

# President's Message

by Bob Moroz

Once again, I am very pleased to state that this spring has been another very busy time for us here at your union, MAHCP, and not completely for negative reasons. I would like to first let you know that our Labour Relations Officer's portfolio assignments have now been finalized. Please have a look at page 11 of this edition of MAHCP News for the details. It is my belief and hope that members will have already realized a difference in "member service." As the LROs continue to settle into their new sites and regions and become familiar with their new members I am confident that this will improve even further. We truly do have a very hard working group of Labour Relations Professionals on our staff. They are very, very busy dealing with the continuing and baffling strategies of some employers who insist on picking fights where there really is no need. The work they do is almost exclusively conflict management, and I hope our members realize how hard they work for you.

In the last issue, I also mentioned that we were in the process of finalizing the details regarding our Communications Officer. I am very pleased to let you know that Bernice Pontanilla began her position here at MAHCP in mid-April. Bernice has proven very early on that we made a wise choice for this important piece of our communication strategy. With her background in journalism and organized labour, we have already seen our profile raised by having media such as CBC and the Metro pick up and quote our press releases. I think I can safely say that I and the rest of your Executive Council are very excited about the skills Bernice will bring to increase our members' contribution to health care in Manitoba.

In terms of bargaining updates, a recent issue of Bargaining Beats has been distributed and I invite you to read the email that was sent in mid-May or take a look at our website or Facebook page for the full version. We've included a snippet on page 5 of this newsletter. The main highlights are that Gamma Dynacare (now Dynacare) has ratified a four-year agreement. Aboriginal Health and Wellness is inching closer to a tentative agreement. Society for Manitobans with Disabilities was at last report waiting to discuss monetary proposals, pending a funding confirmation from the Ministry of Family Services. At the central table, we continue to discuss monetary proposals and are still waiting for confirmation of the elusive dollar mandate from the Government. So clearly we have been hard at work trying to get these agreements done. I know how frustrated our members are becoming, having to work so long with expired agreements. I would like to thank you for your



Bob with Kelly Lambkin, manager of public programs and services, Manitoba/Nunavut region, for the Canadian Diabetes Association at the Lace Up for Team Diabetes event on May 24, 2015.

continued patience and I would like to assure you that we continue to work hard to fight off concessions and make improvements to your collective agreements and working conditions.

I hope you will have seen various updates on some of the activities MAHCP has been involved in. We recently had a terrific volunteer and participant involvement in the Canadian Diabetes Association's Lace up with Team Diabetes event. We have also entered a team in the Canadian Cancer Society's Dragon Boat races being held June 5 and 6. The purpose of these events is to both promote and support the important work these organizations do, but also to highlight and inform the public about the work that our members do every single day.

Did you also know that MAHCP is pleased to sponsor events put on by our members' professional organizations? Whether it is a small Annual General meeting or hosting a Provincial/ National/ International conference, please contact the office to enquire about the possibility of sponsorship. We believe that by improving relationships with our professional bodies or colleges, we can continue to increase the visibility of our membership.

Finally, I would like to once again urge members to take the time to pay some attention to the political world we live in. We are approaching election season with the Federal election in October and our Provincial election happening next April. If we all make an effort to have conversations with candidates, let them know that we expect accountability and a renewed commitment to issues like Health Care, we can make a difference. Democracy works if people vote. It works even better when informed people vote, so please make your votes count.