



BRIAN BOWMAN
MAYOR • MAIRE

March 9, 2018

Michelle Gawronsky
MGEU President
Manitoba Government and General Employees' Union
601-275 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB B3C 4M6

Dear Ms. Gawronsky,

Thank you for your March 5th, 2018 letter inviting me to discuss the importance of improving workplace culture within the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service. I understand our staff are attempting to arrange and schedule a time that will work for both of us, and I look forward to the opportunity to meet with you again.

I want to thank you for expressing a desire to turn the page and have a fresh start. On that point, I can assure you we are in agreement.

I do want to clarify the suggestion in your letter that my support for the current Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Chief is "without reservation".

My public comments on this matter, which may have been made after your letter was written and submitted, made clear that while I continue to support the Chief it was also my expectation that he review the arbitration ruling, that he accept it as a learning opportunity, and that moving forward in a spirit of collaboration with the Union and its members was absolutely required.

It is my understanding that since my public comments were made, Chief Lane has taken the initial steps to begin moving forward, and it is my hope that he can be a leader in finding a path forward in repairing trust and returning confidence in not only his leadership, but also within the entire service itself.

Lastly, I do want to acknowledge the hurt, marginalization, and loss of trust many of your members have been feeling throughout this process. In these instances, it can sometimes be too easy to judge how a person should feel based on what triggers

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their emotions. When that happens, we can sometimes lose sight of the fact that despite the trigger, people are feeling hurt and alone and as leaders, political or otherwise, we cannot allow ourselves to lose sight of that. I want to assure you, and your members, that their work and commitment to ensuring the health and safety of Winnipeggers is incredibly valued.

I do agree with you the workplace culture in the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service has to change, and I am certainly looking forward to Chief Lane leading that change.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Brian Bowman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right and curving upwards at the end.

Brian Bowman
MAYOR