

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
January 24, 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. Transfer of Insect Control Branch from the Community Services Department to the Public Works Department

On December 22, 2010, the City informed the Union that the Insect Control Branch of the Community Services Department would be transferred to the Parks and Open Space Division of the Public Works Department effective January 1, 2011.

It is anticipated that over the next few months, meetings will take place to discuss the terms of this transition.

2. Public Works Department extends Unit President's Position

The Public Works Department has extended the term of the Unit President's position for an additional six months.

The City and the Union met to discuss the merits and advantages of having a full-time Unit President available for both the members and the Public Works Department.

3. Bargaining Updates

Contract negotiations are continuing or are about to begin at a variety of work locations for Local 500 members. These include:

The City of Winnipeg; Assiniboine Park Conservancy; Canlan Ice Sports; Commissionaires RCMP "D" Division and Kirkfield-Westwood Community Centre.

The Local will continue to provide updates to the members as information becomes available.

4. Shop Steward Orientation Training

Local 500 held a shop steward orientation session on Wednesday, January 12th at the Union Centre. The steward orientation is a brief introduction to the job of a union steward and to the structure of our Local.

Thank you to all the members who gave up personal time to attend the course.

5. City of Winnipeg has interest in artificial ice surfaces

The City of Winnipeg is exploring the possibility of using an artificial ice surface in some public arenas.

Councillor Gord Steeves commented that if this type of ice surface was used in some local arenas, they wouldn't require a Zamboni or an ice plant.

There are many questions that need to be answered before the City should consider implementing artificial ice surfaces. The Local will continue to monitor this matter closely.

6. Province Preparing for Flooding

The provincial government recently added a new Amphibex ice-breaking machine to its fleet in preparation to battle spring flooding. The Amphibex resembles a backhoe on a barge and is designed to smash up river ice before it can cause blockages.

Provincial officials know that snow packs in Manitoba are above average and ground levels are very saturated right now. These conditions are such that we have a very high potential for flooding this spring.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,



Mike Davidson

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