

UNITED STEELWORKERS
L.U.6166

MFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS OUTSIDE THE UNITED STEELWORKERS HALL IN THOMPSON DURING SEPTEMBER MFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING.

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Friends,

Your MFL Executive Council was lucky to visit Thompson recently for our September council meeting.

It was great to meet with local labour leaders and learn more about the issues facing working families in the north. The cost of living is top of mind for people, and so is the worry about keeping good, family-supporting jobs in Thompson.

Health care in the north has been decimated by Brian Pallister and Heather Stefanson, and northern Manitobans are deeply concerned about how hard it is to find care close to home. Our MFL values the opportunity to reach out and learn more about issues facing working families across our province.

MFL LEARN ABOUT LABOUR PROGRAM REACHED 1,200 STUDENTS LAST SCHOOL YEAR

The MFL Learn about Labour program, generously supported by Manitoba's unions, provides educational opportunities for young Manitobans to learn about labour and human rights – important foundations for the next generation of labour leaders and activists.

The program covers the cost for Grade 6 students in Manitoba to experience the Manitoba Museum's virtual exhibit Strike 1919: Divided City, which showcases the rich history of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike and the pivotal role it played in the development of Canada's labour movement

and many of the core labour rights we enjoy today.

I am happy to report that because of the support of Manitoba's unions, 1,200 Grade 6 students took part in the Learn about Labour program in the 2021/22 school year.

MFL WELCOMES MANITOBA BUILDING TRADES AS NEWEST AFFILIATE

This summer, the Manitoba Building Trades chose to become our newest MFL affiliate. Many member unions of the Manitoba Building Trades have already been a part of the MFL, and we are happy to welcome the MBT to our MFL family. MBT members do important work to build our province.

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The MBT represents the common goals of over 10,000 construction and trades professionals across 13 member unions.

Our MFL has seen large growth in its membership over the last number of years, and we are proud to welcome the MBT.

**POWERLINE TECHNICIAN
RECOGNIZED AS RED SEAL TRADE**

Thanks to the advocacy of IBEW 2034, powerline technicians have now been recognized as a red seal trade in Manitoba.

The Pallister government had dragged its feet on this designation for years, and it is really thanks to the relentless work of IBEW 2034 members that this has happened.

We all rely on powerline technicians to keep the lights on for Manitoba Hydro.

These dedicated Manitobans work in all kinds of conditions to keep our grid going and Manitoba Hydro lines in safe working order. We congratulate IBEW 2034 for winning this important national standard in training for its members.



CUPE MANITOBA PRESIDENT GINA MCKAY, BRANDON & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT KIRK CARR, BRANDON & DISTRICT UNITED WAY CEO CYNAMON MYCHASIW, AND PRESIDENT REBECK AT THE WORKER APPRECIATION SUPPER IN BRANDON.

**FIRST ANNUAL WORKER
APPRECIATION SUPPER IN
BRANDON**

In September, I was proud to host the first annual Brandon and District United Way Worker Appreciation Supper. The event was sponsored by the Brandon and District Labour Council to show appreciation for all that workers in Westman have done in the last few years. All proceeds from the supper went to the United Way Labour Program.

It was a great night to connect with fellow labour activists and celebrate the contributions of working people in the Westman area. CUPE Manitoba President Gina McKay was the guest speaker, and she highlighted the vitally important role that

the United Way plays in Westman and in communities across our province.

Labour is a founding partner of the United Way and it was great to see so much labour support at the supper.

I'd like to congratulate the Brandon and District Labour Council on putting on such a great event for working people and thank you to Manitoba's unions for showing your support.

Kevin Rebeck
PRESIDENT OF THE MANITOBA FEDERATION OF LABOUR

Al and Alma Cerilli Scholarship winner

The MFL was proud to present the 2022 Al and Alma Cerilli Scholarship to Rosanna Dinulos. Rosanna is a proud UFCW 832 member who works as a production operator for Maple Leaf Foods.

Rosanna is pursuing a Civil Engineering degree at Red River College, and has a keen interest in environmental engineering, and would like to apply their knowledge towards helping Maple Leaf with its sustainability practices.

We wish Rosanna all the best in her studies and congratulate her on winning the 2022 Al and Alma Cerilli Scholarship.



MFL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNA ROTHNEY PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP TO ROSANNA DINULOS

Stefanson government's increase to the minimum wage too little, too late

No one should work full-time but still live in poverty. But that is the reality for thousands of workers in our province because the Stefanson government has kept our minimum wage far too low for workers to be able to make ends meet.

Working families who rely on minimum wage work were looking for a much higher increase to Manitoba's minimum wage. Instead, the Stefanson government has decided that Manitoba should go from having the second-lowest minimum wage in the country right now to having the second-lowest minimum wage in the country on October 1st. The planned minimum wage of \$13.50 this year will fall well short of what working families need to make ends meet.

The government plans to increase the minimum wage to \$15 in October 2023.

