



Newsletter

January 2020

Important Messages From Your Group Executive

Inside this issue

Many of you have been asking about our negotiations and Bill 28. The following summaries the current status of these two concerns.

P 1 –
Negotiations

Negotiations:

The Negotiations Team consists of Harald Larsen, Cory Graham, Asit Dey, Kris Maranchuk, and our negotiator, Pierre Ouellet. As most of you know, our Agreement expired at the end of March 2019. Since then, the Team met a number of times to develop a proposal for presentation to the Employer. This proposal was based on the results of the survey conducted in early 2019 in addition to input we received this past summer from a number of Members who responded to our ‘shout out’ requesting your top three concerns. The input we receive from the survey and, in particular, the ‘shout out’ was very beneficial to our efforts to compile our list of concerns to present to the Employer. Thank you to all who provided this invaluable input to the bargaining process.

P 2 – Bill 28 –
Public Service
Sustainability Act

The Negotiations Team has met with the Employer on November 20 and 21 when proposals were first presented to each other. Subsequent to that initial meeting, we met on December 11 and 12 to continue the process. Additional dates to meet with the Employer have been set up into late April 2020. Further information will be provided as these negotiations proceed.

P 2 – Member
Benefits

P 3 – Vice
President’s
Report

Bill 28 – Public Service Sustainability Act:

The court challenge of Bill 28 is underway with presentations by the plaintiffs (Unions) and the defendant (Province) occurring over several weeks in November and December. Closing arguments are scheduled for February 2020 and a decision will follow at a later date. Pierre, Cory and Harald were in attendance for one day of the presentations. This Act has been passed by the legislature but not yet proclaimed law. The Government’s intent of this Act is to limit salary increments related to cost of living to 0, 0, 0.75 and 1.0 percent in years 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively, following the expiry of the current Agreements.

P 3 – PIPSC
100th
Anniversary

P 4 – PIPSC
email addresses

P 4 – Labour
Relations

P 4 – Member
Engagement

This court challenge is supported by numerous Unions, including ours with the support of legal counsel from the Professional Institute of Professional Service of Canada. We will provide you further relevant information as it becomes available.

Group Executive:

President: Harald Larsen
Vice President: Cory Graham
Treasurer: Asit Dey
Secretary: Kris Maranchuk

Members at Large:
Yasir Shah, Sunny Sidhu, Mamdouh Thomas

Member Benefits:

For the past number of years now, Members of MAGE have been able to obtain discount passes for City of Winnipeg fitness facilities for themselves and family members. This continues to be a very popular benefit for many Members.

The Executive would like to offer similar benefits to Members of MAGE in other communities. To help us identify these facilities, please send us an email with information so we may investigate possible arrangements in your community.

We would also like to have your input on other possible discount suggestions that may be possible. These may include season tickets or even game day tickets to sports events (e.g. Brandon Wheat Kings, Winnipeg Goldeyes, Dauphin Kings, etc.), or perhaps live theatre, the symphony, etc. Other events could be attendance at a dinner theatre, comedy club, etc. The Executive needs your input and suggestions on how we can provide you the service, support and resources you would like and need.

One significant benefit provided to all Members of PIPSC is ServicePlus. It is your Member benefits program where you can take advantage of preferential rates, discounts and savings on a variety of products and services available exclusively to Members. Top brands are included for life insurance, travel, hotels, fitness, etc. PIPSC members are encouraged to join the Members Benefits Program and start saving today! More information on this can be found on PIPSC.ca website.

Vice President's Report:

Thank you for all the questions and concerns that have been brought forth in my tenure as Vice President, it is with these inquiries that the Executive is able to identify what the memberships' concerns are.

As already noted, we are in negotiations, but due to confidentiality requirements, I cannot speak to what is occurring at the bargaining table.

I would encourage everyone to confirm the email address they have on file with PIPSC Ottawa, as this email address is the only way that MAGE or PIPSC can contact you as Members, to keep you informed of the activities of the Union. We (MAGE Executive) have been specifically instructed not to contact Members directly, as we do not have the preferred method of communication information that you provided when you signed up to be part of the Union.

