

It's time to take action!



JOIN the campaign and stand up for Public Services!

Stay informed and stay connected with the latest news by signing up for email action alerts. Don't be the last to know about issues and actions important to CUPE Local 500 and its members.

- Go to the Local 500 website at www.cupe500.mb.ca and sign-up for email action alerts by providing your contact information;
- or
- Call the Local 500 office at 942-1001 to update your membership information.

Action Alerts - Update TODAY!



*Quality Public
Services*

A Vital Part of our Community

CUPE / Canadian Union
of Public Employees
Local 500

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CUPE / Canadian Union
of Public Employees
Local 500

positively
Public
the Winnipeg Way!

Public Services under Threat: Local 500 Fights Back

City support workers are the backbone of what makes this a great city to live and work. However, Winnipeg City Council wants to make major changes in how city services are delivered. They want to sell-off, shutdown, contract out or privatize important public services that provide a decent quality of life for everyone. CUPE believes these services are best delivered by public, rather than private agencies. Already, Council decisions to date have resulted in the following:

- Garbage collection has been privatized; Glacial Sand and Gravel operations were sold to a private company;
- Assiniboine Park was handed over to private organizations to run;
- Water and Wastewater services, library services, and the operation of civic golf courses are next in line for possible private delivery;
- Recreation programs are at risk.

For CUPE Local 500 members, this means every job is threatened and bargaining for a new collective agreement in 2010 will be extremely difficult. Jobs, benefits and workloads could all be affected.

CUPE is widely acknowledged as the driving force behind campaigns to ensure and improve public services. We do not support cutting back on public services at a time when our city needs them most. Nor do we support the sell-off of public services through privatization, public-private partnerships (P3s) or contracting out.



CUPE members work behind the scenes to provide quality public services

Positively Public Campaign

Local 500's Positively Public Campaign is a multi-faceted four year campaign (with public information, direct action, lobbying of politicians), to profile city workers and expose the services they provide. We want Winnipeggers to know that public services should be delivered by dedicated public employees who are acting in the best interests of the entire public. Part of our message to the public, is that strong public services create the quality of life we deserve in our city.

Ultimately, this campaign intends to stop the contracting out, shutting down and privatization of Winnipeg's public services.

We are working with a local coalition of community activists who are concerned with the political direction taken at City Hall. By building community support and suggesting improvements to how services are delivered to the public, the union will strive to keep services within the City's direct responsibility.

We are helping members to get more informed, involved and supportive of the campaign. We are proposing ways of saving money for the city so public services can also be saved. Members of the Local are taking on community activities to help raise the profile of the union and improve public relations, particularly with community leaders.

CUPE Campaign will Lobby Politicians

Winnipeggers must tell their Councillors that they want to keep their quality public services. Politicians must hear clearly, that Winnipeggers value their public services and they know how important city workers are to maintaining their services.

It's important for every Local 500 member to know what's going on and be willing to assist with this campaign. They can do the following:

- Stay informed about what is happening and **prepared to tell** your families, friends and colleagues. Watch for regular information from the Local 500 office and go to www.cupe500.mb.ca for information on the campaign.
- Understand the dangers of contracting out and privatization, and **actively educate others** about what is at stake. There is a great deal of misunderstanding about what privatization is and how it undermines public services. It is up to us to show others how strong public services contribute to strong communities.
- **Participate in union and public events** that raise awareness, educate and consult Winnipeggers on their public services. There will be a number of meetings, rallies and other events during the campaign, and we need everyone to participate.

Our campaign can make a difference in what the city plans to do about our public services and therefore our jobs. We have already seen some successes along the way but we must continue to stand up for city services. Our knowledge, experience and commitment is essential to maintaining public services and therefore the quality of life that Winnipeggers deserve.



Get the Facts on P3s

WHAT'S WRONG WITH PUBLIC -PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS?

WHAT ARE P3s?

Public-private partnerships are a form of contract between local government and private companies that change how public services are controlled and which can lead to full privatization. Large corporations love P3s as they can make huge profits at public expense. While the public sector has always partnered with private companies to design and build public facilities, under a P3, the private sector designs, builds, and may operate and/or finance a public program or infrastructure project. P3 contracts commit the government to long term deals and limit public control of services. This is un-sustainable because:

P3s cost more

If a private company needs to finance a large infrastructure development, it will likely pay a higher interest rate on borrowed money than the public sector. There are also significant legal, accounting and monitoring costs that are incurred as a result of the complex, time-consuming P3 arrangements. As well, costs for P3 projects are often driven up to secure significant profit margins for investors.

Reasons to say NO to P3s

The track record of P3s around the world is one of increased costs and decreased services. While P3s may seem attractive in the short term, they do not provide sustained, high quality services that Manitobans expect and deserve. Generally, P3s mean that;

- quality of service is compromised
- public accountability is reduced
- taxpayers pay more
- communities get less
- jobs, wages and benefits are threatened
- governments bear greater risks and
- full privatization is made easier.

To learn more about the dangers of P3s, visit www.cupe.ca/p3s