



The Connector

IBEW Local 435

Volume 11 Issue 5 February 2017



BCE (Bell) acquisition of MTS

On January 24th we met with representatives from TEAM, Unifor, Manitoba Federation of Labour and the Winnipeg Labour Council to discuss Bell's acquisition of MTS. It has now been announced that all approvals from Government have happened and March 17th the acquisition is set to close.

Unifor recently ratified their Collective Agreement and managed to get language and reassurances of jobs remaining in Manitoba.

The current IBEW/MTS Collective Agreement remains in effect and expires on January 31, 2018. It is the IBEW's intention of working with Bell and promoting the excellent work our members do on a daily basis in order to secure jobs and better wages and benefits. We will be looking at sitting down and having a discussion with Bell representatives in the near future to get a better understanding of their plans in Manitoba.

The Provincial Government is looking at Public Sector Wage Control

The Manitoba PC Government has announced that they are possibly looking at wage freezes, unpaid days off, changes to pensions and reopening Collective Agreements in the public sector in order to get the debt and budget under control. As you have probably seen in the news the Manitoba Federation of Labour and some of the Unions have been meeting with Government and a "Fiscal Working Group" was established with a mandate to explore solutions to balance the budget.

Quote from the MFL website:

"On February 9th, one day prior to the first meeting of the Fiscal Working Group, a government official emailed the Manitoba Federation of Labour a letter (dated February 8th) to indicate that the Fiscal Working Group is no longer intended to consider options to improve the government's fiscal situation, but rather, would focus only on the government's narrow legislative intentions which may include reduced worked weeks, predetermined wage settlements, changes to pensions and the re-opening of Collective Agreements."

Whatever the plan is from the PC Government we want to assure our Manitoba Liquor and Lotteries members that we will keep a close eye on the situation and work with the other Unions and Federation of Labour to combat any attacks on our Collective Bargaining Agreements.

On January 17, 2017 Daniel Blaikie met with us to discuss Bill C-27. Below is an editorial from Daniel on the subject (see picture on back page of Newsletter).

Federal Liberals Prepare Assault on Defined Benefit Pensions

Daniel Blaikie, M.P.
Elmwood-Transcona

How would you feel if you paid into a payment plan for twenty five years expecting to receive an asset, only to have it taken away at the end of the payment plan?

Imagine showing up at your bank to make the final payment on your mortgage and they told you: "Thank you for making payments all these years, but we can't afford to give up our claim on your house. Don't worry though, you can still live in it . . . unless our other investments don't work out, in which case we reserve the right to sell it."

That would be outrageous.

Banks should never be allowed to change the terms of a deal at the end, and employers shouldn't be allowed to either. Yet, the Trudeau Liberals are proposing to allow federally regulated companies to do exactly that to hundreds of thousands of pensioners with defined-benefit pension plans across Canada.

These pensioners spent decades paying into a pension fund in good faith on a promise that they would receive a defined, secure payment out of the fund during their retirement. They built their lifetime financial plan based on that promise . . . and they don't have the option of starting all over again.

Bill C-27 would allow employers to pressure their workers and retirees out of their defined-benefit pension into a 'target-benefit' plan. A **target-benefit plan** takes away the legal responsibility of employers to ensure a secure pension if the plan's investments are underperforming. A **defined-benefit plan** instead requires increased contributions by the employer to secure your pension.

In other words, all the risk of bad investment gets loaded onto the pensioner and the company is left totally off the hook.

While the pensioner's consent would be required to transition the plan, we know employers have tools at their disposal to push people toward the outcome they want. For instance, they could use the carrot of a one-time lump-sum payment to those who transition, or they could raise fears about the solvency of the defined-benefit plan to scare people out of it.

Bill C-27 will let employers wipe billions of dollars in pension liability off their books, while pensioners who thought they were set for life are left wondering if they have enough saved up to pay the bills. Once the precedent is set, provincial governments may decide to do the same.

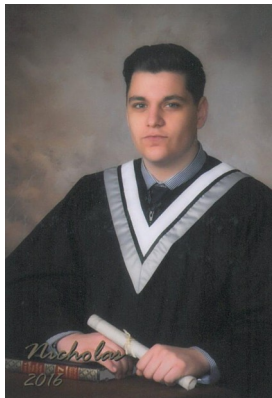
Pension promises must be honoured. The Prime Minister understood that during the campaign when he said: "[Defined Benefit Plans] which have already been paid for by employees and pensioners should not be retroactively changed into [Target Benefit Plans]." Unfortunately, he seems to have forgotten his promise.

