

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
February 27, 2012**

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:

1. City of Winnipeg Operating Budget

On February 28th, the City will table the 2012 Operating Budget. The city has had a property tax freeze for well over a decade and a business tax reduction that has put a strain on maintaining city services.

Winnipeggers appreciate city services and want a budget that addresses their needs. The Local will be monitoring the budget very closely and making presentations to various standing committees of council, as required. The Local will keep the membership updated in this regard.

2. Golf Course Update

At January's City Council meeting, Councillors Orlikow and Gerbasi moved a motion to create a proper process for public input and guidance on our golf course lands. A procedural move was used to debate the motion immediately, effectively killing it, and preventing it from being referred to a public committee process where people could have had a chance to be heard.

They tried again, by moving a motion at the recent City Centre Community Committee which called for "a thorough public consultation process, which includes community and non-profit organizations as well as all interested stakeholders and citizens, regarding present and alternative uses of golf courses."

On February 14th, this motion was squashed when the Property and Development Committee members ruled the motion out of order. The 20 or so people registered to speak left; without being heard.

3. Councillor Calling for the City's Business Tax to be increased

St. Vital Councillor, Brian Mayes has stated to the City of Winnipeg to consider increasing the business tax to pay for a back log of infrastructure repairs.

Early this month, Mayes called for Winnipeg to examine how it may increase business tax revenue to augment property tax revenue in the 2012 Operating Budget. Businesses use the city's infrastructure to make a profit, however, they too need share in the responsibly of repairs and upkeep.

4. Media Advertising

This past month, the Local aired a number of advertisements on both radio and TV. These ads help promote the work of our members and enhance our image to the citizens of Winnipeg.

Being involved in our communities and educating the public about our city services is an important part of our public relations strategy.

5. Local 500 Airs Louis Riel Day Safety Ad

This past Louis Riel holiday weekend, Local 500 aired a safety TV ad campaign.

These ads promote the Local and remind motorists to drive safe during the holiday weekend.

6. CUPE Local 500 Steward Training

The Local recently held a steward orientation session on February 15 at the Union Center. The orientation session is about two hours long and serves as an introduction to our Local and Union.

I would like to thank the members who took time from their personal schedule to take part in this very important training exercise.

7. CUPE Education/Training

The 17th Annual CUPE Winter School was held in Gimli, Manitoba from February 9 -12. The school is open to all CUPE members sponsored by their Local. Workshop topics covered were:

- Workers compensation basics.
- Steward learning series.
- Social media and the union.
- Taking the world by storm.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,



Mike Davidson

MD/ng, cope 342

cc: J. Lepine