

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
September 23, 2019**

CUPE / *Canadian Union
of Public Employees*
Local 500

TO: All Central Council Delegates

RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings:

The following is my monthly report of the activities and issues facing the Local since our last Central Council meeting:

LABOUR DAY MARCH

This year's Labour Day march was well attended by labour unions/associations and members of the community.

The annual event hosted by the Winnipeg Labour Council, is an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the hard-fought victories by unions for working people from the past year, and years before.

The march began from the new monument commemorating the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike near city hall and ended at the Manitoba Legislature. This year marks the 100th anniversary of the strike which saw about 35,000 workers walk off the job.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's event.

SECURITY SCREENING MEASURES – MILLENNIUM LIBRARY

On September 9, the City's Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks met to consider the written report and recommendations of the Winnipeg Public Service with respect to Millennium Library screening measures.

In the report, a number of recommendations were voted in favour of including the addition of two community crisis workers, the creation of a community-led cultural provider program, staff training in non-violent crisis intervention and a new space for crisis workers in the lobby.

The committee did not vote in favour of modifications to streamline the existing security measures to replace the hand held metal detectors and bag searches. However, the current security measures will remain in place until the recommended alternatives are approved for funding, are implemented and show a reduction in the safety threat to library staff and visitors.

In our presentation to the Committee, the Local restated our concern for the safety and health of our members and supported all of the recommendations outlined in the report. We also echoed other presenters on the need for immediate and community-led support to members of our community struggling with addictions, as well as a strong poverty reduction plan in Manitoba. The issue of safety at the library is not in a silo. It is part of a greater need that requires decision makers at all levels of government to address.

The Local will continue to work with library management in response to any workplace safety concerns from Library staff. Both the Provincial Health & Safety legislation and the CUPE 500/City of Winnipeg collective agreement, mandate the requirement to place safety concerns as priority workplace issues.

Please watch for further updates as new information becomes available.

PROVINCIAL ELECTION RESULTS – PALLISTER ELECTED TO SECOND TERM

Over the last three years, the Pallister government has thrown our health care system into chaos, slashed social programs and public services, and attacked worker's rights. And just shortly after being elected to a second term, Premier Pallister released his 100-Day Action Plan that signals further spending cuts, staffing reductions, privatization, asset and Crown Land sales and anticipated sweeping changes to education.

Pallister's austerity agenda has, and will continue to be disastrous for working families and worker rights in Manitoba. CUPE and the labour movement must continue to work in partnership with community and coalitions groups, anti-poverty advocates and environmental groups in our efforts to protect public services. The Communities Not Cuts coalition has been on the front line in fighting Pallister's austerity agenda, and CUPE is proud to be an active member of this growing movement.

By being united with others, we can protect our jobs, protect our communities and protect the vital public services our members, our friends and families rely on.

ATU/CITY OF WINNIPEG NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE

Congratulations to the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) 1505 on reaching a tentative agreement with the City of Winnipeg.

ATU's bargaining team have been at the negotiating table since January of this year. and have fought hard to ensure a fair deal for their members.

ATU 1505 represents over 1,400 Winnipeg Transit operators and maintenance workers in Winnipeg and Brandon. Members will be voting on the tentative agreement September 29 through October 4.

2019 FEDERAL ELECTION

On October 21, Canadians will head to the polls to elect their Members of Parliament and a new government. As CUPE members, this election is an opportunity to elect a government that will strengthen our public services, and create good-paying jobs for workers.

CUPE has produced a series of fact sheets about the key issues in this election. Read more about where the current government has fallen short and how we can improve the lives of workers across the country at cupe.ca/cupe-votes. Please share this information with your fellow members, family and friends.

Every election matters and this one is no different. Let's make sure our voices are heard during this election by casting your vote.

You can also make a difference by getting involved with the Local's political action committee. If you have a few hours to volunteer to help out a candidate, please contact Nicholas McClurg, Political Action Chair, nicholasmcclurg@gmail.com.

GOOD OF THE UNION:

Upcoming events:

**Global Climate Strike – Winnipeg – September 27, Noon – 5:00 pm,
Manitoba Legislature**

On September 27th, cities across Canada will join Swedish activist Greta Thunberg's call for a general strike for the climate. The Winnipeg event is being spearheaded by the Manitoba Youth for Climate Action, a group of young people who began walking out of school in the hundreds once a month to demand climate action.

On September 18, CUPE's National Executive Board adopted a resolution supporting the Global Week of Climate Action. CUPE 500 encourages all our members to join in solidarity and support of this critical call to action for climate justice.

Orange Shirt Day – September 30

September 30 is Orange Shirt Day, which raises awareness about the residential school system and its traumatic impact on Indigenous peoples in Canada. On September 30 wear an orange shirt to honour those who survived Residential Schools and remember those who didn't. It's an opportunity to listen, keep the discussion on all aspects of residential school open, learn and understand.

CONCLUSION:

Please share this current issues document with your co-workers.

In solidarity,



GORD DELBRIDGE
President

/kb LSU