

GMM PRESIDENTS REPORT

October 5, 2021

NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM

On June 18th the Executive Board of UFCW Local 832 voted unanimously to elect Director of Operations Marie Buchan as our new Secretary Treasurer filling the vacancy left behind when Bea Bruske became the President of the Canadian Labour Congress.

On September 7th, Union Representative Ron Allard was appointed to the position of Executive Advisor to the President, and Max Paches was appointed to the position of Director, IT/Facilities and Privacy.

At our upcoming GMM on October 5th you will get an opportunity to meet your new leadership team and have an opportunity to ask them any questions you would like.

ROB HILLIARD

On a sad note, former WCB advocate and Health and Safety specialist Rob Hilliard passed away on August 5th. A celebration of life will take place on October 18, 2021 at 11 am at the Ukrainian Labour Temple.

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

There are 2 challenges to members of our Executive Board for the term starting next January 1st Deb Stuart from MNU is running against Tom Biebrich in the Diversity position and Jen Sikora from IBEW is running against Laura Cote in the Young Worker position

Elections will be done by mail-in ballot and ballots were mailed to all UFCW 832 members next week on September 29.

The deadline to return ballots is noon on Friday October 30th and the count will take place that afternoon

The Election Chairperson, Sonia Taylor, will directly contact all 4 people involved in the election that day to inform them of the results.

SOBEYS NEGOTIATIONS

Sobeys bargaining is in the very early stages as the contract doesn't expire until March 19, 2022.

We are currently in the process of taking applications for the bargaining committee and will focus on geographical and department representation when making the selections.

We will begin collecting proposals from our members in October, the committee will review those proposals and get a refresher course on collective bargaining in November and bargaining officially begins on December 2nd and 3rd.

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

September 30 was the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and for the first time, it was recognized as a national holiday by our federal government. Many people recognize this day by wearing an orange t-shirt to help raise awareness of the history of residential schools in Canada.

In 1973, Phyllis Webstad of Stswecem'c Xgat'tim First Nation attended her first day of residential school in Williams Lake, British Columbia. Young Phyllis's brand new orange shirt was taken away from her that day never to be returned again. Forty years later, on September 30, 2013, Phyllis spoke publicly for the first time about her experience in residential school and the Orange Day movement began.

The Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action 80 says the federal government will work with Indigenous people to establish a stat day to honour the Survivors, their families and communities who were profoundly and negatively affected by the legacy of residential schools in Canada.

Acknowledging our shared history and the role we each play in reconciliation is important year-round but especially on The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Each September 30th, please take a moment to reflect on the children who were sent to residential school and those who never came home.

PALLISTER'S EXIT AND BILL 16

Finally, some good news regarding our provincial government! Pallister has resigned and the interim Premier – Calvin Goertzen – has announced that the 5 bills that labour and Manitobans didn't support will be withdrawn in the fall session.

That means that Bill 16 will not be passed and things like Alternate Dispute Resolution and successor rights will remain law in Manitoba.

We are anticipating that some of the components of these bills will come back in some other form in future bills but for now we have been given a reprieve.

FEDERAL ELECTION

Weeks of campaigning and 600 million dollars later Canada has almost exactly the same government as we did last time.

It will be interesting to see if any of the unsuccessful party's leaders will step down before the next election.

MAPLE LEAF EXPANSION UPDATE

The new plant on Paquin Road is currently hiring and will begin operations on November 1. We will be ratifying the proposed contract at the plant on September 28th.

The Lagimodiere plant is still hoping to start their new bacon lines October 16th but they are having trouble hiring enough employees. This week they will be offering all part time employees full time jobs and will be hiring only full-time employees going forward.

Brandon is still understaffed and is waiting for a reply from government on their application for 150 TFW to come to the plant before the end of the year. We are entering into a partnership with Assiniboine Community College (ACC) and the Company to offer a bursary to relatives of current employees that will come to Canada as foreign students, go through the meat cutter program at ACC and then work at Maple Leaf.

TRAINING CENTRE

All of our training this fall will remain online. We were hoping to be back to in-person training but given the current 4th wave other jurisdictions are experiencing we didn't feel it was responsible for us to have in-person training at this time

Our first Welcome Webinar was a great success and we plan on doing them quarterly. The next one is scheduled for October 13th at 7 pm.

The SOFA series continues on the last Wednesday of each month and last Wednesday September 29th the topic was the importance of Labour Day and our guest was Kevin Rebeck President of the Manitoba Federation of Labour

LIGHT THE NIGHT

This event to raise funds for Leukemia Research in Canada will be virtual again this year and will begin at 7 pm on October 23rd.

Our team has been put together and we encourage each of you to join our team and help us to raise funds to fight blood cancers.

CCWIPP

The pension plan for thousands of UFCW members has improved dramatically since the changes were made in the summer of 2015.

This means that after several solid years of investment, we are on track to have a fully funded pension plan within 4 years, barring any major market setbacks.

WINNIPEG LABOUR COUNCIL

Nominations for all 10 positions on the WLC Executive (with the exception of President) will open at the meeting on October 19th and elections will take place at the November 16th meeting.

The positions open are 1st VP, 2nd VP, 3rd VP, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Statistician, 3 members at large and 1 trustee. Our very own Recorder, Debbie Jones will be running to be re-elected as 1st Vice President.

DIANNE RICKER

Dianne is a Safeway member working at the Mountain and McGregor store currently who recently achieved 50 years service as a UFCW Local 832 member.

Normally Marie and I would take her and a guest out for dinner but due to COVID we honoured her achievement differently this year. We went to the store first thing on September 20th and took pictures for the magazine. We brought Dianne flowers and a card and gave her some well-deserved gift cards so she could take a family member or friend out to dinner at her favourite restaurant.

As reported by
Jeff Traeger
President
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