

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
October 28, 2019**

CUPE / *Canadian Union
of Public Employees*
Local 500

TO: All Central Council Delegates

RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BARGAINING UPDATES

Local 500 members working at the St. Boniface Museum have ratified a new collective agreement. The new agreement will provide members with improvements in a number of areas such as training and development, inclement weather and hours of work. The new agreement will expire on December 31, 2022.

JOINT LABOUR MANAGEMENT MEETING – CITY/LOCAL 500

On September 25, a joint labour management meeting took place between Local 500 and the City of Winnipeg.

The purpose of these meetings is to provide a forum for meaningful consultation and discussion between the employer and the union regarding workplace issues and matters of mutual concern (i.e. city-wide policies, programs, and operational issues). It is not a substitute for the grievance procedure and collective bargaining process.

Both parties have agreed to meet on a quarterly basis and alternate meeting locations.

The next meeting has been tentatively set for December.

FEDERAL ELECTION

On October 21, Canadians elected a Liberal minority government. While it wasn't the outcome we were hoping for, workers will now have a strong voice in Parliament given the NDP hold the balance of power.

CUPE will continue to work with the NDP to make the sure that the new government respects its promises to Canadians. Justin Trudeau will have to translate his campaign commitments into meaningful actions to fight climate change, to create a public and universal pharmacare program, and to make life more affordable for Canadian families.

CUPE and the NDP will also work together to push the government to act to increase tax fairness and to strengthen public services.

Congratulations to re-elected Manitoba NDP candidates Niki Ashton (Churchill-Keewatinook Aski) and Daniel Blaikie (Elmwood-Transcona), and newly elected MP Leah Gazan (Winnipeg Centre).

Thank you to our members and staff who volunteered during this election campaign.

CUPE NATIONAL CONVENTION 2019

CUPE members and staff from across Canada gathered at CUPE's bi-annual convention held from October 6 – 11 in Montreal.

Over the five days, delegates debated and adopted a number of resolutions and constitution amendments and heard reports on a wide range of work our members, committees, and leaders have done over the last two years.

Delegates also heard from a number of keynote speakers including NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh.

A number of forums were also held each evening including the Pension Forum where a special tribute was paid to Brother Bob Ripley for his 20 years of leadership on the pension committee.

Other highlights included the presentation of a number of National Awards in the category of Literacy, Ed Blackman, Health and Safety, Grace Hartman, Disability Rights Activism and Communications.

We are pleased to announce that Local 500 was the recipient of a communication award in the category of best campaign for our Living Wage Campaign. In addition, the Local received the National Literacy Award presented to Sister Karen Byzuk.

National Election Results:

Brother Mark Hancock was re-elected as National President and Brother Charles Fleury was acclaimed as National Secretary-Treasurer.

I feel privileged to have been acclaimed as Regional Vice-President for Manitoba on the National Executive Board.

Thank you to all Local 500 delegates who attended the convention for your participation and continued activism.

LIVING WAGE POLICY – CITY OF WINNIPEG

On September 17 and October 8, Local 500 made presentations to Winnipeg's Executive Policy Committee (EPC) encouraging members of EPC to support a Living Wage Policy for Winnipeg's staff and contractors hired by the city to deliver services.

Following a report from City Administration that highlighted other jurisdictions that already have Living Wage policies, EPC voted on a motion to prepare an implementation plan for a similar policy for Winnipeg.

Currently 13% of civic staff and contractors earn less than \$15 per hour, many of whom are women, young, Indigenous, or racialized workers.

Local 500 campaigned during the 2018 Winnipeg municipal election calling on candidates to support a Living Wage Policy. Councillors who committed to support a living wage included: Sherri Rollins, Matt Allard, John Orlikow, Cindy Gilroy and Brian Mayes.

Local 500 also commissioned a poll during the election, which found 81% of Winnipeggers support a Living Wage Policy.

While the Motion passed 6-1 to conduct a cost review of implementing a Living Wage Policy for the City of Winnipeg, the cost of doing nothing means that some city staff and many private contractors working for the city will continue to be at risk of living in poverty.

The Local will update the membership as more information becomes available.

LOCAL 500 LES BUTTERWORTH SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARY WINNERS

The Local 500 Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund presented four awards this year at a dinner held on September 26, 2019.

One scholarship of \$1,500 was awarded to **Emmit Hameed**. Emmit is a Local 500 member working in the Community Services Department.

Three bursaries of \$1,000 were awarded to:

- **Braden Bristow** – Braden's father is a Local 500 member working at the Water and Waste Department;
- **Natalie Linklater** - Natalie is a Local 500 member working in the Community Services Department; and
- **Monika Pichor** - Monika is a Local 500 member working in the Community Services Department.

The Local would like to thank American Income Life for their generous contribution and support of the fund over the past number of years.

Congratulations to our scholarship and bursary award winners, and many thanks to everyone who applied to the program this year!

GOOD OF THE UNION:

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS:

- **Canadian Library Month** - October is Canadian Library Month, a time to celebrate library workers and the vital public services they provide to all Canadians. Local 500 is proud to represent Winnipeg's Public Library workers and value the work they do each and every day!
- **Health Care Support Workers' Recognition Week** - The Manitoba Government officially proclaimed the week of October 21 to 25, 2019 as Health Care Support Workers' Recognition Week. Local 500 proudly represents health care workers at Riverview Health Centre and Winnipeg Regional Health Authority who play an important role in providing quality health care services to Manitoba families every day!

In solidarity,



Gord Delbridge
President
KB/ng

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cc: L. McLeod