

# TEAM TIMES

## TEAM-IFPTE LOCAL 161

### Profile of a Pension Lawsuit Witness

Finally TEAM et al v. MTS et al - Queen's Bench File No. CI 99-01-14589 went to trial on September 2, 2008. As previously reported our witnesses proved themselves competent and credible during the 13 week trial.

One of our witnesses, Mr. Harry Restall gave pre-trial evidence April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup> 2008. Harry Restall's role as a principle witness in the lawsuit is due to his extraordinary depth of knowledge and insight about the MTS pension plan and its administration. It was a role he never dreamed of when, in the early 1980s, the MTS personnel department asked him to become an

employee representative for the Superannuation Resource Liaison Committee!

In 1985, MTS employees voted Harry to be their sole representative to the Civil Service Superannuation Board, a position he held until 1988, preceding his retirement. As a Board member, Harry participated in the analysis of actuarial reports, and was active in preparing recommendations for the pension plan administrators. He helped ensure that the provincial superannuation pension fund remained healthy, that surpluses were invested wisely, and that ongoing changes in the administration of the



**Harry Restall**

fund served the interest of employees and retirees.

*continued on page 2 Harry Restall*

#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Harry Restall Principle Witness
- Office and Staff Changes
- President's message
- Bursaries
- Blue Cross Reopener

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### Board and staff development

A TEAM Board education seminar was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>. The seminar was facilitated by Ron Hayes of the Centre for Professional Excellence. The intensive two day workshop covered governance, effective meaningful meetings, using committees to extend

reach, strategic planning and follow-up decision making.

The seminar was well attended and the Board members felt that the time was well spent. "We are well positioned to move TEAM forward as an or-

ganization and respond to our changing environment," said TEAM President Misty Hughes-Newman. *continued on page 2 Board*

## Harry Restall (continued from Page 1)

With his retirement in 1989, Harry had a brief respite from his committee activities. In 1994 he returned, as one of two retiree representatives on the Board. During the 1996 privatization of MTS, employees and retirees deluged Harry with, "What is going to happen to my pension?" calls. Harry had to answer "I don't know".

Feeling a deep sense of responsibility to the people he represented, Harry was determined to investigate and provide answers.

And that is where the remarkable 12-year story of one of the largest lawsuits in Manitoba history, with Harry as a plaintiff, begins. When asked about the countless hours he has committed to the case, Harry replies "I couldn't even give you an estimate". Says Harry's wife Helen, "I call him Harry Brockovitch."

"We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Harry" said Bob Linsdell, Business Manager of TEAM, "and to Larry Trach TEAM Business Manager (retired) and lawsuit representative

for all three unions, for their tireless efforts on behalf of the employees and retirees of MTS."



*The first printed reference to Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1531*

*Did you know there are **no** split shifts in the TEAM Collective Agreement? Article 19 Hours of Work – A normal working day for employees shall consist of 7.5 consecutive*

## President's Message

It's hard to believe that the end of 2008 is nearly upon us. The year has flown by and TEAM has been very busy serving its members' needs. It was an eventful year with the pension lawsuit finally going to trial and ratifying our new contract. This round of negotiations touched everyone, and with your support, the Bargaining Committee was successful in negotiating a three year agreement with the company. Thank you for your support of the Bargaining Committee through a chal-

lenging yet successful year of bargaining, and for taking the time to go the Law Courts to support our witnesses at the pension lawsuit trial.

I wish you and yours all the best as we head into the holiday season. May health, happiness and prosperity be with you in 2009.

In Solidarity

*Misty Hughes-Newman*



*Board members at the 2008 Board Education session*

## Board and Staff Development (continued from page 1)

Misty Hughes-Newman stated "I'm very excited at the emphasis on using committees to get the work done. This structure allows members with a particular interest to participate and contribute to TEAM without having to become a board member or area representative.

We will be putting out a call

for member participation from time to time as issues need to be addressed and with the committee's terms of reference and time frames clearly defined, hope that more members will be able to make a short term commitment. We are currently working on the terms of reference for a number of committees and will be calling for volunteers

in the near future." Committees being developed include Governance, Finance, Pay and Benefits, Communications, Grievance, Strategic Planning, and Bargaining.

