

# PRESIDENTS REPORT TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

November 13, 2018



## **LOBLAW BARGAINING**

Loblaws bargaining came right down to the wire again this time around and with the contract set to expire at midnight on September 27, negotiations in the final week went around the clock.

Just before 4 am on the early morning of September 28, a tentative agreement was reached with the employer for the more than 3,600 Superstore, Extra Foods and No Frills members in Manitoba.

Ratification meetings were held across the province on Sunday October 14th and the new 5 year contract was ratified by 90% of the members who attended the meetings.

Among many other improvements, the deal includes significant improvements to the health and welfare benefit plan that will be rolled out over the next two years.

I want to thank the hard working members of your bargaining committee and the Loblaws members of Manitoba for their strong strike vote making this deal possible.

## **FRESHCO CONVERSIONS**

Conversions of two Safeway stores at Jefferson & McPhillips and at Kildonan Crossing to FreshCo stores is underway as these two stores are now closed and undergoing renovations.

Members have now chosen from a variety of options allowed to them through this process including buy outs or buy downs, bumping into another Safeway or - if they are in the most senior group – staying at the new store under the economics of the old agreement.

The stores are slated to open their doors for business in the spring of 2019 and details of the FreshCo agreement can be found on our website at [UFCW 832.com](http://UFCW832.com).

## **SASKATOON CO-OP**

23 locations of Saskatoon Co-op stores have been on strike against their employer since midnight November 1, 2018 and the members of UFCW Local 1400 based in Saskatoon are standing strong.

Whenever there's a crisis for UFCW members anywhere, Local 832 comes to their aide and this strike is no different. To help make the strike successful, we have sent three experienced Union Representatives to Saskatoon to assist our sister local in keeping the lines up and running.

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Some of our members are directly affected by the dispute as we were scheduled to negotiate with Co-op for our members working in Dauphin all last week. Those talks were cancelled by the company because of the dispute which freed up our negotiator to help out on the picket lines.

Talks are continuing, but the company is serious about achieving major concessions for new hires so the dispute could be a lengthy one.

## **HEALTHCARE**

Since our last General Membership Town Hall meeting in May, Union Representatives Carmela Abraham and Joe Carreiro along with lead negotiator Marie Buchan have been kept busy by our Provincial Government and by the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority attending meetings to discuss a wide array of changes currently being made to our healthcare system.

Unfortunately, those changes have meant significant disruption for our members in Winnipeg while our members working in the North have so far been insulated from similar changes.

The most recent communication we have received from the special commissioner assigned to execute the Healthcare Bargaining Unit Review Act indicates only that the votes will be held "sometime in 2019".

UFCW members working in healthcare can keep up with the latest news by going to the "We Are The Frontline" tab on our website which is updated with news of events as they happen.

## **POLICY CONFERENCE**

Our annual Policy Conference for our Executive and Advisory Board members will be held at the UFCW Training Centre in Winnipeg on November 29th.

The two boards meet once a year to get an update on the state of the union, discuss policy changes to be implemented in the coming year and to provide our Secretary Treasurer with recommendations on the budget for 2019.

## **UFCW LOCAL OF THE YEAR**

In a rare honour from our UFCW International office representing hundreds of locals and over 1.3 million UFCW members, Local 832 has been named by the Minority Coalition as the "Local of the Year for 2018."

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We have been recognized because of the strong work we do representing temporary foreign workers in Brandon and Neepawa and for our ongoing efforts to recognize the diversity of our membership in all communities, but specifically in the LBGTQ2S and Indigenous communities.

The award will be presented at a gala event in Washington DC on November 17th.

## 2019 EVENTS

Looking ahead to next year, 2019 will be a busy one as we will be very involved in the celebrations around the anniversary of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike. There will be a celebration dinner, a large social, a parade and several concerts all being held in May and June next year and all meant to celebrate the history of labour since Canada's largest labour dispute.

From May 6-9, 2019 we will be having our bi-annual Activist Conference at the Fairmont Hotel where we will be bringing Shop Stewards, Health & Safety Committee members and bargaining committee representatives from all around the province to hear from many keynote speakers and to build new relationships.

If you are interested in finding out more details or getting involved in the celebrations contact your union representative or go to our website at [ufcw832.com](http://ufcw832.com)

We will also be busy bargaining for our members at Maple Leaf in Brandon where that contract is set to expire on December 31st. Since the Hylife contract in Neepawa expires just a month after that, negotiations for those members will begin next fall as well making for a busy year at the bargaining table for more than 3,000 members working at those two plants.

At some point next year we will also be campaigning for the votes that the government has mandated in the healthcare sector and lobbying our provincial government to reinstate the Security Guard Minimum Wage legislation that they cancelled in 2017.

As reported by:

President  
UFCW Local 832