

# PRESIDENTS REPORT TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

February 12, 2018



## **HEALTHCARE**

At our last General Membership Town Hall meeting on November 21st, 2017, Union Representatives Carmela Abraham and Joe Carreiro provided all of our members with an update on the changes in the healthcare system and the deletions and bumping processes that are affecting our members.

Although Bills 28 and 29 were passed in the legislature in June of 2017, government has still not proclaimed either one leaving our members in limbo. The group of unions that launched a challenge to Bill 28 last year have requested an injunction and the courts will be hearing the case in late May of this year.

## **SOBEYS BARGAINING**

We were set to start bargaining with Sobeys for the Safeway banner on December 7th and 8th, 2017 but the Company cancelled bargaining in advance of the announcement they made that they will be converting 25% of all Safeway stores in Western Canada to their discount banner – FreshCo.

We started bargaining on January 15th, 2018 where the company tabled massive concessions and then broke off bargaining for the next 3 days. We were schedule to resume for 4 days starting January 29th but tragically, the lead negotiator for the Company suffered a death in the family and those dates were also cancelled.

We are next meeting February 6-9 and I will give a quick update on the telephone town hall meeting on February 12th.

## **RED RIVER CO-OP BARGAINING**

Bargaining with Red River Co-op began on December 19th, 2017 and your Secretary Treasurer Bea Bruske is heading up negotiations for the union.

Because this is the first time we have bargained with Red River Co-op there are a large number of proposals on the table to deal with changing the agreement to a Co-op style of contract and not one bargained by Safeway.

Negotiations are continuing in February and the expiry date of that agreement is the same as Sobeys – March 17, 2018.

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## **SECURITY GUARD MINIMUM WAGE**

Despite the fact that the government asked the Labour Management Review Committee (LMRC) to provide a report on this legislation, and that all of the stakeholders were in agreement that the wage should be restored as it was originally intended, government has decided to keep the current minimum wage for security guards frozen where it is until the general minimum wage catches up – which will likely take close to a decade.

At the LMRC, unionized and non-unionized employers, the labour caucus and the management caucus all agreed that the wage should be restored. So if government isn't listening to any of them or to the committee assigned to give them advice on labour law...then just who are they listening to?

## **LABOUR MANAGEMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

In addition to the Security Guard Minimum wage, the committee has been asked to review the legislation on parental leave and critical injury leave to make recommendations on expanding those leaves to match the new federal legislation as well as several other amendments to employment standards.

The committee met on January 17th and 29th and will be submitting their recommendations to government in early February.

## **UNIFOR**

On January 16th, 2018 UNIFOR's National Executive Board voted to disaffiliate from the Canadian Labour Congress. All of us in the labour movement are very concerned by this decision as we know that a united labour movement is a stronger one.

The fallout from this development means that UNIFOR representatives on provincial federations of labour and district labour councils will have to be removed from their positions leaving many vacant positions on the various committees and boards attached to those bodies.

## **UFCW INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

Elections for delegates to the UFCW International Convention in April were concluded on January 24th, 2018.

For a detailed list of the delegates who will be attending the convention that is held once every 5 years, please go to our website at [ufcw832.com](http://ufcw832.com).

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Our new Executive Board was sworn in on January 26th, 2018 for their 4 year term of office running to December 31, 2021. Conducting the ceremony was UFCW Canada National President Paul Meinema. Photos from the ceremony as well as individual photos and bios of all the members of your Executive Board can also be found on our website.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Traeger'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Jeff Traeger**

President  
UFCW Local 832