

November 18, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**City Council may privatize waste services**

**WINNIPEG:** City Council could privatize three water treatment plants tomorrow, according to the union representing city workers, without following their own rules.

On the agenda for City Council tomorrow is a proposal to start the process of getting private companies to take on the design, build, finance and operations of an existing treatment plant plus two proposed plants for Winnipeg.

But according to Mike Davidson, President of CUPE Local 500, the city has not consulted the public on this proposal and has not followed the Alternative Service Delivery process that exists to study proposed public-private partnerships (P3s).

"The P3s are included in a motion to examine setting up a corporate utility, which looks innocent. But what is really going on, is a slight of hand that will basically privatize water and waste services for Winnipeg," says Davidson.

The possibility of a City of Winnipeg Municipal Corporate Utility was approved by Executive Policy Committee last week. While it has been presented as a public corporation by some Councillors, there are others who see it as basically a private company.

The union and other community organizations will present their objections to the Utility and the P3s before Council tomorrow.

--30--

**Contact:**

Mike Davidson, Local 500 President: 942-1001 (office); 995-4182 (cell)

Dennis Lewycky, CUPE Communications: 942-0343 (office); (cell) 333-5065

Karen Byzuk, Communications, 942-1001 (office); 782-9444 (cell)