

Happy Health Care Support Workers' Week!



CUPE Local 500 extends a very happy Health Care Support Workers' Week to our members working at Riverview Health Centre and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

This year, the Government of Manitoba has proclaimed the week of October 4 – 8 as "Healthcare Support Workers' Week" to acknowledge their contribution and dedication to the health of Manitobans.

The proclamation issued by Minister of Health Theresa Oswald, notes that "health care support workers are deserving of recognition for their valuable

contribution and for their commitment to patient care through their purposeful, caring work within Manitoba's health care system".

Local 500 members provide a wide range of services such as housekeeping, sterilizing and maintaining equipment, cooking and serving meals, laundry, clerical personnel, activity workers, among others.

"Health care support workers are important and essential to our health care system," said Mike Davidson, President of CUPE Local 500. "I'm pleased to see that their contributions and commitment to patient care are being recognized and I commend our members for their dedicated efforts day in and day out."

Across Manitoba, CUPE members working in hospitals, clinics and personal care homes use the week to build relations with their patients and their communities. Information events, coffee and cake parties, open houses and displays are being organized by CUPE members during the week.



Riverview Health Centre members at previous year's cake and coffee event



Joint City/CUPE Scholarship Program

The City/CUPE Scholarship Program is inviting employees of the City of Winnipeg to apply for funding. You must:

- Be a member of CUPE Local 500
- Have attained and maintain CUPE seniority

Funding is for courses starting between January 1, 2011 and June 30, 2011

Application forms will be available on **September 20, 2010** and can be printed from:

<http://citynet/jc/Scholarships/scholarships.stm>
<http://www.cupe500.mb.ca>

Deadline for applications: October 8, 2010

Meeting Schedule

The following is a schedule of when Local 500 central council and units meet. All meetings are held at the Union Centre, 275 Broadway except for Riverview Health Centre Unit.

Central Council

4th Monday of the month, 7:00 pm, Room 2C

Civic Services Unit

4th Monday of the month, 5:30 pm, Room 103

Community Services Unit

4th Monday of the month, 6:00 pm, Room 104

Public Works Unit

4th Monday of the month, 5:30 pm, Room 2A

Riverview Health Centre Unit

3rd Tuesday of the month, 4:00 pm, Day Hospital, Classroom "E"

Water and Waste Unit

2nd Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm, Room 104

Moving? Change in beneficiary? Name Change? Please let us know!

In order to keep our membership database current, please keep us informed of any information changes including addresses, names and changes to your beneficiary.

702 – 275 Broadway, Winnipeg, MB. R3C 4M6
Phone: (204) 942-1001; Fax: (204) 956-1439
Email: union@cupe500.mb.ca
Website: www.cupe500.mb.ca



/kb LSU

Communicator



From the President Mike Davidson

An important choice for a better future

Welcome to the fall edition of the Communicator. I hope everyone enjoyed their summer and had an opportunity to relax and spend some time with family and friends.

The Local had a very busy spring and summer on a number of fronts. In addition to the day to day labour relations matters, we have been actively involved in a number of key issues. Some of the highlights include:

- Negotiation of Employee Transition Agreement for the transfer of employees of the Community Services Department to the Assiniboine Park Conservancy;
- Collective bargaining with Varsity View Community Centre;
- Continued work on our advertising campaign to promote public services and highlight the work of our members;
- Ongoing workplace meetings to discuss important union and workplace issues;
- Continued monitoring of the Council approved multi-year contract with Veolia Canada for the sewage treatment plant upgrades and expansion project;
- Preparations to commence bargaining with the City of Winnipeg and the RM of East St. Paul;
- Lobbying of the Provincial Government to pass new legislation aimed at increasing the transparency and accountability of our municipal government.

These are but some of the important issues facing our Local and I would encourage you to watch your bulletin board for further updates.

Within this issue of the Communicator and through a forthcoming mailer, you will find information about the upcoming civic election. As public employees, we have a direct interest in the type of people elected to serve on Winnipeg City Council. The people we elect will have the greatest impact on the things that make a real difference in our daily lives. We've all got an important choice to make on October 27 that will affect the future of our city over the next four years.

Remember, who we elect will be the Council that votes on our collective agreement, pension plan and how city services are delivered.

