

# Report to MFL Executive Council – April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## *TEAM-IFPTE Local 161*

---

- **Pension Lawsuit:** On February 10<sup>th</sup> the Manitoba Court of Appeal decided in favour of MTS, reversing the lower court's earlier \$100,000,000 award to members of the Defined Benefit Pension Plan. This was a disappointing turn of events for plan members, some of whom had retired 10+ years prior to the Conservative government's privatization of MTS.

Based on the advice of our respective lawyers, on April 10<sup>th</sup>, TEAM, CEP, IBEW and the retirees submitted an application seeking leave to appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada.

The Leave Application is available on the TEAM website.

- **Out of Scope Positions:** MTS refused to provide information requested by TEAM regarding work being done by employees who the Company unilaterally deemed to be out of scope. After referring the matter to Ottawa, the CIRB ordered MTS to provide the requested information.
- **Missing \$400,000 Blue Cross Health Plan Surplus:** Despite compelling evidence provided to Manitoba Blue Cross at a meeting in September, supporting our position that the surplus belongs to plan members, the Blue Cross CEO and President did not accept that the plan is, or has operated as, a refund account. Again, Blue Cross did not provide documentation to support their claim to the surplus i.e. a non-refund account. Blue Cross did propose a minor, and unacceptable, premium adjustment as settlement to our claim. Recent discussions have been more positive, and an acceptable resolution appears to be on the horizon.
- **Health and Safety:** MTS wants to utilize TEAM members as Company Representatives on Health and Safety committees. TEAM, with the support of the other unions (CEP and IBEW), is opposed to this. MTS has enough out of scope staff available to act as Company representatives on the committees. We are waiting to hear the decision of the government Health and Safety Officer.

Submitted by:

Bob Linsdell,  
Executive Director, TEAM-IFPTE Local 161