Bill C-27 represents a serious attack on pension security in Canada. The government has no mandate for such a sweeping, destructive change. Let your MP know you want to stop Bill C-27.

Update: After workers Lobbied the Government and made their voices heard they agreed to put a freeze on this bill and hold consultations.

2016 EDUCATION BURSARY WINNERS

This past December we awarded 8 Education Bursaries to dependents of Local 435 members. We would like to congratulate the winners, and wish all the applicants continued success on their education. This information is also posted on the website under "News" www.ibew435.com.



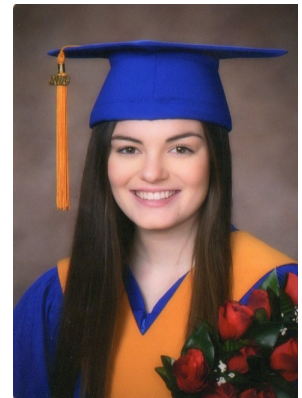
Nicholas Dreger
Son of
Tim Lewis
CO, Morris



Tara Bodz
Daughter of
Daniel Bodz
L/C, Winnipeg



Winnica Beltrano
Daughter of
Grace Beltrano
Gaming Tech, MBLL



Shannon Fredborg
Daughter of
Charles Fredborg
FST, Winnipeg



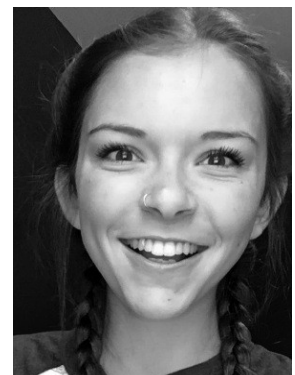
Lorissa Hartry
Daughter of
Dave Hartry
CO, Morden



Sarah Lyons
Daughter of
Bill Lyons
FST, Winnipeg



Evan Paulley
Son of
Robin Paulley
FST, Winnipeg



Meagan St. Hilaire
Daughter of
Ben St. Hilaire
L/C, Steinbach



Cont'd from page 2, pictured above are Bruce Krause, Daniel Blaikie, Richard Ferris and Don Senkow.

Communicating with our Members IBEW Local 435 & Social Media

Do we have your home email? If not please send it to us.

Did you know we have IBEW Local 435 Facebook and Twitter Pages?

We suggest you follow us and join our Facebook group to keep up to date.

Facebook Page: IBEW Local 435

Twitter: @BKrauseibew435

Both of these can be accessed from our website from the icons on the home page www.ibew435.com



Unit Meeting Schedule Jan to Jun 2017

| UNIT | GROUP | LOCATION | TIME | CHAIR | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun |
|---------|------------------------|--|---------|-----------------|-----|-----------|-----|-----------|-----|-----------|
| Unit 1 | Winnipeg | Canad Inns* | 5:30 PM | Ralph Yarjau | 16 | 21 | 20 | 17 | 23 | 19 |
| Unit 2 | Lotteries | Union Office 214-301 Weston St | 7:00PM | Rod Jones | 23 | 27 | 27 | 24 | 29 | 26 |
| Unit 5 | Alarm/Call Centre | Union Office 214-301 Weston St | 6:00PM | Lisa Hupe | 04 | 08 | 08 | 05 | 10 | 07 |
| Unit 8 | Brandon | Huggy's Restaurant 2140 Currie Blvd.. | 6:00 PM | Tyler Hawthorne | 10 | / | 14 | / | 16 | 13 |
| Unit 10 | Eastern | Peppercorns Rest, Selkirk/ <u>Lorette</u> | 6:00 PM | Derek Capri | / | <u>16</u> | 16 | <u>13</u> | 18 | <u>15</u> |
| Unit 11 | Portage/ Morden | Days Inn Portage | 6:30 PM | Vacant | 17 | / | 21 | / | 24 | 20 |
| Unit 15 | Thompson | Burntwood Inn | 4:45 PM | Graeme MacLaine | / | 09 | / | 06 | / | 08 |
| Unit 16 | The Pas / Flin Flon | TBA | 5:30 PM | Darcy Morden | 19 | / | 23 | / | 25 | 22 |
| Unit 17 | Dauphin | Canway Inn | 7:30 PM | Rob Gryba | 09 | / | 13 | / | 15 | 12 |
| | Executive Board | Union Office | 8:00 AM | Don Senkow | 03 | 07 | 07 | 04 | 09 | 06 |

***Unit 1 Canad Inns locations rotate and are posted on the website**
Unit Meetings schedule is also listed on the website at www.ibew435.com