

GMM PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FEBRUARY 7, 2023

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.

STAFFING CHANGES

In the fall of 2023, we added 3 new Full Time Servicing Representatives to our staff at the local to fill existing vacancies.

The first new Rep is Dustin Rogers who is based out of our Brandon office and was an activist at the Safeway Gas Bar in Brandon. Dustin has been relieving for Brenda Brown who is away on a medical leave and is currently representing our members at the Maple Leaf plant and at Bunge in Harrowby.

After the tragic death of JP Petit who represented workers in Winnipeg at many of our Assisted Living locations, Hillary Prociw was hired to permanently take over JP's territory. Hillary has worked at Local 832 for many years as Administrative Support for our negotiations department.

Finally, our dedicated Relief Rep position at the local has been vacant for quite some time and in November we hired Tyler Ledoux who was an activist at the Viterra plant. Tyler is currently covering John Anderson's territory representing our members at Hylife, Safeway in Neepawa, McCains in Carberry and the Carberry Distribution Centre. John is recovering from a serious accident that occurred in the summer of 2022 and we wish him a full and speedy recovery.

All three of these new reps will be introduced to our membership at the GMM scheduled for 7 pm on February 7, 2023.

LOBLAW BARGAINING BEGINS

On January 10, 2023 the call officially went out for our members working at Superstore, No Frills and Extra Foods to put their name forward to be a representative of our bargaining committee later this year. All applicants will be reviewed the week of February 12th and the committee will be selected by the end of that week.

We are also in the process of asking our members for their ideas on what they'd like to see added or changed in their current contract. Members can submit their proposals through our survey on the website, by emailing myself or their rep directly or by submitting their proposal ideas in the blue collection boxes conveniently located in the employee lunchroom in their store.

The cut off to submit a proposal is March 17, 2023.

We will be holding forums for our members to learn more about their union and the bargaining process in March in Brandon and Winnipeg and it's our hope to begin negotiations in the month of April. The contract expires on September 28, 2023.

You can keep up to date on negotiations throughout the year by regularly checking our website at ufcw832.com.

ORGANIZING VICTORY

2023 has already seen more new members join our union as 18 Senior Managers at EPIC Opportunities voted YES to being represented by UFCW Local 832! We currently represent about 30 of the workers at that unit and after seeing the exemplary service offered by our union, the managers decided to join as well. Negotiator Phil Kraychuk is working on getting these members their first contract and Dan LeClaire will be looking after the needs of these new members.

FIFTY YEAR MEMBER

We have had yet another member hit the 50-year milestone as a UFCW Local 832 member. In December, Murray Thomson who works the night shift stocking shelves at the Safeway store at Portage Ave and Cavalier achieved this remarkable accomplishment.

Secretary Treasurer Marie Buchan and I met with him at the start of one of his night shifts in December to wish him all the best and to provide him with a small token of our appreciation for his service with UFCW.

FRESHCO BARGAINING

In the second week of January, we ratified a new collective agreement for our members working at FreshCo stores in Manitoba. By all accounts our members are extremely pleased with the new contract and with the hard work done by the lead negotiator, Marie Buchan, and her committee of members and reps from the stores.

Details of the new deal can be found at ufcw832.com.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Elections for delegates to the UFCW International Convention being held in April of this year was completed late in 2022 and we will be sending 23 delegates to the convention this time around.

This convention is an important event on the UFCW calendar as the goals and directions of our union will be set for the next 5 years by the convention delegates. This is also the time that the Officers of the International Union are elected and changes to the constitution are debated.

The convention is scheduled from April 24th to the 28th and we will report on the decisions made at convention in a future issue of UNION.

CLC CONVENTION

Right on the heels of the International Convention, we will be sending a delegation to Montreal to attend the 2023 Canadian Labour Congress Convention where our former Secretary Treasurer Bea Bruske will be running for re-election as President.

The convention will bring delegates from a wide array of Canadian unions to debate the direction of the Canadian Labour Movement and elect the officers for the next three years.

Local 832 will be sending 8 delegates to the convention and we will be loud supporters of President Bruske.

SERVICING INITIATIVE

The servicing initiative that Marie Buchan and I started in 2022 continues in 2023. On February 22nd I will spend the day servicing various industrial units with Jason Hawkins and I will be at Maple Leaf on Lagimodiere with Sharon Foster on February 28th.

As reported by:
Jeff Traeger
President, UFCW Local 832