

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
September 26, 2011**

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. INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL IN PUBLIC WORKS

The City plans on spending approximately \$15 million on 27 streets, seven alleys and a gravel road that are slated for repairs next year.

According to reports by the media, Public Works Director, Brad Sacher says the number of other streets and alleys in need of repair is “significant” and that the City works to prioritize which streets and alleys need to be repaired the most.

The City’s infrastructure debt is well into the hundreds of millions of dollars and needs to be addressed sooner rather than later.

2. GARBAGE COLLECTION IN THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

On August 30th, the City published a 197 page draft by consulting firm Stantec’s regarding a proposed Comprehensive Integrated Waste Management Plan. This plan outlines how Winnipeg can increase recycling rates and reduce the amount of trash it sends to landfills over the next 10 years.

The plan recommends the replacement of garbage cans and recycling boxes with rolling, automated carts across the city in 2012 and bi-weekly yard-waste collection from April to November in the same year. It also talks about a move towards a curbside organic-waste collection program that could cost \$45 to \$65 million to develop.

It also calls for a \$50.00 annual garbage collection fee for single-family households to be added to the Water & Waste bills. The Local will be meeting with the City for more discussions relative to this plan.

3. SENIOR MANAGERS LEAVING WATER & WASTE DEPARTMENT

A number of senior staff members are expected to leave the Water & Waste Department within the next year, including the department head Barry MacBride. All of these employees have worked for the City for decades and have years of valuable experience behind them.

The department is in the midst of a number of initiatives including an integrated waste and recycling program, sewage treatment upgrades and possible extension of water and sewer pipes to neighbouring municipalities.

4. RALLY HELD FOR AIR CANADA ATTENDANTS AT WINNIPEG AIRPORT

On September 20, I attended a rally at the Winnipeg airport in support of the Air Canada flight attendants who had recently voted 98 per cent in favour of a strike mandate. The roughly 6,000 CUPE members have been without a contract since March 31st, of this year.

Just hours after the rallies were held across the country, a tentative deal was reached between the union and the employer. Some of the priorities of the members included a fair wage increase, some benefits, lay-over language and the pension plan. The union is recommending the members accept the deal.

5. LOCAL 500 MEMBER DAVE GAUDREAU WINS NDP NOMINATION FOR ST. NORBERT

On Saturday, August 27th the Provincial NDP nominated Brother Dave Gaudreau as the candidate to replace Marilyn Brick in St. Norbert. Marilyn, who was elected in 2003 and re-elected in 2007, announced earlier this year that she would not be seeking re-election this fall. Marilyn is a former Local 500 member who worked in the Community Services Department.

Brother Dave serves as the Local's Warden, 1st Vice-President of the Public Works Unit and Chair of the Political Action Committee. He works as a welder in Fleet Management of the Public Works Department.

The Local is very proud of Dave and Marilyn. We wish Dave all the best in the upcoming fall election.

6. **BARGAINING UPDATES**

Bargaining will soon commence for Local 500 members working at the St. Boniface Museum.

Negotiations are still underway for a first agreement with the members at the Assiniboine Park Conservancy.

The Local will keep the membership updated on all negotiations as soon as we are able to do so.

7. **SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARIES AWARDED**

The Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund awards, sponsored by Local 500, were presented to the award winners at a dinner held on September 15, 2011. One scholarship of \$1,250 and three bursaries of \$750 were awarded this year. Since 1981, thirty-one scholarships and one-hundred and eight bursaries have been awarded.

Our congratulations go out to the four well-deserving recipients.

8. **GOOD OF THE UNION**

The United Way has officially kicked off their campaign. The partnership between Labour and the United Way in Manitoba has been a long and productive one.

The Local encourages all members to participate and make a donation to this very worthwhile cause. I would like to convey my sincere thanks to our members and their families who have and currently support the United Way.

The Local has supported two fundraising events to help offset costs for medical treatment for two sisters who work at Riverview Health Centre. These fundraising events are very worthy and I would like to thank all of the members who helped to make them a success.

The solidarity and support for one another is important to all of us.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Davidson". The "M" is large and stylized, and "Davidson" is written in a cursive script.

Mike Davidson

MD/ng
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