

# Dealing with fallout after broken health care commitment

The last six months have been among the most challenging for our Allied Health members in recent memory.

We have written extensively on the changes occurring within the WRHA in the past and all of those changes are now becoming a stark reality for many of our members.

We know that many of our members are finding themselves out of work, even after the WRHA originally committed to having a job available for “anyone who wants one.” I was doubtful then, and, quite frankly, disgusted that the WRHA continues to refuse to acknowledge this broken commitment.

As we know, the amalgamations of Emergency Departments along with clinical services and closures of Urgent Care Centres were all part of Phase 1 of the “Healing the Health System” initiative and the outright deletion of outpatient therapies is part of the “Manage to Budget” initiative.

Well, Phase 2 is rapidly approaching, and we are bracing for even more cuts.

We know that Phase 2 affects the Concordia and Seven Oaks Hospitals. What we don't know, despite repeated demands for answers, is what else may be included in the Manage to Budget initiative.

All of these changes have led to an enormous amount of work for our already hard-working Labour Relations staff and our Executive Director. The hours they have put into implementing the Labour Adjustment Strategies is remarkable.

No one ever wants to have a member out of work, but it is important here to remind members that this is the Employer's decision and that MAHCP's role is to ensure



MAHCP President Bob Moroz (right) and Labour Relations Officer Walter McDowell at the unveiling of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike Monument at the corner of Lily Street and Market Avenue on Nov. 2, 2017.

that the members' rights are protected to the best of our ability.

We continue to strongly advocate for the services our Allied Health Members provide, both with the public and with Government. In this issue you will find articles on a couple of grassroots campaigns that are ongoing, including the green ribbon pins and the postcard campaign.

We are also launching one of the largest public campaigns in many years that will highlight the crucial contributions our members provide to Manitobans. Our messages will be seen on billboards, online, and in movie theatres across the province.

Allied Health continues to face challenges across the country in terms of expanding the public's understanding of who we are, what we do, and why we should care. These campaigns are part of the continuing efforts of MAHCP to have Manitobans realize our role in their health care.

As the holiday season draws near, it is my hope that all of you can find the time to be with friends and family and enjoy the celebrations and observations that you hold dear.

Please remember: We are Allied Health. We are MAHCP.

In solidarity,  
Bob Moroz, MAHCP President