

GMM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

September 20, 2022

AS LONG AS THE SUN SHINES, THE GRASS GROWS AND THE RIVER FLOWS.

UFCW Local 832 acknowledges that we are gathered and work each day on ancestral lands, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation. Our offices are located on Treaty 1 and 2 Territory and our work extends into Treaties 3, 4 and 5.

We recognize the injustices done to the Indigenous peoples of this land and are committed to supporting and collaborating with Indigenous communities in a spirit of truth and reconciliation.

JP PETIT

JP Petit was a Union Representative for our Local for a decade who most recently represented our members in the assisted living sector. His grand daughter was born with severe kidney disease so he started a fundraising initiative this summer to cycle to Kidney Springs South Dakota from Winnipeg to raise money for kidney research. Tragically, he was struck by a truck on the interstate and killed while riding to Kidney Springs.

Those of us who worked with JP were heartbroken by the news and remain deeply affected by his death months later.

JP graduated from our Grade 12 program at the UFCW Training Centre and we have renamed the scholarship we give annually to a graduate of that program to the JP Petit Memorial Scholarship.

Rest in peace JP. You will be missed and not forgotten.

DAN LECLAIRE

In June this year, Curt Martel who had been a Union Representative working in the hospitality sector was successful in getting a position as a representative of the CLC in Northwest Ontario. As a result, we hired Dan LeClaire, an activist from Coke who had been working with us as a relief representative for several months.

We wish Curt much success in his exciting new role and congratulate Dan on becoming a full time representative for Local 832.

FRESHCO BARGAINING

Now that Safeway bargaining is complete, FreshCo negotiations are well under way. Marie Buchan is heading up the bargaining committee for us and there are several dates set in September and October.

Watch our website at ufcw832.com for bargaining updates as they happen.

PRIDE PARTICIPATION

UFCW in Manitoba was well represented at Pride season this year attending parades and events in several communities including Winnipeg, Brandon and Steinbach. We continue to support Pride in an effort to make our society more welcoming and inclusive.

TRAINING CENTRE GRADUATION

Our graduation ceremony at the Fairmont was a success and 40 graduates and their friends and families attended. We had a total of 88 graduates from 2020, 2021 and 2022 and 18 of them were members from various UFCW workplaces.

This was the first time since the pandemic that we were able to meet in person and it was wonderful to be able to honour all those graduates who missed their big day due to Covid.

NATIONAL DEFENCE FUND

The UFCW National Defence Fund (our national strike support fund) had its annual convention in Vancouver BC this summer. Local 832 was well represented and sent a delegation which included members who work in meat and poultry processing, warehousing and retail grocery.

The convention will be held in Winnipeg next year at the Fairmont Hotel (Local 832 represented workplace) and will attract UFCW members from all over Canada.

CCWIPP

The pension plan for 9,000 of our members continues to improve since the major changes were made in 2015. The goal of the 10-year plan to bring CCWIPP back to being fully funded was to have this done by July 1, 2025 and I'm pleased to report that we continue to track ahead of that schedule.

MINIMUM WAGE

Come October 1st, Manitoba will have the second lowest minimum wage in Canada thanks to our provincial government. Coming out of Covid 19, the message being sent to low wage working Manitobans is that they're just not worth a living wage even though many of them were called heroes for their work on the front lines during the pandemic. If we want a fair minimum wage in Manitoba, we're going to have to elect a new government next year.

Minimum wage will increase to \$13.50 on October 1, 2022, to \$14.15 on April 1 2023 and then will be adjusted by the cost of living for another increase on October 1, 2023. This despite the fact that the CCPA has defined a living wage in Winnipeg as being more than \$18.00 an hour.

UFCW CANADA CONVENTION

Every 5 years UFCW Canada holds a National Convention and this year was a Convention year with the event being held in Toronto. At the Convention I was nominated to be an International Vice President of UFCW and, once again, your local was extremely well represented. Marie Buchan, our Secretary Treasurer, co-chaired the resolutions committee and many of our members were featured in videos and spoke to resolutions at the microphones.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Now that our national convention is complete, our international convention will go forward in April of 2023. Delegates to this convention need to be elected in order to attend. Our September/October issue of UNION will provide you with all the details or you can contact our General Elections Chairperson, Crystal Klippenstein, at 204 786-5055 for more information.

LABOUR DAY

A big thank you to all the UFCW members who marched with us this past Labour Day! Thank you all for making this event such a success. UFCW was proud to supply the food for the BBQ that continued after the march at Vimy Ridge Park.

MAPLE LEAF VACCINATION POLICY

As I reported at the last GMM, Maple Leaf has stood firm on their vaccination policy and now have 40-50 of our members off on an unpaid administrative leave due to their decision not to get vaccinated. Because the policy does not include a provision for rapid testing as an option to vaccination, we have filed grievances at all 3 Manitoba Maple Leaf plants. Unfortunately, the arbitrator ruled that Maple Leaf's policy was reasonable during the pandemic and the grievances were dismissed. We have communicated to all of the affected members who remain on unpaid administrative leave.

NDP CONVENTION

The NDP convention will take place October 14-16, 2022. For more information, go to the Manitoba NDP website.

SERVICING INITIATIVE

Our Secretary Treasurer and myself are touring a group of units each month in 2022 and in August I toured Superstores and No Frills with Union Representative Roberta Hoogervorst to start preparing for negotiations next year. I toured rural Westman units with Morag Stewart on September 16th and will be at the Maple Leaf plants in Winnipeg on October 12th.

As reported by:
Jeff Traeger
President, UFCW Local 832