

PRESIDENTS REPORT TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

MAY 14, 2019

HEALTHCARE VOTES

As an update to my last report, our Provincial Government continues to make poorly planned decisions regarding changes to our healthcare system and our best guess is that the votes will be conducted late this spring and early this summer.

For more up to date information you can go to our We are the Front Line webpage at ufcw832.com.

MAPLE LEAF BARGAINING

In preparation for negotiations this spring we held two extremely well attended member forums at our Brandon office on April 6th and 26th. More than 150 members attended and got an update on the state of the industry and the impact of Asian Swine Flu on pork demand around the world, as well as a detailed breakdown on their benefit plans from the plan administrator.

Bargaining is scheduled to begin when we meet with the bargaining committee on June 5th and 6th to finalize the proposals we are still collecting from our members, and our first dates with the company are now scheduled for June 26th and 27th.

FRESHCO CONVERSIONS

The two Safeway stores that Sobeys is currently converting to their FreshCo banner had their grand opening on May 2nd and they were very well received by the public with customers waiting in line around the block to be the first ones in the new stores.

The company also opened several locations in B.C. in late April and they are hoping the new banner will change their fortunes in Western Canada.

SASKATOON CO-OP

UFCW Local 1400 in Saskatoon has finally reached and ratified a new contract with Saskatoon Co-op after 167 days on the picket line. The new contract does not contain an oppressive two-tiered system for wages and benefits and provides all current employees with strong wage increases of 2% per year over the next 5 years.

I want to thank the 14 Activists from Local 832 who travelled to Saskatoon to work on the picket lines and walk with our brothers and sisters from Local 1400.

ACTIVIST CONFERENCE

Our 2019 Activist Conference was held from May 6-9 at the Fairmont Winnipeg and by all accounts was a huge success. About 300 delegates from across Manitoba gathered in Winnipeg to hear from many keynote speakers, attend workshops that were designed to be industry specific and started getting prepared for what will likely be an early provincial election.

The theme of the conference was 100 years forward, building on our past as the conference was held the week before the 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike that started on May 15th, 1919.

1919 GENERAL STRIKE 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The Manitoba Federation of Labour and all unions in Manitoba will be participating in a wide range of events in conjunction with the anniversary. There will be a Gala dinner at the RBC Convention Centre on May 15th, a parade on May 25th sponsored by UFCW Local 832, a social at the Ukrainian Labour Temple and a concert at the Exchange District on June 8th.

As reported by:

Jeff Traeger

President

UFCW Local 832