

# BARGAINING UPDATE #7

March 2023



**Jason Linklater**  
President, MAHCP

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Since our last bargaining update, we have continued to make good progress and are nearing the conclusion of non-monetary negotiations.*

*This is a significant milestone, as it means we expect to be starting monetary within the next month or two. When non-monetary finishes, we expect to ramp up pressure and bargaining-related actions.*

We will be calling on all members to help. This will likely include a strike vote, information pickets or other activities to amplify our collective voice and help the bargaining committee, so please make sure you are reading our updates.

This is a critical time, and we need everyone working toward the same, shared goal. At its core, this is what solidarity means. With inflation rising, the wage gaps growing, and the staffing crisis that you know all too well – getting a new contract now is more important than ever.

Five years is much too long to wait. If the bargaining committee does call on members for a strike mandate, we expect it to be a strong one. MAHCP members have had enough.

MAHCP has been steadily increasing our advocacy efforts. In February, we met with both opposition parties to gain their support in holding this current government to account. Both Dougald Lamont, the leader of the Manitoba Liberals, and members of the NDP Caucus, including Health Critic Uzoma Asagwara, were extremely concerned about the impacts the lack of a contract is having on both health care professionals and patients.

*President's Message cont. on back page*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH -  
RAMPING UP THE PRESSURE

WE NEED YOUR  
EMAIL BY MARCH 24  
STRIKE VOTE LIKELY COMING  
SOON

LEAD NEGOTIATOR  
ANNOUNCEMENT  
KEELY RICHMOND IS MAHCP'S  
NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &  
LEAD NEGOTIATOR

✉ info@mahcp.ca

☎ 204-772-0425  
1-800-315-3331 (toll-free)

📍 101-1500 Notre Dame Ave.  
Winnipeg, MB R3E 0P9



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STRONG  
VOICE** Together

Manitoba Association of  
**HEALTHCARE**  
Professionals



**Keely Richmond, Executive Director & Lead Negotiator**

## Announcing Keely Richmond as our Lead Negotiator

Keely Richmond (*she/her*) was appointed as our Executive Director back in early February and is taking over the Lead Negotiator role next week. Thank you to Interim Lead Negotiator Cheryl Beal for all her hard work over the last four months.

Keely has over 24 years of labour and employment relations experience, having served most recently as the Regional Director, Labour Relations for the WRHA. Her wealth of experience working with government includes preparing and negotiating collective agreements on behalf of health-care employers, Doctors Manitoba and MGEU. Keely has an advanced bachelor's degree in Labour and Workplace Studies from the U of M.

*President's Message cont. from previous page*

Both parties committed to stand with us in our fight for a fair deal. We have [reached out](#) to Health Minister Audrey Gordon for a meeting. The Manitoba Government must make a new, competitive contract for allied health their top health-care priority, now.

We also submitted [pre-budget recommendations](#) where we told the government that a deal for allied health needs to be a top priority – our health care system depends on it. The budget will be announced on March 7th, and we will be closely listening for significant investments for allied health care professionals.

So what do we need from you? We are seeking volunteers who would be interested in helping with information pickets. Even if you have never volunteered with your union before, now is the time! And we continue to recruit for picket captains in the event of a strike. Email us at [info@mahcp.ca](mailto:info@mahcp.ca) to get on the list.

**We need everyone's current email address by March 24th!** If you or your colleagues are not seeing our emails, please fill out this [web form](#) or contact us as at [info@mahcp.ca](mailto:info@mahcp.ca) as soon as possible. If we hold a strike vote it will be done entirely online, and if we don't have your email – you won't get to vote.

Finally, We are launching a digital advertising campaign March 13th asking the government to fix the staffing crisis in allied health and get us a contract now. It will include a petition that will go to local MLAs and to the Health Minister. They will be listening to their voters very closely over the next few months. With a provincial election coming up their job depends on it.

Watch your email, we'll let you know when the campaign and petition are live. Encourage your friends and family to sign up by sharing widely on social media. Let's flood their inbox with a show of solidarity and remind them how important allied health is.

In solidarity,

Jason Linklater, MAHCP President

*Thank you*  
**BARGAINING  
COMMITTEE**

Thank you to our bargaining committee members from across Manitoba who have tirelessly shown up, day after day, to work through the bargaining documents thoroughly and thoughtfully.

Bargaining is often a thankless process, a process made harder when you are away from your family, friends and co-workers.

With bargaining dates set three days a week throughout March and April, please take the time to say thanks to the following people who have committed countless hours doing their best to ensure the best contract for all of us.

Cheryl Beal, MAHCP  
Tanya Burnside, Vice President  
Wayne Chacun, Secretary  
Rebecca Clifton, MAHCP  
Suzanne Garbutt  
Shayleen Goretzki, Executive Council  
Tanis Hares  
Jason Linklater, President  
Shona Litke  
Lori Marlow  
Janelle Morissette  
Conrad Padilla  
Andrea Pollock  
Jana-Leigh Povey, Executive Council  
Cory Szczepanski, MAHCP  
Christina Taitley  
Cathy Langit, MAHCP Admin Support  
Candice Keam, MAHCP Admin Support