

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
March 26, 2018**

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:

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 8, we celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) – a day to reflect on the progress we have made toward achieving fairness, equality and justice for women in Canada and across the globe.

Local 500 was proud to support the IWD breakfast held at the Union Centre on March 8.

With the rise of the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements, the injustices affecting women have been further highlighted including sexual harassment and pay inequality.

While CUPE and the labour movement have made significant progress over the years for women's equality, the wage gap between men and women still persists today. Equal pay for equal work needs to go from being a goal to becoming a reality in achieving equality.

IT TAKES TWO - ELECTION PLANNING MEETING

The next "It Takes Two" political action campaign meeting will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2018 from noon to 2:00 pm at the RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre, 375 York Ave.

Guest Speakers include: City Councillor Matt Allard and School Trustee Brianne Goertzen.

I would encourage everyone to attend this important meeting and bring two people out for two hours. A free lunch is included. You can register to attend on the Local 500 website or call the office at 204-942-1001.

CUPE MEMBERS IN MANITOBA CELEBRATE MAJOR VICTORY AGAINST P3S

CUPE members in Manitoba are celebrating a major victory against P3s. Five new schools in Winnipeg and Brandon will be built without the using a Public-Private Partnership (P3) model, according to the 2018 Manitoba Budget.

The government initially planned to build four schools under the P3 model, but after a cost-benefit analysis the savings were found to be enough to build an entire fifth school.

CUPE members in Manitoba were instrumental in this fight. For over a year, they have been raising awareness about the negative impacts of P3s, holding community town halls, presentations to school divisions, taking out advertisements, and going door-to-door to speak to the community about the dangers of privatization.

P3 schools have been found to be less transparent and accountable to citizens, which was particularly alarming for CUPE considering the provincial government's recent scrapping of the Manitoba's P3 Transparency and Accountability Act

This victory was a success because CUPE members worked together, as a united front.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on March 21. It was created as a response to the killing of 69 protesters at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa in 1960.

CUPE remains proud to continue to join with other unions and organizations to stand up for human rights and fight against all forms of racial discrimination.

For CUPE, March 21 is also a time to remember those we have lost as a direct result of their fight for human rights and against racism. And we remember the struggles and challenges that racialized and Indigenous peoples have long endured – and continue to endure.

For these reasons and more, CUPE's 2017-2019 Strategic Directions, our policy roadmap, reaffirms our commitment to build working class solidarity in our

communities, fight racism in all its forms, work for equity for racialized workers and fight against the rising tide of hatred.

WORLD WATER DAY

International World Water Day is held annually on March 22 as a means to focus on the importance of water and need to preserve it.

Public drinking water and wastewater services are fundamental human rights. Yet these rights are currently denied to many Manitobans. Contaminated water and a lack of adequate sanitation on Manitoba's First Nations communities jeopardize the health and well being of thousands of indigenous people. Currently, 20 First Nations communities across the province are currently on boil water or do not consume advisories.

Federal funding has been inadequate in addressing these communities' urgent, immediate drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure needs.

Multinational corporations are also trying to privatize our water through public-private partnerships, contracting out, and extracting water to sell at a profit.

CUPE Local 500 has been outspoken against the privatization of water and wastewater treatment, and is a staunch advocate for continued investments in public water and wastewater systems.

CONCLUSION:

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

In solidarity,



GORD DELBRIDGE
President

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