

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
February 26, 2024**

TO: All Central Council Delegates

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

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## **SPECIAL WAGE ADJUSTMENTS**

We are seeking to set dates to meet with the arbitrator regarding the SWA #1. However, in the meantime we will continue to try and find a resolve until those dates are set.

On March 6<sup>th</sup> we will have our first meeting regarding the SWA #2.

Just a reminder that these are both retroactive. SWA 1 is retroactive to January 2023 and SWA 2 is retroactive to January 2024.

As always, we will keep the members informed as talks progress.

## **CITY OF WINNIPEG BUDGET**

On Wednesday, February 7, the Executive Policy Committee (EPC) of Winnipeg City Council tabled its preliminary 2024-2027 multi-year Operating and Capital budgets.

The operating budget is responsible for many of the programs and public services that Local 500 members provide to the citizens of Winnipeg.

From our preliminary analysis, the Local is cautiously optimistic that the Winnipeg budget is shifting from an era of tax freezes and vacancy management.

The Local welcomes the city's commitment to increasing revenue through property taxes. We also welcome the new Neighbourhood Action Teams and new public library in northwest Winnipeg.

The proposed closure of 20 wading pools along with closing Eldon Ross indoor pool and two outdoor pools; Happyland and Windsor Park, is deeply concerning, especially as summers are getting hotter.

We will continue to review the budget to identify any other impacts to services and staffing levels. As always, we will raise these issues at the

public meetings of the various standing policy committees, which I will be speaking at.

Following a 23-day period for all City Councillors and the public to review the preliminary budget, there is a schedule of public meetings to hear delegations and consider changes. They can be found on the City website.

## **MILLENIUM LIBRARY**

On February 12<sup>th</sup>, I attended a stakeholder meeting for a presentation on the redesign and safety of the Millenium Library lobby area.

Topics of discussion included issues in the lobby, metal detectors, having the new Community Safety Hosts present, repurposing empty space in the library, sightlines among other security concerns.

There was a lot of constructive conversations and many innovative ideas. We will be keeping a close watch on the progress of the upcoming plans and construction. Our focus will always be to ensure that the employer provides our members with a safe working environment.

## **LIVING WAGE**

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, I presented to the Executive Policy Committee and on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to Council on the importance and feasibility of the city becoming a living wage employer.

At the EPC meeting, Mayor Gillingham moved a motion to receive it as information, with Councillor Rollins voting against that motion.

At the council meeting, a motion was made to send it back to the Executive Policy Committee for a costing analysis as well as more information.

I want to thank CUPE MB President Gina McKay for attending the council meeting in solidarity.

## **GOOD OF THE UNION:**

Honourary Life member David Bowles passed away on January 22, 2024. David held many positions within the Clerical Unit including President, Vice-President, treasurer, and trustee. Deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Brother David.

Dates to remember:

March 8- International Women's Day

March 21- International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 22- World Water Day

Please watch for events taking place supporting these important dates.

## **CONCLUSION:**

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

In solidarity,



Gord Delbridge

President