



**Manitoba  
Government  
and General  
Employees'  
Union**

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**ANY QUESTIONS?**

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March 5, 2018

Mayor Brian Bowman  
510 Main Street  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

*via email mayorbowman@winnipeg.ca*

Dear Mayor Brian Bowman,

I'd like to request a meeting to discuss the comments made to members of the media by yourself and your Chief Operating Officer (COO) regarding the respectful workplace complaint involving Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Chief, John Lane. I was disappointed and surprised by the tone and content of your comments and those of your COO.

The arbitrator's ruling this week found that senior leadership at the City had engaged in disrespectful and inappropriate behavior and had failed to take appropriate action on these problems once they were confirmed, and also found that the Chief had not been forthright in his testimony about this serious matter.

Despite these serious findings, when our members listened to the response from the City's highest officials, they did not hear even a slight commitment that the City would take any steps to change the behavior of leadership at the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS). Instead, they heard the Mayor and COO express full confidence, without reservation, in the leadership of the WFPS. They heard the City, in effect, saying that it will continue to condone the unacceptable behavior identified in the arbitrator's ruling. This is most disheartening to our members who had hoped that this ruling would be the first step towards changing the workplace culture at WFPS for the better.

The MGEU wants to move past this, and you know from our conversation that we never wanted to be in this position in the first place. We look at this ruling as an opportunity to turn the page and have a fresh start at the Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Service. We are looking to you to lead that change, and you have my full commitment we will be there to work with you every step of the way.

The workplace culture in the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service has to change and together we can make that happen.

I look forward to meeting with you to discuss this further. Please contact my Executive Assistant, Holly Mamchur at 204-982-6416.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gawronsky  
MGEU President  
MG/hm

