

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
January 23, 2017**

**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:

**BARGAINING – LOCAL 500/CITY OF WINNIPEG**

Bargaining between Local 500 and the City of Winnipeg is set to commence in early February. The Local's bargaining committee met on January 13, 14 and 21 to review our proposals that were submitted by staff and Local 500 members through our bargaining survey. I would like to thank all members who took the time to complete the survey.

The next step will be to exchange proposals with the employer. Throughout negotiations, our members priorities will be front and center and I urge the membership to support the Bargaining Committee in our efforts to negotiate a fair deal.

Please watch for further updates as we more information becomes available. I would also ask that you avoid listening to rumours and keep informed by reading the communications sent out by the Local 500 office. The best way to stay informed during bargaining, is to sign up for email updates on our website.

**BULKY WASTE COLLECTION**

The Local is continuing its discussions with the City of Winnipeg regarding bulky waste collection and bringing this service back in-house.

The current contracts for bulky waste pick-up expire in 2017, and four other contracts for bin collection are set to expire in 2018 – 2023.

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

## **SNOW PLOWING OPERATIONS**

Plowing of residential streets has begun as a result of the snowstorm that hit Winnipeg in December. Many of our members worked throughout the holidays, to help keep our city up and running including snow plowing operations.

This storm once again raises the issue that the city needs to own and operate this core service, rather than depending on private contractors. We offered the city a business plan a few years ago to bring back a portion, if not all of the city's snow plowing operation back in-house. This plan would have saved the city one to three million dollars a year, plus the city would own the equipment.

Many citizens feel the city doesn't do enough to help seniors during the wintertime, saying their garage is often blocked by mounds of snow and windrows after their back lane is plowed.

This is the response the city gave to the Wpg Free Press:

"We appreciate that seniors and those with limited mobility may have difficulty clearing back lane windrows. We suggest that those who may have trouble removing their own windrows connect with a private snow clearing service or make arrangements with friends and family for assistance," wrote city communications officer Michelle Finley in an email to the *Free Press*.

Complaints are already flowing in for this year's snow plowing operation. On top of this the city is now telling people to hire contractors. This core service is leaving citizens at the mercy of contractors.

## **SHERBROOK POOL**

After more than four years of lying dormant, and many repairs due to structural concerns, the 86 year-old Sherbrook Pool finally reopened on Monday, January, 8th.

Five months after the pool closed in August 2012, city council proposed spending \$200,000 on repairs. It wasn't until June of 2015, that repairs to the roof began

and, last summer, more problems were found in the pool's re-circulation system, further delaying the reopening.

Spending adequate funds for preventative maintenance on a yearly basis has been raised many times by the Local during the city's operating budget process, and one has to wonder what damages may have been prevented at this facility.

However, to help cover the cost of the repairs and keep the pool operating for years to come, the Kinsman Club of Winnipeg stepped up and donated \$1 million. As a result, the facility was officially renamed the Kinsmen Sherbrook Pool.

### **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 written in a cursive, flowing style.

GORD DELBRIDGE  
President

GD/ng  
cope 342

cc: L. McLeod