

# PRESIDENTS REPORT TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

May 8, 2018



## **ARYTZA STRIKE**

On Monday April 30th our more than 200 members working at Arytza (formerly Gourmet Baker) were locked out by their employer after more than a year of difficult talks finally broke down.

The heart of the issue is shifts and scheduling, but the company is offering much less in wages than would be reasonable given the work our members are being asked to do. Negotiators from both the union and the company are working hard to find a resolution to their differences and put an end to the dispute.

If you're in the Inkster industrial park, take a minute to walk the line with your fellow UFCW members – the pickets are up 24/7.

## **SOBEYS BARGAINING**

After more than half a year of preparations and negotiations including a 97% strike vote and the threat of being locked out by the employer, Safeway members across Manitoba voted overwhelmingly to accept a new 4 year contract on March 25th.

The bargaining committee held steadfast to protecting the many advantages Safeway workers get in their collective agreement, and although the company is widely known to be struggling with the Safeway banner in the Western provinces the committee was successful in achieving modest monetary gains.

Part of the deal was an agreement to sit down and negotiate a separate FreshCo contract that will be a part of your province-wide agreement with Safeway, and we will begin that process on May 9th.

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

Now that Safeway bargaining is complete, it's time to look at finishing the Red River Co-op agreement which expired March 16th. The company had their lead negotiator leave the company during bargaining so we have been waiting until that position was filled and the new person brought up to speed before getting back to the table.

Since the company has now replaced that position, the parties have scheduled several dates in late May to meet again in the hopes of finalizing a tentative agreement that the committee can recommend to our Red River Co-op members.

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## **LOBLAW BARGAINING**

The next big challenge for the Local at the bargaining table is to renew the Loblaw agreement which expires September 27, 2018. This round will be the first renewal of the No Frills agreement so we expect there to be many discussions about improving the working lives of our No Frills members.

We have had two member forums at the Training Centre as well as a meeting with all of our Shop Stewards to begin preparations and we have polled the entire membership for proposals. Our bargaining committee has been selected and can be found on our website under the Loblaw 2018 page.

Bargaining starts May 29th with dates scheduled every month between now and the end of September so check the website often for regular video updates.

## **HEALTHCARE**

At our 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.

Unfortunately, those changes also meant a significant disruption in the placement and number of staff which has led to huge amounts of overtime being requested from our members. Morale at the St. Boniface and Grace Hospitals is at an all-time low and government has plans to cut even more and deeper.

As if that wasn't enough, government is still threatening to enact Bill 29 that would trigger a process leading to rationalization votes in healthcare across Manitoba. Stay tuned to our We Are The Front Line campaign webpage to keep up to the latest news that affects our healthcare members.

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## **UFCW INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

18 elected delegates to the 8th Regular Convention of the UFCW attended the event that takes place once every 5 years and includes the elections of our International Executive Board officers.

The week- long event also included Nearly 100 debated resolutions to amend the constitution and set the course of priorities for our union for the next half a decade, as well as key note addresses from our International President and many other International Labour leaders.

## **WINNIPEG LABOUR COUNCIL**

On March 20th, elections were held at a general meeting of the Winnipeg Labour Council (WLC) to replace several key vacant positions on the executive and three UFCW Local 832 members will now sit on the body that oversees the WLC.

The First Vice-President is Debbie Jones from Garda Security, The Second Vice-President is Mike Kelly from the Manitoba Federation of Labour Occupational Health Centre and Tim Fleming from Garda Security is now the Statistician.

Congratulations to all 3 UFCW members and all the best in their new roles at the WLC.

## **MFL CONVENTION**

The Manitoba Federation of Labour (MFL) triennial convention will take place from May 24-27th at the Convention Centre in Winnipeg. Delegates from all around Manitoba will be there and Local 832 will be sending a large delegation once again this year.

There will be many guest speakers and special events during convention and elections for all officers will take place. I will be running for a third term as Secretary Treasurer at this year's convention.

## **NDP CONVENTION**

The NDP convention took place May 4-6 in Brandon at the Keystone Centre and UFCW had several delegates in attendance. We originally had a larger group attending but many stayed behind to help run the picket lines at Atytza.

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## EXECUTIVE BOARD

One of our long serving and extremely active Executive Board members has left Manitoba to work with her sister in Kelowna BC. Ashley Morello from Old Dutch moved on in February and her fellow Board members and all of us at 832 sincerely wish Ashley all the best in her new adventure.

At our last Board meeting, we swore in Laura Cote from the Lorette Marketplace to serve on the board for the 4-year term vacated by Ashley.

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

**Jeff Traeger**

President  
UFCW Local 832