I think we all agree that if this increase to \$15 had been made in 2016, Manitoba's unions would have been in full support.

It is what the MFL was calling for at the time, because \$15 was a living wage six years ago.

But we all know that life has only gotten more expensive since then, and with the runaway inflation families are facing, a living wage in Manitoba is more like \$20 than \$15.

All working families are concerned about the crushing increases in the cost of living, and the price jumps at the gas pumps and at the grocery stores are hitting low-wage workers particularly hard.

We think Manitoba workers are worth more, and that is why Manitoba's unions will continue to advocate that our minimum wage should be a living wage so that everyone who works full-time on minimum wage lives above the poverty line.

More public sector unions and workers win fair deals

More and more public sector workers are fighting for fair deals and winning them for their members.

As we know, public sector bargaining was stalled for years due to Brian Pallister's public sector wage freeze law. But through the strength of our solidarity, Manitoba's unions eventually forced new Premier Heather Stefanson to back down and repeal the wage freeze law, and a number of fair deals have been negotiated as a result.

This summer, 6,000 MGEU members who work in rural personal care homes, hospitals, and in community health ratified a new contract with the Prairie Mountain and Interlake-Eastern health regions.

More recently, after months of info pickets and a strong public awareness campaign, CUPE 204 reached new collective agreements with Shared Health, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Northern Health and Southern Health for over 18,000 health care workers.

Finally, I know many of you were out in Oakbank this summer to show your support for the Operating Engineers 987 members who were on strike for a fair deal from their employer, the RM of Springfield. After two months on the picket line, these members won a fair contract and are back providing the vital public services that people in their community count on.



PRESIDENT REBECK ON THE OE 987 PICKET LINE IN OAKBANK THIS SUMMER

Manitoba's unions celebrate Labour Day in person again after three long years

After three long years away from each other, it was great to join together again in solidarity for Labour Day. Manitoba's unions held Labour Day events across Manitoba, including in Brandon, Thompson, and Winnipeg.

Our labour movement has always fought for a better world, where hard work is rewarded with a good job, strong public services that are there for you when you need them, and the ability to support your family. Having a union card is the best ticket to a family-supporting job and a safer workplace.

And we know that working families have been hit hard over the last three years, by the COVID-19 pandemic and now crushing increases at the grocery stores and the gas pumps.

We have seen our public services, like health care, stretched to their limit by the pandemic and the cuts and chaos of Brian Pallister and Heather Stefanson.

At a time when we continue to grapple with a global pandemic and inflation has hit a 40 year high, we need a government that's willing to work for working families, instead of big corporate interests.

And Manitobans are counting on unions to continue to have their backs, and fight for greater economic security, and a safer and fairer Manitoba for all of us.

That's why your MFL is fighting for all workers to have a guarantee of at least 10 paid sick days on the job.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted just how unfair it is to force workers to choose between working sick, or being unable to put food on the table because they did the right thing and stayed home when they were sick.

That is why we are fighting to make it easier for workers to get that union card, to make sure the decision to join a union is a simple and straightforward one for working people.

It is why we are fighting to make sure that workers are covered by workers compensation if they face burnout and other mental health injuries at work, because psychological workplaces injuries should be treated just like physical injuries under the law.

And it is why we are fighting to build our public services up and support the dedicated Manitobans who deliver them, not tear them down through cuts, understaffing, and neglect like Heather Stefanson has done.

Our movement has made the gains by acting together in solidarity, and fighting for the needs of working families. We need to keep fighting together because we are stronger together.



PRESIDENT REBECK JOINS LABOUR DAY MARCH FROM MANITOBA LEGISLATURE TO VIMY RIDGE PARK IN WINNIPEG

Workers strike for fairness

At the time of this publication, there are a number of strikes or potential strikes in Manitoba.

Members of MGEU Local 441 have been trying to negotiate a fair deal with their employer, Les Tournesols Child Care Centre, for almost a year.

Unfortunately, the employer wants to cut workers' benefits like sick leave and vacation instead of using available government funding to improve wages and working conditions. I have been proud to stand on the picket line with these workers as they fight for a fair deal.

Members of Workers United Local 459 are on strike over the low wages their employer - high end clothing company Freed and Freed International - continues to want to pay. Most of these garment workers are immigrant mothers and grandmothers who have put many years into this company but are still being paid low wages.

The 5,000 members of CUPE 500 who provide public services for the City of Winnipeg continue to prepare for a strike, which would be the first municipal strike in the city since the Winnipeg General Strike. The MFL stands in solidarity with the hardworking members

of CUPE 500 as they seek to raise wages and build stronger public services.

Finally, More than 300 members of MAHCP who work at Dynacare in Winnipeg and Brandon have voted in favour of a strike mandate. MAHCP and Dynacare will be in mediation talks in early October. These workers do vitally important medical lab work that helps to diagnose and treat medical conditions for Manitobans, and they deserve a fair deal.



PRESIDENT REBECK JOINS MEMBERS OF MGEU LOCAL 441 ON THE PICKET LINE.