If you feel that you would like to work on a committee, please contact the TEAM office and identify your area of interest.

## Office & Staff Changes

Effective January 1, 2009 the TEAM staff structure and titles will change to better reflect the needs of organized professionals. The new structure includes a Labour Relations Specialist and a Labour Relations Analyst, positions that will be posted shortly. Bob Linsdell's title changes from Business Manager to Executive Director. The board and staff will be supported by an Executive Assistant and an Administrative Assistant.

## Annual General Meeting

Tentative Dates:

### Winnipeg

Wednesday February 25, 2009

Location: TBD

### Brandon

Thursday February 26, 2009

Location: TBD

Details and agenda to follow.



## TEAM News

### Possibility of a Reopener!

The Joint Benefits Committee (TEAM, CEP, IBEW and MTS) met on December 10, 2008. We do not anticipate that there will be an increase in the dental or group life insurance premiums in 2009. A number of initiatives are being discussed, including the implementa-

tion of a Blue Cross drug card and a reopener which the JBC's consultant, Strata Benefits Consulting Inc. is negotiating.

### Three New Board Members

Qwin De Brant, Donna Loszchuk and JoAnne Pelzer joined the TEAM Board in October 2008. Pelzer said "I was so impressed with the mo-

mentum TEAM-IFPTE had gained coming out of negotiations that I wanted to be part of this forward looking organization. It's members that make the difference." Interested in being on the Board? Contact Misty Hughes-Newman at [m.hughes-newman@teamunion.mb.ca](mailto:m.hughes-newman@teamunion.mb.ca)

*Article 21 Overtime — just book or bank it in ESS.*



*Kim Pododworny (far L) Chair of the Bursary Committee, and Louie Haklar (far R) with the 2007 & 2008 Bursary Recipients*

## Bursaries

On Wednesday November 19, 2008 TEAM hosted a reception to award and honour the recipients of the TEAM Bursary/Scholarships. There are up to six bursaries of \$500 available to be awarded annually to first year university or first

year community college of post secondary education students who are dependant on a TEAM member in good standing. As there was no awards ceremony in 2007 due to bargaining, eleven bursaries were awarded for 2007/2008. The recipients were all

outstanding and a credit to their parents! We wish them every success in their future studies. The 2009/2010 Bursary Application Form is available on the TEAM website.



## TEAM-IFPTE LOCAL 161

Advancing the social and economic welfare of our members.

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### Board Members

President Misty Hughes-Newman	941-5338	<a href="mailto:M.Hughes-Newman@teamunion.mb.ca">M.Hughes-Newman@teamunion.mb.ca</a>
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Board Member Roland Pokorny	958-2759	<a href="mailto:Roland.Pokorny@teamunion.mb.ca">Roland.Pokorny@teamunion.mb.ca</a>

### Out and About by B Robinson, Society of Energy Professionals—IFPTE 160

The Winnipeg Association of Public Service Officers (WAPSO) is about to become the newest Canadian IFPTE affiliate .

“Our environment is becoming much more challenging, and we’ll benefit from belonging to a larger organization,” said Bob Young, WAPSO’s Executive Director. “Affiliation with the IFPTE will help us bargain more strategically and communicate more effectively.”

WAPSO represents about 700 professional, and supervisory employees of the City of Winnipeg and Winnipeg’s Riverview Health Cen-

tre.

“I think it’s tremendous news,” said IFPTE Secretary-Treasurer Paul Shearon. “We’re moving west and growing.”

IFPTE Area VP (Canada) Misty Hughes –Newman is pleased to welcome WAPSO into the IFPTE family. “Only by working together can professionals understand and address their unique needs. TEAM and WAPSO look forward to advancing their common interests and encouraging other professionals to affiliate with the IFPTE.”



*The Board and Staff wish you and your family the Joys of the Holiday Season and a very Happy New Year*