

CUPE Local 500 Report to the Manitoba Municipal Employees' 2006 Conference

Introduction:

CUPE Local 500 is pleased to submit this report that highlights some of the key issues our Local is facing. We hope this information is helpful to other locals and if anyone has any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact our Winnipeg office at (204) 942-1001.

1. Local 500 Collective Agreements – Current Status

City of Winnipeg

Two year agreement expires in December, 2007. We settled for 1.75 % in the 1st year and 2.25% in the second. This agreement bought a year and half of time to ready ourselves for the next round of bargaining. We believe the current Mayor's agenda is to see more Public Services go to the private sector. In preparation for this latest onslaught, we have embarked on a number of projects including:

- A research document dealing with the establishment and history of Public Services in Winnipeg;
- A Cultural Research project will be undertaken by the Local in the fall of 2006 to determine the overall values and priorities of our members.
- The Local will be very active in this year's Civic election. Our membership database will be organized along electoral ward boundaries so that we have the ability to send out targeted information.
- We have begun implementing our Strategic plan relating to Contracting Out, Communications and Organizing.
- We have begun seeking out community partners and coalitions such as the local CCPA.

Commissionaires

Bargaining for a first agreement was recently completed that saw a 3 year deal with a 15% wage increase over the life of the agreement.

Gateway Recreation Centre

Bargaining concluded recently for a first agreement with significant wage increases for our members.

Highlander Sportsplex (Canlan Ice Sports)

Three-year agreement expires in October 2007.

Historical Museum of St. James Assiniboia

Current agreement expired in December 2005.

Kirkfield-Westwood Arena

A new three-year agreement set to expire in February, 2009 with a 6% wage package over the term.

Riverview Health Centre

Forty-five month agreement expires in 2008. We have achieved wage parity with all health care workers.

Rural Municipality of East St. Paul

Two-year agreement expires on December 31, 2007.

St. Boniface Museum

Three-year agreement expired December 30, 2005.

Varsity View Arena

The current three-year agreement expires August 31, 2006. Bargaining for the Caretaker will commence shortly.

Winnipeg Convention Centre

The current agreement expired in March, 2006.

Winnipeg Humane Society

Current agreement is set to expire December 31, 2006. Bargaining will commence this fall.

Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

Current agreement expires in 2008.

2. Contracting Out - City of Winnipeg Initiatives

Solid Waste

- We lost Refuse Collection work both manual for the south end of the City and the auto bin collection for basically the City's core.
- All 80 workers have been redeployed
- We will continue to monitor the contractor's work

Glacial Sand and Gravel

- Many of the members from the operation have been interviewed by the Local;
- There is an Expression of Interest process being carried out by the City to seek proposals ranging from selling the asset to looking for a partnership.

Municipal Golf Courses

- Our public golf courses have been well defended by Winnipeg seniors. It appears City Council has taken a "hands off" approach for the moment.

Assiniboine Park Governance Model

- The City of Winnipeg announced plans for a new governance model (management structure) in operating one of their major facilities – Assiniboine Park. In our observation, Winnipeg formerly had a management structure whose purpose was to manage the park and its many amenities. This was the former Parks and Recreation Department which was restructured and done away with in 1998. The Local is building a public campaign to defend the principle of public ownership and operation.

3P's Initiatives

Our Mayor recently held a Civic Summit to discuss the future of the City of Winnipeg. Clearly the Summit was weighted towards the business community and alternative service delivery. A lot of discussion over the last few weeks in Winnipeg has talked about 3P's for police stations, sewer renewal, the new water treatment plant, street renewal, recreation facilities, etc.

In response to the Mayor's Summit, various community groups and labour organizations have put together a Round Table Conference to define an alternative to Mayor's Summit results.

Thank you for this opportunity to highlight some of the key activities of our Local. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you want more information on any of these items.

In solidarity,

Gary Swanson
President

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