

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
April 29, 2019**

***CUPE*** / *Canadian Union  
of Public Employees*  
***Local 500***

TO: All Central Council Delegates

***RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

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Greetings:

The following is my monthly report of the activities and issues facing the Local since our last Central Council meeting:

**NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING**

Every year on April 28<sup>th</sup>, we remember all the workers who have lost their lives to work-related incidents or occupational diseases. This year, because the Day of Mourning fell on a Sunday, the City of Winnipeg/Civic Unions held workplace ceremonies on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

From 1978 to 2017, Local 500 lost fifteen members to a workplace accident or illness. And sadly, this past year, Local 500 member and Water and Waste employee, Xiaochun (Shawn) Luo, tragically lost his life while at work.

It is also with regret that we report four CUPE members from Ontario and one member from New Brunswick died on the job over the past year.

Every year in Canada, nearly 1,000 workers lose their lives at work. Their deaths are preventable and should not happen. By remembering those who have been killed, injured or made ill, we remember why we must continue to fight for the health and safety of workers each and every day of the year.

I would to thank everyone who came out on April 26<sup>th</sup> to remember and honour all civic employees and all workers who lost their life to a workplace injury or illness.

## **HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATION VOTES – UPDATE**

On April 12, 2019 Robert Pruden, the Commissioner responsible for the Health Sector Bargaining Unit Review Act, met with the unions to update them on the representation votes. While the Commissioner has not yet set dates for the upcoming votes, he did indicate his aim was to complete the votes by the end of September 2019. We will keep you posted on the voting process as more information becomes available.

You can also read the latest bulletin update released on April 24 by visiting the Local 500 website or [cupehealthcare.ca](http://cupehealthcare.ca)

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, you can contact Shannon McAteer, Health Care Coordinator at [smcateer@cupe.ca](mailto:smcateer@cupe.ca)

## **SECURITY SCREENING MEASURES – MILLENNIUM LIBRARY**

Earlier this year, new security measures were implemented at the Millennium Library. While these new measures have been met with some public opposition, according to library management, they were necessary due to an increase in the number of violent incidents and threats in recent years.

In response to the public backlash, on April 4, the City's Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks directed administration to provide the committee with a verbal report in 60 days and a written report in 120 days on security incidents at the downtown library, as well as alternatives used in other municipalities and at other Winnipeg buildings that promote a sense of security.

On April 5, CUPE attended a meeting with Library Management and Health and Safety representatives. At this meeting, management agreed to have ongoing consultations with the union as they work through and explore alternative security solutions. As always, workplace safety and health remain a priority for both the union and the employer.

The Local will update the membership as more information becomes available.

## **CITY ORIENTATION MEETINGS**

The Local has attended a number of orientation sessions this past month. These orientations are held each year as part of the seasonal recall/summer staff hiring process for Public Works and Water and Waste.

This is but one way we are able to connect with our members to educate them about the union.

There are more orientation sessions scheduled throughout May.

## **SPRING CLEAN UP - CITY OF WINNIPEG**

Spring clean up operations at the City of Winnipeg are now underway. The cleanup is expected to take four to six weeks to complete. At one time, the cleanup would take about eight weeks to finish. The difference now is some tasks have been eliminated or reduced. In our view, this is an example of more service cuts.

As we have done over the past several years, the Local is airing its annual spring clean up ad to remind motorists to slow down and stay alert in work zones. We want all of our members to arrive home safely at the end of their shift.

We also want to remind our members to be mindful and careful while working on the boulevards and on the streets. Work safe and watch out for each other.

## **WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS PRESENTED BY MANITOBA'S UNIONS**

As you know, 2019 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike. The Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 was one of the most influential strikes in Canadian history and became the platform for future labour reforms. The strike was an illegal six-week action fought by underprivileged Canadian Workers to have their right of collective bargaining recognized by the Canadian Government and by wealthy business owners.

To commemorate this important 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Manitoba's labour movement is hosting a number of Winnipeg General Strike related community events. A list of these events can be found in the official program book that is available here at tonight's meeting.

As well, MayWorks Winnipeg has a number of events planned to mark the Winnipeg General Strike Centennial. Please be sure to take a copy of the MayWorks Program book and check out some of the events taking place throughout the month of May and June.

### **GOOD OF THE UNION**

- It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Honourary Life member Brother Clive Durham on April 25, 2019. Brother Durham served as the President of the Water Distribution and Sewer Service Unit where he also served as their negotiating committee member, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the Local and was a National Representative in the Manitoba Regional Office prior to his retirement in 2002. On behalf of Local 500, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Brother Clive.
- **May 1<sup>st</sup> is the Annual May Day March** – 5:30 pm at City Hall (510 Main Street), speakers begin at 5:40 and the march will begin at 6:00 pm. The May Day march is part of the MayWorks festival.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Please share this current issues document with your co-workers

In solidarity,



GORD DELBRIDGE  
President

KB/ng  
cope 342

cc: L. McLeod