

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Central Council
September 28, 2009

CUPE / *Canadian Union
of Public Employees*
Local 500

TO: All Central Council Delegates

RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings:

Listed below please find a review of some of the key issues our Local has dealt with since our last Central Council meeting.

1. The Local Recommends Contribution Increase for WCEBP

In February, 2009 all plan members of the Winnipeg Civic Employees' Benefits Program received a letter from the Board of Trustees outlining the problems that the downturn in the financial markets has caused our pension plan. The Trustees have made a recommendation to the unions and employers to increase pension contributions. The Local 500 Executive is recommending that Central Council support this recommendation.

2. Upcoming City of Winnipeg Operating Budget

City officials and elected representatives from the political level have been meeting and gathering information in preparation for the 2010 operating budget. It is unknown at this time if the proposed budget will see service cuts or positions eliminated.

Any information members can provide to the Local will be very helpful in preparing our brief to the Standing Committees and City Council. If the budget calls for a zero property tax increase, it will no doubt make the process more difficult.

3. Manitoba Municipal Conference – Portage La Prairie

CUPE held its Municipal Conference this past month in Portage La Prairie, Manitoba. Many locals throughout our province, including Local 500, were in attendance. Issues such as P3's, contracting

out/privatization, pensions and other topics were all part of the conference agenda.

CUPE Manitoba President, Kevin Rebeck could not attend the conference this year and sent his regrets. On behalf of CUPE Manitoba, I brought greetings and highlighted the many events taking place in our province and at the national level.

Sister Sallie Caufield, President of the Civic Services Unit was re-elected as the Municipal Committee Co-chair. Congratulations to Sister Caufield. Her leadership does not go unrecognized.

4. PHCC Conference

On September 14 – 16, about 120 staff and delegates attended the Provincial Health Care Council Conference held in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. The keynote speaker was Theresa Oswald, Minister of Health. A presentation on “medical notes” was provided by Bill Summerlus, CUPE Legal and Legislative Representative. Discussions about HINI, the EI Rebate and HEPP also took place over the two day event.

5. Maude Barlow Came to Winnipeg

The Council of Canadians and the University of Winnipeg Student Union sponsored the “Blue Winnipeg” event featuring Maude Barlow, an internationally renowned author, activist and advisor on water to the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

This public event spoke to Winnipeg City Council’s recent changes to the city’s water and wastewater management in the context of a global water crisis.

6. Bargaining Updates

Bargaining continues at Varsity View Community Centre and the Winnipeg Convention Centre. Bargaining will commence at the Winnipeg Humane Society in the near future. The Local will keep the members updated as information becomes available.

7. Good of the Union

United Way of Winnipeg

The United Way of Winnipeg will kick off its 2009 Annual Labour Fundraiser Campaign by featuring “The Alex Campbell Organ Trio” on Wednesday, October 7th from 4:30 – 6:30 pm in the Union Centre auditorium.

Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund

The Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund dinner was held on September 24, 2009 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. This event is in memory of Brother Les Butterworth for his dedication to his union and his selfless concern for the welfare of others. This year’s winners were:

Kimberly A. Froese
Scholarship Award

Mark Behrendt
Bursary Award

Bronwyn Jerrett-Enns
Bursary Award

Labour Day Holiday

The Labour Day holiday is an important holiday which recognizes the contributions to society of all working people. This Labour Day our members celebrated the strength, solidarity and dedication of our brothers and sisters in Canada and around the world. Our members contribute day in and day out, 24 hours a day providing valuable public services to the citizens of Winnipeg.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Davidson". The letters are cursive and somewhat slanted to the right.

Mike Davidson
President

MD/ng
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