

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
August 22, 2016**

***CUPE*** / *Canadian Union  
of Public Employees*  
***Local 500***

TO: All Central Council Delegates

**RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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Greetings:

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

**CITY OF WINNIPEG GARBAGE COLLECTION SERVICES**

As you know, our Local has been advocating for some time now to bring this service back into public operation. More and more we are seeing municipalities bringing contracted out services back in house to save money. Time and time again, the Local has asked the City to reveal the cost savings achieved by contracting out of its garbage collection services. They have never provided this information to the union or the public.

The current contracts with Emterra and Progressive Waste Services will end in 2017 and the City has issued requests for proposals on the new collection contracts. Any new contracts for garbage collection would be subject to a vote. The Local will continue its lobbying efforts in order to bring this service back in-house.

As more information becomes available, the local will update Central Council delegates on this matter.

**LOCAL 500 BARGAINING SURVEY**

Local 500 members working at the City of Winnipeg, have an opportunity to provide suggestions on improvements to their workplace contract. The collective agreement will expire on December 24, 2016 and Local 500 is in the process of gathering data on what priorities members want addressed at the bargaining table. Please take the time to fill out the survey and have your say on what's important to you in this round of bargaining. I thank all members in advance for taking the time to participate in this important survey.

## **LABOUR DAY CELEBRATION**

Local 500 along with other unions will be taking part in labour day events. I invite you and your family, friends and co-workers to come out and support and celebrate gains of the Labour movement.

### **Labour Day March:**

When: Monday, September 5th

Time: 1:30 pm

Where: Memorial Park (Memorial Blvd. between Broadway and York)

### **Labour Day Picnic:**

When: Monday, September 5th

Time: 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Where: Central Park (400 Cumberland Ave.)

There will be FREE hot dogs, music, games and entertainment! Come out and enjoy a family fun Labour Day picnic.

## **STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS**

After striking for more than two weeks, Macdonald Youth Services workers are heading back to work. The approximately 28 employees returned to their jobs on August 19. The strike had officially begun on Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The workers were without a contract for two years and wanted a four year wage increase that would cost the province approximately \$95,000.

I would like to thank any members who showed up at the picket line in support of these members represented by MGEU.

## **WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE SEEKS ARBITRATION IN CONTRACT TALKS**

The Winnipeg Association of Public Service Officers and 739 city employees are seeking arbitration to see a new collective agreement settled.

Talks have broken off and the matter has been referred to arbitration, according to Winnipeg Association of Public Service Officers (WAPSO) President, Michael Robinson.

The union has been without a collective agreement since October 11, 2015, and despite seeking arbitration, is open to sitting down with the city at any point to settle the collective agreement.

The union represents professional staff, including “engineers, city planners, project managers, accountants, as well as middle-managers.”

In total, 739 city employees are WAPSO union members—spanning multiple departments, from the parking authority and transit to corporate services. The local will provide updates as information becomes available.

### **EMPLOYERS FINED FOR UNSAFE WORK**

Six Manitoba employers have been fined for unsafe working conditions that injured workers.

In 2016, six companies pleaded guilty to violations of the provincial safety laws, with fines totaling more than \$111,000. The charges stem from incidents that occurred between April 2013 and May 2014, but the cases were only resolved in 2016.

Manitoba Growth, Enterprise and Trade's Workplace Safety and Health branch is reminding employers to ensure workplaces are safe and that workers understand proper procedures and are trained on those procedures in order to perform their duties safely. Health and Safety is a top priority for the Local and I ask all members look out for each other in their respective work places.

### **PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL FUNDING**

Public transit and clean water got a boost in Manitoba last month, with \$53 million and \$49 million, respectively, in federal funding.

Employment Minister, MaryAnn Mihychuk pledged \$102 million in infrastructure funding to Manitoba Municipal Relations Minister, Eileen Clark in West St. Paul, to be expanded with \$50 million in provincial funding and more from local municipalities.

Four Manitoba public transit projects got funding, including Winnipeg Transit, which will improve its facilities and buy more buses.

The Clean Water and Wastewater fund is supporting 23 projects. The announcement was made in West St. Paul, where \$1.5 million will go toward the construction of a new reservoir and pump house in the Rural Municipality of West St. Paul which will allow them to collect water from the new Cartier Regional Water Co-op system.

Local 500 has been advocating for years that more funding is required in the City of Winnipeg, Water Services Department. The city has a secret contract with a "for profit" national water corporation called Veolia to provide consulting services.

**CONCLUSION:**

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gord Delbridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.

GORD DELBRIDGE  
President

GD/ng  
cope 342

cc: L. McLeod