



**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
CUPE LOCAL 500**

**SPEAKING NOTES**

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**RE: PLASTIC ICE IN CITY ARENAS**

**Date: January 6, 2011**

## **Introduction**

As members of CUPE Local 500, we share a dual interest in the operation of the city of Winnipeg arenas. We share a vision for the City of Winnipeg with many organizations that are patrons of our arenas. Our members have been providing services in our arenas for decades and some of the services offered are: the operation of the rink itself, such as resurfacing the ice; providing dressing rooms; offering public skating; learn to skate programs; and maintenance of the facility.

There are currently approximately 45 arenas in the City of Winnipeg and a number of arenas just outside the city. The ice rentals in our arenas are booked by the Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association, high school hockey, ringette, casual ice bookings, hockey teams for practice ice and the City of Winnipeg's Learn to Skate programs and others.

## **General condition of City arenas**

Many of our City arenas are in need of some type of infrastructure repairs. On an ongoing basis, many need roofs replaced, parking lots resurfaced, ice boards repaired and some heating and plumbing renewed.

General maintenance of all civic arenas takes place on an annual basis. Maintenance such as painting detailed cleaning during arena shut downs, floors striped, doors repaired and replaced, etc.

## **Number of arenas/who rents the ice**

The Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association, high school hockey, and Learn to Skate programs are large user groups for the City of Winnipeg arenas. Currently, the City operates 18 arenas, 19 are community centre arenas, and 6 are privately operated arenas. In very long, cold stretches many hockey teams prefer to practice indoors and utilize City arenas as practice ice.

## **Matters that should be considered before moving forward**

Some questions that Local 500 thinks should be considered before moving forward on this new concept of plastic ice are as follows:

- What are the costs to buy and install this new ice surface?
- What are the costs associated with the maintenance of this ice surface?
- What are (if any) the health risks with this ice surface?
- Who will rent the ice on a regular basis?
- Will the Winnipeg Minor Hockey Association book the ice as part of the season scheduling?
- Where will the other contract bookings go that do not want to use this type of ice surface?

If the City moves forward, we would recommend that the ice plants stay in the arena for a period of time, just in case public support wants water ice surfaces back in the arenas.

We also would recommend that the user groups have a say in determining the change of ice surface.

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