Manitoba Federation of Labour Women's Committee

MEMORIAL LUNCH

National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women

TUESDAY DECEMBER 6 | 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
HOTEL FORT GARRY

Tickets: Individual: \$30

Call 204-947-1400 to purchase a ticket by credit card

Proceeds raised will be donated to women's shelters.

Please bring donations of toiletry items (such as shampoo, soap, lotion, etc.)

Municipal elections provide opportunity to elect candidates who will fight for working families

Municipal election season is in full swing across Manitoba, and labour councils in Brandon, Thompson and Winnipeg have endorsed candidates who will stand up for working families and the public services we all count on.

Municipalities and school boards have big impacts on the daily lives of working families and employ tens of thousands of people across our province, and it is important for labour activists to be involved in helping to elect labour-endorsed candidates.

Our very own Kirk Carr, president of the Brandon and District Labour Council and member of the MFL Executive Council, is running to be a school trustee in Brandon. We wish him well in the election!

In Thompson, former MFL Executive Council member and former United Steelworkers Local 6166 President Les Ellsworth has been endorsed by the Thompson Labour Committee in his campaign to become mayor. Good luck Les!

The Winnipeg Labour Council has endorsed candidates for mayor, city council and school boards, and you can find the list of endorsed candidates at winnipeglabour.ca/labour-endorsements. Taking an active role in helping to elect labour-endorsed candidates is one of the most important things you can do as a union activist. We need to have decision makers who will fight for working families.

The Winnipeg Labour Council is also running a public awareness campaign about issues that are important to working families. You can see some of the ads below.

We depend on public city services. Sign now to keep city services public for the good of Winnipeg.

Everyone deserves access to safe public transit in Winnipeg. Sign now to make transit safety an election priority.

City of Winnipeg workers deserve a living wage. Sign now to demand liveable wages in Winnipeg.



SIGN: KEEP CITY SERVICES PUBLIC
Winnipeggers deserve better.

[LEARN MORE](#)

1.23K

123 Comments 56 Shares



SIGN: KEEP TRANSIT SAFE
Winnipeg deserves better.

[LEARN MORE](#)

1.23K

123 Comments 56 Shares



SIGN: DEMAND LIVEABLE WAGES
Winnipeg deserves better.

[LEARN MORE](#)

1.23K

123 Comments 56 Shares

Kirkfield Park byelection provides opportunity to replace anti-labour MLA Fielding, put working families first in the legislature

This spring, we were glad to hear that one of the most anti-worker members of the Pallister-Stefanson government, Scott Fielding, decided to run away from the Conservative government and his Kirkfield Park constituents prior to next year's provincial election.

Fielding served as Pallister's minister of cuts, also known as his finance minister, for a number of years. He was also responsible for the Labour department for much of that time, and did long lasting damage to the relationship between workers and the government.

Fielding was the architect of the Pallister government's failed Bill 16, which would have fundamentally changed Manitoba's collective bargaining rules, and tipped the scales against workers and unions. Fielding was frequently unwilling to listen to unions or employers about how to make labour

relations better in Manitoba, preferring a my-way or the highway approach similar to his boss, Brian Pallister.

Once Heather Stefanson was chosen as Premier, Fielding was promptly demoted from his finance post, and it is unsurprising that he has now abandoned ship completely. There will be a by-election in Kirkfield Park sometime this fall, and we have a real opportunity to replace Fielding and his anti-worker priorities with an MLA who will stand up for working families.

Fielding's tenure as both MLA and minister reminded us that politics won't leave unions alone, and labour cannot leave politics alone.

So let's all commit to doing what we can to help support the election of a progressive candidate who will put working families in Kirkfield Park first.

Call for appointments to MFL committees

As we do after every Convention, the MFL is in the process of re-constituting its Working Committees for the next term (2022-2024). MFL Committees are established by the President, with approval from the MFL Executive Council, to advance work in specific areas of priority. Committees provide advice to the President and the Executive Council, and provide a forum for affiliates to share information, discuss issues of concern and suggest possible areas for research, lobbying, education, policy development or coordination by the MFL.

All affiliated unions are invited to make appointments to the:

- MFL Health & Safety Committee
- MFL Women's Committee
- MFL Equity & Human Rights Committee

MFL Committees operate on the basis of 'One Union, One Vote', but affiliate unions are welcome to appoint additional non-voting members. Where an affiliated union has more than one Local, Branch or Lodge in Manitoba, Committee appointments should be made by coordinating through the provincial coordinating body of the union.

Committee appointments will generally remain in place until the next MFL Convention in May 2024 (unless an affiliate requests to make a change in between Conventions).

All Committees will be holding their first meetings in October, so we encourage affiliates to make their appointments as soon as possible.



2023 MFL Health & Safety Conference

February 2-3, 2023

Manitoba
Federation
of Labour

**Canad Inns Polo Park
Winnipeg, Manitoba**

 **Early bird deadline: December 9, 2022**

Visit mfl.ca for the registration form