

May 16, 2005

City to Consider Privatizing all Garbage Pick up!

The future of solid waste collection and the fate of about 100 city employees will be decided by City Council on July 27. Presently, city employees collect waste in the southern half of the city and Waste Management Inc. collects in the North.

As the union representing city employees, we're concerned about the fate of our members. We're also worried that the decision Council is about to make may not be financially sound for the future.

Contracting Out Will Cost Money – Not Save

City officials say that they're contracting out to save money but we're not convinced. Here's why:

- Contracting out frequently costs more, not less than in-house services. When the union got involved in studying the problem, we found ways to cut almost \$1.5 million dollars a year from the budget. When we offered to work with the City to reduce costs, we were never asked to implement the recommendations.
- Even if the cost of the contract appears cheaper, we fear they will increase their costs and force the City to pay more for garbage pick up.

Profits Will Be Made by Hiring Low-paid Workers

To make a profit while providing the same level of service, private companies will lower wages. That's not fair.

If city services are turned over to low-paid inexperienced workers, the quality of services will suffer also.

And ultimately contracting out solid waste collection will hurt our community. Throwing experienced fairly paid workers out of work and replacing them with low-paid workers will not help the economy.

American companies like WMI or BFI that want the city contracts are more interested in profit than community well-being.



Why is CUPE fighting to save solid waste collection?

Our role as a union is to defend the standard of living of our members and their families. We believe our members should continue to provide this service to the citizens of Winnipeg and we are against any form of privatization.

In the coming weeks, we will appear before the Mayor and Councillors and recommend that City Council keep control of solid waste collection services. Copies of any presentation we make will be available in the Local 500 office.

(See page 2 for more information)

**Call your City Councillor to keep
Solid Waste collections**

Are you concerned about the privatization of solid waste? You should be! A loss of this service could encourage city officials to consider contracting out more of our work!

We need your help. Please call your city councillor and ask them to keep solid waste collections as a public service.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Winnipeg City Council

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