Winnipeg and Southern Manitoba Branch:

I have been on the Winnipeg and Southern Branch (WASMB) Executive of PIPSC for the past few years. This year, I was elected the secretary, and then due to the President and Vice President stepping down for personal reasons, I was voted as the interim Vice

President last November; and will remain until the election after the AGM in March. There will be an election for 6 executive members at the AGM in March, and I encourage as many MAGE members as possible to attend and participate.

As part of the Branch, I was able to attend the Prairie Regional Council in the spring of 2019, where PIPSC members from across MB, SK, AB and NWT gather to discuss union activities, bylaws and conduct the business of the organization in accordance with the Not For Profit Corporations Act. In addition, I was able to attend the PIPSC AGM in Gatineau, as a member of the Branch. The PIPSC AGM is a 2 day business meeting with delegates representing all regions of Canada; where resolutions, bylaws and the financial plans and budgets for PIPSC is determined. There was considerable discussion this year regarding Professionals Canada (a proposed affiliate organization to be created in order for non-unionized individuals to have some of the social and collective benefits of an organized group); but it was not passed by the voting delegates. Other resolutions to form committees, which created significant discussion were formation of a French Language Committee and an Environmental Committee (both were defeated).

As the acting Vice President, I attended the Prairie Regional Executive meeting in Winnipeg on Saturday, December 7, 2019 and I am happy to report that several activities and training opportunities are coming along with respect to the 100th Anniversary, Regional Council, Steward Council and Steward Training.

The WASMB Executive is comprised of PIPSC members representing several PIPSC Unions within Manitoba (including the Whiteshell laboratory engineers, Federal auditors, accountants, computer scientists, and nurses, to name a few). We discuss issues of concern to our Union members and formulate resolutions for action at the Regional Council and Regional Steward Council meetings. Again, this group provides a great forum for dialogue with different Unions to listen to their perspective on management issues. We also plan lunch and learn sessions for the general membership on various issues. The annual Christmas functions held in Winnipeg and Brandon are a great opportunity for MAGE members to interact with other union members from PIPSC. In past years, we have been well represented at these gatherings and all members are encouraged to attend. Other events such as the draw for Rainbow Stage Tickets, reduced fares at Bomber Games and Steward Appreciation events are also organized by the Branch, and MAGE members are encouraged to participate and become involved.

PIPSC 100th Anniversary:

PIPSC is celebrating their 100th Anniversary this year, and wishes all Members to celebrate with them! There will be activities planned for the 100th Anniversary throughout the year, keep an eye on the PIPSC website (<https://pipsc.ca>) for activities and functions. The Winnipeg Office will be having an open house on February 6, 2020, to coincide with the actual anniversary date.

Labour Relations:

The Group has a number of Stewards that are available to provide support to its Members on various matters. These include, but are not limited to, interpretation of the Collective Agreement and various policies established by the Employer and their effect on your working arrangement. They are representatives of PIPSC and MAGE and are a resource to the Membership they can call on for assistance in any matter related to the Group. If they do not have the answer, they will investigate with their peers and contacts to obtain the information needed.

If you have any concerns or need clarification/interpretation of various matters related to work, please do not hesitate to contact any Steward. They are listed on the Group's website at: <https://pipsc.ca/groups/mage>.

In addition to the Stewards, our Labour Relations Officer from PIPSC is Meira Gisser. Her office is located in Winnipeg on Broadway. Should you require her assistance on labour matters, she can be contacted by email at mgisser@pipsc.ca or by phone at (204) 942-1304 or (800) 665-0094 Ext. 3325

Member Engagement:

The Group Executive is in the midst of arranging an information session to present possible changes to the Group's Constitution. These changes will be formally presented at the next AGM.

The date for this event is February 4, 2020 starting at 5:00 p.m. A formal separate notice will be sent to the Membership prior to this event to confirm the venue. Please set aside this date in your calendar for this information session. We hope to see as many of you there. For those Members out of the immediate area of Winnipeg and are not able to attend but would like some information regarding these proposed changes, please contact one of the Members of the Group Executive.

Upcoming Event(s):

Besides the presentation of proposed changes to the Group's Constitution, the Group's next Annual General Meeting is being planned with a tentative date of April 8, 2020. At the AGM, there will be elections held for the positions of Vice President, Treasurer and one Member at Large.