

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
March 25, 2019**

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:

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES 2019 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET

On March 20, city council voted 11-5 in favour of adopting the 2019 operating and capital budget.

The Local made presentations at the Standing Committee on Protection, Community Services, & Parks and at the Executive Policy Committee.

Once again, this year's budget includes millions of dollars in "operational efficiencies" which equals cuts in service delivery to the citizens of Winnipeg. This coupled with millions of dollars allocated to "vacancy management" will continue to reduce our ability to respond to the city's needs.

In other areas of the budget, the operating grant to Assiniboine Park Conservancy (APC) was approved. However, it is subject to confirmation by the city that APC is in compliance with their lease and funding agreement. As you are aware, CUPE has raised concerns regarding the allocation of millions of dollars to APC while at the same time they are contracting out custodial services to save money. We believe this move by APC is not in compliance with their funding agreement, and recommend Council hold it in abeyance until such time as the city is satisfied they acted accordingly. We're glad to see that the Mayor and Council agreed with us.

Lastly, the budget reduces the business tax at a time when taxes for the average citizen are rising across the board. They benefit from the services provided by the city and should pay their fair share.

Here's how council voted on the budget:

Voting in **favour**: Mayor Bowman, Councillors Orlikow, Gillingham, Mayes, Allard, Gilroy, Sharma, Browaty, Rollins, Santos, and Chambers.

Voting **Against**: Councillors Klein, Lukes, Nason, Eadie and Schreyer.

If you would like copies of the Local's presentations, you can contact the office to have copies sent to you.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (IWD)

On March 8, we celebrated International Women's Day - a day to honour the accomplishments of women and reaffirm our commitment to gender equality.

As we commemorate the anniversary of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike, we must also remember the great victories for women workers over the past 100 years, and the important role they continue to play in their unions, at work, in their homes and communities.

While CUPE and the labour movement have made significant progress over the years for women's equality, there is still much work to be done. In almost every aspect of life, women continue to experience discrimination. Women earn less than men and they experience gender-based violence at work and at home far more often than men.

Equal pay for equal work needs to go from being a goal to becoming a reality in achieving equality. We must continue to put these issues front and centre in collective bargaining until we have achieved full equality for women workers.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is a day observed all around the world 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.

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. The recent massacre of 50 worshippers at two mosques in New Zealand, once again, signals that we need to be vigilant in fighting the rising tide of hatred.

And we remember the struggles and challenges that racialized and Indigenous peoples have long endured – and continue to endure.

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

WORLD WATER DAY

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

CUPE Local 500 is proud of our role in keeping our water and wastewater systems publicly owned and operated. Around the world, millions of people still lack access to clean water and at least two billion use a contaminated source of drinking water. Here at home, several communities in Manitoba continue to remain under a “boil water advisory”.

Water is a basic human right and we must continue to push for safe, public drinking water for all.

GOOD OF THE UNION

The Local is sad to announce the recent passing of two Honourary Life members: Brother Don Mackenzie, a former Winnipeg Hydro Unit member passed away on March 2. Sister Heather Loreth, a former member of the Civic Services Unit, passed away on March 15. Our heartfelt condolences go out to their families and friends. Arrangements have been made to send flowers and/or make a donation to a charity on behalf of the Local.

CONCLUSION:

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gord Delbridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gord" being more prominent than the last name "Delbridge".

GORD DELBRIDGE
President

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