

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
October 23, 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:

CUPE NATIONAL CONVENTION – MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

CUPE held its bi-annual convention from October 2 – 6 in Toronto. Some of the key decisions made during convention include:

Strike Pay

Delegates approved a resolution to begin pay for eligible members of striking locals on the first day of a strike, instead of the current fifth day. This change to strike pay is effective immediately.

Strategic Directions

Delegates also adopted ***CUPE's Strategic Directions***, which establishes the union's priorities for the next two years. The plan sets out how we will make gains in our workplaces and communities, fight racism and discrimination in all its forms, defend public services, and advocate for a better country and world.

Task Force on Governance

Delegates approved a resolution to create a Task Force on Governance, which will review the structure of our union as laid out in the constitution. Our governance structure has not changed significantly since our inception as a union in 1963, and this assessment is long overdue.

CUPE National Elections

CUPE National President Mark Hancock and National Secretary-Treasurer Charles Fleury were both re-elected as national officers.

As well, I was pleased to accept the nomination and honoured to have been re-elected as Regional Vice-President for Manitoba to serve on the CUPE National Executive Board.

Other Highlights

The five-day convention also featured a number of keynote speakers including newly elected NDP leader, Jagmeet Singh. Singh, the first person of colour to lead a national political party, soundly won the party leadership on the first ballot during the recent NDP leadership election.

Other highlights included the presentation of a number of National Awards including the Ed Blackman Award. The award recognizes work in the pursuit of racial justice and a strong, diverse labour movement. The late Brother Ed Blackman served for many years as President of Local 500 and was a committed trade unionist at both the local and national level.

This year's recipient, Yolanda McClean, is an activist from CUPE 4400 - City of Toronto Education Workers.

For complete convention highlights, you can visit the CUPE website at cupe.ca.

HEALTH CARE SUPPORT WORKERS' WEEK

Local 500 members working at Riverview Health Centre and at the WRHA celebrated Health Care Support Workers' Week from October 9 to 13. I would like to thank and commend our members who work tirelessly every day to help deliver high quality health care to Manitoba families.

At the same time that we were celebrating and recognizing the tremendous work support workers do every day, the Provincial Government was proposing massive changes and cuts to our health care services. CUPE will continue to call on the Premier and his government to stop these reckless cuts and to keep his election promise of protecting frontline services.

Please continue to support actions such as rallies and petitions that are taking place in order to fight-back against the government's cuts to health care services.

TWO-TIER PENSION BENEFITS ANNOUNCED FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

CUPE Manitoba is speaking out against changes to the Healthcare Employees' Pension Plan (HEPP) announced on October 17, 2017.

The Health Care Employee Benefit Plans (HEB Manitoba) which administers HEPP announced their decision to eliminate all supplementary and bridge benefits for new members after January 1, 2018, creating a two-tier plan with reduced benefits for new employees, among other changes to the plan.

These changes to the plan may force some health care workers to delay or change their retirement plans, and creates an unnecessary division between existing plan members and the future generation of health care workers.

CUPE issued a letter to HEB Manitoba in response to these changes and is calling for a meeting with HEB Manitoba to open discussions on the governance structure of the plan, and how these decisions are made to ensure better transparency for CUPE members who are members of the plan.

UNIT ELECTIONS

Local 500 Units held their elections last week. I would like to extend my congratulations to all the re-elected and newly elected unit officers and trustees.

We face many challenges ahead of us and I know we are stronger when we all work together.

WORKPLACE MEETINGS

Local 500 workplace meetings are ongoing. Over the past couple of months we have visited 31 workplaces to discuss important issues facing our Local.

If your workplace has not yet been visited, we encourage our members and activists to help arrange these meetings. They can be held before shift, at lunch or after shift.

Please remember to get permission from the supervisor to let them know the union will be at the workplace. Once you have the supervisor's permission, contact the Local 500 office to schedule and provide details about the meeting. We will ensure that the necessary CUPE staff are notified and materials are provided for the meeting.

CITY OF WINNIPEG 2018 BUDGET

It is anticipated the City of Winnipeg will soon be releasing its capital and operating budget for 2018.

As always, the Local will review the budget documents closely to identify any and all reductions to services and staffing levels. These issues will be raised at the various standing committee meetings and at City Council.

Please watch for further updates as more information becomes available.

GOOD OF THE UNION:

It is with regret the Local announces the passing of Brother Bob Tottle earlier this year. Bob was a dedicated trade unionist with the city's former refuse department and subsequently at Brady Landfill. Our deepest condolences go out to his family, friends and co-workers.

CONCLUSION:

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

In solidarity,



GORD DELBRIDGE
President

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