

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
November 22, 2010**

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. Positively Public Campaign

A final wrap-up meeting of the Positively Public Campaign working group was held on November 8, 2010. The working group reviewed the recent campaign activities surrounding the civic election including: member and retiree education and involvement; advertising and the virtual town hall meeting which contacted and invited close to 100,000 Winnipeg residents to take part in a discussion with respect to the Veolia deal.

A huge thank you goes out to all of our members, activists, staff, retirees, labour partners and CUPE National for their contributions towards making our campaign one of the most successful in the country.

2. Pavement Cut Restoration work under fire in the Public Works Parks and Open Space Division

The City was proposing to contract out "pavement cut" restoration work, however, the Local asked that the City give our members an opportunity to work with the employer and try and come up with some solutions to keep this work in house. As a result the employer has asked the Local to provide a list of CUPE members (names to be recommended by the Local) so that a meeting can be set up to discuss this issue. These members have experience with Streets Maintenance pavement cut work.

Also in Public Works, the Parks and Open Space Division recently initiated a "Mowing Task Review," committee which includes two WAPSO and the employer has picked 12 employees to review ALL aspects of mowing and suggest improvements.

The Local will provide updates as information becomes available.

3. City of Winnipeg Timekeeping Project

The City of Winnipeg has formed a project team to begin looking at all timekeeping activities and overall improvements to this function. Here are some of the objectives of the project team:

- More efficient timekeeping process.
- City wide standard to facilitate corporate reporting.
- Consistent reporting structure to Finance

The anticipated completion date is set for the end of 2011.

4. Bargaining Updates:

Local 500/City of Winnipeg

The Local and the City will commence bargaining at the end of this month and have scheduled some additional dates for early in the New Year.

Assiniboine Park Conservancy

The Bargaining Committee for Assinibone Park is also working on scheduling dates for negotiations.

RM of East St. Paul

Negotiations have commenced and the Local is currently in serious discussions with the employer in East St. Paul. I thank all the bargaining committee members for their ongoing efforts.

Public Works Supplementary Agreement

The Public Works Department has commenced negotiations on their Supplementary Agreement as well.

As more information becomes available, we will advise the membership with updates.

5. Councillor Vandal Appointed to EPC

Early this month, Mayor Sam Katz announced the appointments to the Executive Policy Committee of City Hall. Named to the committee are, Mayor Sam Katz, Jeff

Browaty, Scott Fielding, Paula Havixbeck, Gord Steeves, Justin Swandel and Dan Vandal.

Some of these Councillors are new, while others have been on this committee for several years. Councillor Vandal also sits on the Infrastructure, Renewal and Public Works Standing Committee.

7. Civic Employee Salaries

The media reported on November 3rd, that average City of Winnipeg salaries are the lowest in 13 Canadian cities.

"This is a significant issue when trying to retain or attract employees," City of Winnipeg economist Georges Chartier wrote in *Our Changing City*, an April 2010 presentation obtained by the *Free Press* through access to information legislation. "Until the gap closes, Winnipeg's labour shortages will likely continue."

The City of Winnipeg itself has experienced even greater human resource challenges. In 2008, the City Auditor warned that the city is in danger of failing to be able to deliver services due to a combination of mass retirements at a senior level and the inability to hire and retain professionals, senior managers and skilled trades people.

8. Local 500 Steward Orientation Training – November 3

A Local 500 Steward Orientation session was held on Wednesday, November 3, 2010 from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Union Centre.

The steward orientation is a brief introduction to CUPE and its structure both locally and nationally. Members attending the orientation session will be eligible to be sponsored by the Local to a two day Basic Stewarding Workshop. Our stewards are the eyes and ears of the union and their work is recognized and very much appreciated.

Please contact the Local 500 office at 942-1001 to register for future upcoming sessions.

9. Good Of The Union

November is domestic violence awareness month. CUPE is continuously working towards an end to violence in the workplace and in the homes of Manitobans. There is no place for domestic violence in our society.

CUPE Local 500 marked Remembrance Day with a message from the Local and TV ad which aired on CityTV from November 5 - 11.

The Winnipeg Labour Council held elections this month and the newly elected president is David Sauder. Best wishes go out to former Labour Council President, Larry Pelzer, on his retirement.

Our congratulations and best wishes also go out to Peter Olfert, former President of MGEU who recently retired. Peter is one of the longest serving presidents in the Canadian Labour movement.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Davidson". The first letter "M" is large and stylized, followed by "ike Davidson" in a cursive script.

Mike Davidson

MD/ng
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