

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LOCAL 500

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
February 27, 2017**

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:

BARGAINING – LOCAL 500/CITY OF WINNIPEG

Bargaining between CUPE Local 500 and the City of Winnipeg got underway on February 6 and 8, 2017. The two parties have exchanged bargaining proposals and have both spent some time reviewing each other's package. The union's proposals were developed based on the membership priorities identified in the 2016 bargaining survey and changes that staff recommended.

At this time, we can report that the City has tabled an unprecedented proposal package that contains significant concessions and changes to our current contract language. In order for the Union to give full consideration to this unprecedented package, and other procedural issues, we have paused negotiations. We will continue to issue updates as more information becomes available.

Local 500 members wishing to view the Union's proposal package can drop by the Local 500 office during regular business hours.

Rumours

The rumour mill will be hard at work during bargaining. Please don't believe anything you hear unless it comes from the Union. You should ignore the rumours and get the facts.

LOCAL 500 ADVERTISING INITIATIVES

The Local continues to promote the work of our members through various advertising initiatives such as radio and print ads. The Local has also reached out to educate the public through social media ads via our facebook page.

The Local will continue to use various advertising mediums to get our message out about the value of public services and the important role they play in building a better Winnipeg.

CHANGES AT WINNIPEG CITY HALL

There's been a major shakeup of senior management at city hall. Transit Director, Dave Wardrop has been promoted to the position of Chief Transportation and Utilities Officer (CTUO), whose responsibilities will include the "day-to-day management" of his former department, plus the public works and water and waste departments, along with responsibilities for the special operating agencies of Fleet Services and the Winnipeg Parking Authority.

Wardrop's promotion was disclosed in an email sent to all members of city council by the Chief Administrative Officer, Doug McNeil.

The creation of the CTUO post happened in September, when McNeil announced a realignment of senior managers that created an upper echelon of six senior managers, each responsible for several civic departments.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CUPE is always proud to celebrate Black History Month and the significant contributions Black Canadians have made to the fabric of our country. While we have made significant strides forward, we have far to go in the fight against anti-Black racism. Our Union remains dedicated to fighting social and systemic discrimination in our communities, our workplaces, and in our labour movement.

Across Canada, many events were held to learn more about Black history, and to celebrate Black History Month.

PUBLIC SECTOR UNIONS MEET WITH MINISTER OF FINANCE

On January 5, Manitoba's largest public sector unions and the Manitoba Federation of Labour met with the Minister of Finance, at his request.

The meeting was the first of what was expected to be several face-to-face meetings to explore solutions to returning the province's budget to balance.

In the brief meeting, the Minister maintained the government's focus on balancing the provincial budget and confirmed that as reported in the media, they are considering wage freezes, reopening contracts and restructuring bargaining units, but did not provide any additional information.

The group reminded the Minister of the Premier's commitment to respect collective bargaining and protect and improve the public services that all families count on while balancing the budget over a period of eight years.

Manitoba's labour movement will continue to ask questions, seek clarification when needed and always meet with the province in good faith. The Local will update the membership as more information becomes available.

MANITOBA CROWN CORPORATIONS

On February 6, Premier Brian Pallister declared that Manitoba's Crown corporations have to cut 15 per cent of senior management jobs.

Recently, Manitoba Hydro announced it would eliminate 900 jobs — most before the end of the year — from its approximately 6,200-member workforce. But the utility said even after cutting 900 positions it will need double-digit rate increases for the next five years unless the province helps out with a so-far unspecified amount of money.

The Local will provide updates as information becomes available.

GOOD OF THE UNION

Local 500 is deeply saddened by the passing of two long-time activists Brother Wayne Harland and Brother Jim Borman. Brother Harland was a retired member working part-time as the mail courier in the Public Works Department and Brother Borman was a retired member who formerly worked in Fleet Management. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences go out to their families, friends and co-workers.

Local 500 is also saddened by the tragic passing of Winnipeg Transit Operator and member of ATU Local 1505 Brother Irvine Fraser. All workers should be able to go to work and come home safely at the end their shift. Local 500 will continue to support and stand in solidarity with ATU in their on-going efforts to improve transit for workers and riders. Our deepest sympathies go out to the members of ATU 1505 and the family and friends of Irvine Fraser.

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 professional style.

GORD DELBRIDGE
President

GD/ng
cope 342

cc: L. McLeod