

# **GMM PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**November 14, 2023**

## **Loblaws Negotiations**

On October 22, our Loblaws members working at Superstore overwhelmingly ratified their new 5-year contract. Wage increases for top rate and over-scaled employees are 5.6% right away and another 3.3% in six months (March 31, 2024). Wage increases over the life of the agreement are 16% and members at the top rate for GM Clerks will receive a \$2.75 cent adjustment before the wage increases are applied. The senior clerk scale was eliminated so that all clerks now have a path to earn the top rate in the agreement. All members will receive a signing bonus of up to \$750 and new app based scheduling will give part-time employees the ability to work more hours and have a greater work/life balance. We also created more full-time jobs and increased employer contributions to the dental and health and welfare plans. All of this was only possible with the incredibly strong strike vote our members gave the committee at the beginning of September so a huge thank you to the Superstore members of Manitoba for helping us to bring you the best Loblaws contract in 25 years!

## **THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION**

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Manitobans elected a new NDP government under Premier Wab Kinew marking the first time an Indigenous person was elected to the top office in any Canadian province. Having an Indigenous Premier is a huge step towards reconciliation, and Premier Kinew has stated that his government is committed to making real change happen in their first 100 days in office and Manitobans seem genuinely hopeful for the future of our province. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this election victory possible and helped to elect a government that cares about working people and the average Manitoban.

## **CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS INDIGENOUS LOBBY**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, a delegation from Local 832 travelled to Ottawa to work with other affiliates of the CLC to lobby government on three important issues facing our Indigenous community in Canada today. Our delegates had the opportunity to lobby Senators and MP's on clean drinking water, MMIWG2S and the landfill search in Winnipeg. The event was widely successful and commitments were made by representatives of all of the federal political parties.

## **LIGHT THE NIGHT WALK**

Once again, Local 832 participated in the Leukemia Lymphoma Society of Canada's "Light the Night Walk" in St. Vital Park in September. UFCW Locals across Canada raised more than \$2 million for leukemia research last year and are hoping to surpass that amount for 2023.

## **LOCAL 832 YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM (YEP)**

From October 20-22 we had our second YEP conference in October and got some good feedback from participants about how we can make this program even better. The program gives our young members the opportunity to learn more about unions generally and UFCW specifically as well as enabling them to hone their activism. It's our intention to keep improving the experience through suggestions from participants and to conduct the conference again in 2023.

## **MINIMUM WAGE CHANGES**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the provincial minimum wage in Manitoba grew from \$14.15 per hour to \$15.30. This means Manitoba has the third highest minimum wage out of Canadian Provinces (some territories are higher). Our new government has stated they are committed to getting minimum wage to a living wage over a period of time which is defined by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives as being \$18.34 per hour. We are anticipating that the provincial minimum wage will increase again in 2024 but we won't know how much until the announcement is made on April 1, 2024.

## **SAFeway TRUST**

On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the long-awaited transition of the plan administrator from PBAS to Blue Cross took place. Members of the Safeway Health and Welfare Trust who work at Safeway (and a small number of members at FreshCo), Red River Co-op, Gruppo Bimbo or Agropur will now submit their claims through the member portal at Blue Cross. Any plan member who has any issues with submitting their claim should speak to their full-time Union Representative whose contact information can be found on the bulletin board in their workplace or by going to [ufcw832.com](http://ufcw832.com).

As reported by:

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President

UFCW Local 832