

PRESIDENTS REPORT TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

September 11, 2018



LOBLAW BARGAINING

Since May of this year, we have been at the table with Loblaw to renew our Province-wide contract that covers all three of the Company's current banners in Manitoba – Superstore, Extra Foods and No Frills.

The two bargaining committees have met every month since May and are scheduled for round the clock talks in the last two weeks before the contract expires on September 27th.

Updates on the progress from the table are posted on our website right after every round of bargaining along with commentary on the tone of negotiations from your committee members.

Over the next week or so, keep watching for a membership meeting that will be called to review the details of what has been discussed so far and to give your bargaining committee a strike mandate if necessary.

FRESHCO BARGAINING

Following the renewal of the Sobeys/Safeway agreement this March, we concluded negotiations with the Company on the terms and conditions for their new banner known as FreshCo.

Within a week of the conclusion of those talks, the Company announced that they would be converting the Safeway stores on McPhillips St. and at Kildonan Crossing to the new banner.

The stores will close for renovations this October and re-open as FreshCo in the spring of 2019. The members currently working there will have many options in the transition including buyouts 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.

Details can be found under the 'member resources' section of our website.

RED RIVER CO-OP BARGAINING

The Red River Co-op agreement which expired March 16th was ratified by our members in late August of this year after a tough round of negotiations. On two separate occasions, the company had their lead negotiator resign during bargaining so talks were delayed while that position was filled and the new person was brought up to speed before getting back to the table.

Many aspects of the new deal mirror the Safeway agreement but many others now make the agreement specific to Red River Co-op as they inherited the Safeway agreement four years ago when they purchased the locations.

As with the Safeway agreement or the FreshCo appendix, the Red River Co-op contract details are available on our website.

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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.

With Bill 29 now proclaimed, we are anticipating that rationalization votes in healthcare across Manitoba will begin sometime this fall. Stay tuned to our 'We Are The Front Line' campaign webpage to keep up with the latest news that affects our healthcare members.

MFL CONVENTION

The Manitoba Federation of Labour (MFL) triennial convention took place from May 24-27th at the Convention Centre in Winnipeg. Local 832 sent a large number of delegates who heard from several keynote speakers, elected the MFL Executive Council members for the next three-year term and debated a wide variety of resolutions that will set the direction for the MFL until the next convention in 2021.

I was elected for my third term as Secretary-Treasurer and Marie Buchan and Blake Crothers have been appointed to serve as MFL Executive Council Vice-Presidents.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY

In June, we had the honour of hosting UFCW Canada's celebration of National Indigenous Peoples Day at our Training Centre. UFCW delegates from across Canada attended and were treated to a tour of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, a full day workshop presented by the First Nations Child and Caring Society and dinner at The Feast which is one of Canada's few restaurants that specializes in Indigenous recipes.

The celebration gets bigger every year and Local 832 will be supporting the event in 2019 wherever it is scheduled to be held.

TRAINING CENTRE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

On June 20th we held our annual high school graduation ceremony at the Training Centre in Winnipeg.

38 students received their high school diploma - which was our largest graduating class ever – and the event included the awarding of several scholarships that we present each year.

If you are interested in applying for a scholarship or if you are considering completing your grade 12 contact our Centre in Winnipeg at 204 775-8329.

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UFCW STAFF COMMUNITY EVENT

Just prior to the end of the school year this June the staff of Local 832 shut down the office over the lunch hour to give back to the community we live and work in. We all travelled to Shaughnessy Park School and served the more than 400 students lunch including a hot dog, chips, a drink and an ice cream treat.

The event was a huge success and the smiles on the faces of those children will be remembered by all of us for a very long time. A big thank you goes out to Union Representative Ron Allard (a Shaughnessy Park alumni) for organizing the event.

National Defense Fund

This summer we attended the annual National Defense Fund Convention which was held in Saskatoon during the first week of July. With a large number of retail grocery members now covered by the fund which provides extra strike pay to members, this year's focus was on the many changes we are seeing in the industry and the impending contract renewals coming up around the country over the next two years.

Preparations are underway for 2020 when Local 832 will host the convention at the Fairmont Hotel in downtown Winnipeg.

Chuck McCormick

Finally, and on a sad note, former Union Representative for Local 832 and life-long activist Chuck McCormick passed away unexpectedly this summer.

Chuck will be remembered as a tireless advocate for working people and a friend and ally to all who worked with him,

He will be fondly remembered and sorely missed.

Jeff Traeger

President
UFCW Local 832