

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LOCAL 500

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
July 22, 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:

ATU Local 1505 /City of Winnipeg Contract Negotiations

As you may be aware, members of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1505 rejected the City's second contract offer on May 16, 2019. While the rejection of the city's offer provides ATU with a strike mandate, they remain focused on reaching a fair agreement with the City of Winnipeg

ATU 1505 represents over 1,400 transit operators and maintenance workers at Winnipeg Transit. The current collective agreement expired on January 12, 2019.

Today, the Local sent out the attached bulletin and mass email advising our members of the potential for possible job action.

Local 500 stands in solidarity with our Sisters and Brothers at ATU and will provide whatever assistance necessary in their fight for a fair agreement.

Please watch for further updates as more information becomes available.

HEALTH CARE REPRESENTATION VOTES

Health care workers in Manitoba will be taking part in representation votes from August 8 through to noon on August 22, 2019.

Since July 11, the CUPE Health Care Campaign has been visiting worksites to meet with members to allow them an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about choosing CUPE as the strongest way forward in Health Care.

On July 17 CUPE met with our members working at Riverview Health Centre and will be conducting a second visit on July 31. CUPE will also be visiting our members working at the WRHA (Finance area) over the next few weeks.

Should a member have any questions or concerns, they should contact Shannon McAteer, Health Care Coordinator at smcateer@cupe.ca.

Please continue to watch for further updates as more information becomes available.

ST. JOHN'S LIBRARY RE-OPENS

Following two years of construction, on July 5, the newly renovated St. John's Library reopened to the public.

The St. John's Library has been part of our community for over a century. We are pleased to see this historical building get the necessary upgrades needed to help our dedicated library members continue to play a vital role in maintaining the quality of life in our community for years to come!

Upgrades include a redesign of the main floor and lower level, two new tutorial rooms, two program rooms, and renovated washrooms. The work cost \$2.8 million, with the federal government kicking in \$50,000, the Winnipeg Library Foundation adding \$1.25 million, and the city and province picking up the rest of the tab.

Our members do a great job in providing library services throughout our city.

SHOAL LAKE FIRST NATION'S FREEDOM ROAD OFFICIALLY OPENS

Last month, a First Nation left isolated for more than a century, so that water could be diverted to Winnipeg, has officially opened its all-season road to the mainland.

Shoal Lake was cut off from the mainland more than a century ago during construction of an aqueduct that supplies Winnipeg with drinking water. Community members had to use ice roads or an unreliable ferry to get in or out and they've been under a boil-water advisory for decades.

In 2015, CUPE officially endorsed the Shoal Lake 40 “Freedom Road” campaign by sending a letter to Chief Irwin Redsky indicating the support of Winnipeg’s city workers, as well as a letter to the Aboriginal Affairs Minister urging him to act immediately to improve the living conditions of the people of Shoal Lake 40.

In 2016, the province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg and federal government reached a funding agreement for the road and construction began the following year.

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 infrastructure.

SEPTEMBER 10 PROVINCIAL ELECTION

The Manitoba Provincial Election has been called for September 10. 2019.

Since being elected, the Pallister government has thrown our health care system into chaos, and introduced privatization schemes like P3 Schools, Social Impact Bonds and the continued threat to privatize crown corporation Manitoba Hydro.

The provincial government has also initiated an education review that proposes a reduction in the number of school divisions in the province.

I strongly urge all members to get involved in the upcoming Provincial election by helping out with your local NDP campaigns so that we can achieve the change we all want for a better Manitoba.

GOOD OF THE UNION

Winnipeg is forecast to hit a high of 31 plus degrees this week. A reminder to members, if you're working outside please take the time to keep hydrated and work safely. As the hot weather continues, it's important to know the signs of heat-related illness. You can find more information on preventing injury and illness from heat stress, at <https://cupe.ca/heat-stress>

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,

Gord Delbridge

/kb LSU

cc: L. McLeod