resist the privatization of key services.

It promises to be an interesting time leading up to the provincial election on April 19, 2016. We need to continue to hold the government accountable and to ensure that they do not neglect the most important strategic investment we have here in Manitoba; the women and men who work every day in public service, specifically those of us in Health Care.

And finally, on behalf of MAHCP staff and executive council, I wish you all a happy holidays with your loved ones.