In closing, I would like to thank each of you for your ongoing support of our Local. Please be sure to keep up to date with what's happening at our Local and in your workplace by visiting our website at www.cupe500.mb.ca.

Together, we will move forward to meet these and other challenges ahead.

"Remember, who we elect will be the Council that votes on our collective agreement, pension plan and how city services are delivered."

Local 500 Table Officers

President

Mike Davidson

1st Vice President

Brian Barron

2nd Vice President

Shane Westover

Treasurer

Glenoria Molnar

Secretary

Sallie Caufield

Warden

Cathy Williams-Stewart

Trustees

1 year

Dave Gaudreau

2 year

Keith Bousquet

3 year

Phil Dembicki

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2010 Civic and School Board Elections



Make sure you vote!

ON OCTOBER 27, the civic election will take place providing Winnipeggers the opportunity to vote for the City Council which will govern us for the next four years.

As Local 500 members, you know firsthand how much of our daily lives are affected by the decisions made by our civic government. This year's civic election is all about choices: we need to choose candidates who have a strong commitment to public services and recognize that privatization is not cost-effective and hurts our community.

While CUPE Local 500 doesn't get directly involved in civic elections, our membership surveys over the years told us you wanted to be informed on things such as candidate voting records and information about the labour endorsed candidates. As a result, we are providing you with labour's thoughts on this year's elections.

Winnipeg Labour Council (WLC)

The Winnipeg Labour Council (WLC) is a central labour body representing about 45,000 workers in over 80 different unions. Their mandate is to encourage citizen engagement at the civic level and liaise with local government and school boards on issues that impact our members. In preparation for this year's election, the WLC conducted an endorsement process for all candidates seeking labour support.

Following this process, the WLC Executive meets to consider each candidate's voting record and views on civic issues. The results of their findings and recommendations for endorsement are made to the WLC general membership meeting.

We have identified the Winnipeg Labour Council's endorsed candidates for both the Civic and School Board Elections. You will note that the WLC is not making recommendations in all Council Wards or in all School Divisions. This is due to a couple of reasons. First, a candidate in a particular ward may not have approached the WLC. Secondly, a candidate may not have had a good voting record and therefore, did not meet the endorsement criteria set by the WLC.

You will also note that there is no endorsed candidate for Mayor. When thinking about who to vote for in this election, consider the candidate who has a strong public record for standing up for issues that matter most to working families.

Public employees are voters too!

As public employees, we're voters too. Together with our families, we comprise a very large percentage of the citizens whose votes elect city councillors and school trustees. To a great extent, we hold in our hands the power to elect our own bosses and decide what our working conditions will be like over the next four years.

Local 500 urges each of you to follow the election in your area closely. We encourage you to attend all candidates' meetings and speak to the candidates who knock on your door. This way, you can find out where they stand on issues important to you and take this into account when deciding how to vote.

Remember, labour's turnout at the polls on election day is the most effective tool we have to support candidates who support us. **Please plan to vote on October 27.**

Winnipeg Labour Council Endorsed Candidates

WARD

Daniel McIntyre
Elmwood
Fort Rouge/East Fort Garry
Mynarski
St. Boniface
St. Charles
St. James
St. Norbert

CANDIDATE

Keith Bellamy
Shaneen Robinson
Jenny Gerbasi
Ross Eadie
Dan Vandal
Lloyd Finlay
Deanne Crothers
Louise W. May

SCHOOL TRUSTEE

KELLY-ANN STEVENSON
St. James-Assiniboia School Division

Sign up to win contest!

Sign up at www.cupe500.mb.ca to receive the latest email news and updates and you'll be entered to win **2 tickets to an upcoming Blue Bomber home football game. Don't miss out, sign up today!**

Stewards are the backbone of our union

Get active as a shop steward

For many members, the steward is the face of the union. He or she is the first, and perhaps most vital contact between an employee and their union.

"Stewards play a key role in helping members deal with workplace issues and problems," said Local 500 President Mike Davidson. "They are on the frontlines day in and day out and serve as the eyes and ears of the union."

The primary role of the steward is to identify concerns early, to inform and educate the members of their rights and the rules of the workplace, and help find a resolution to problems.

"Many of our members will never need the help of a steward or make contact with the union. But, when an employer doesn't follow the collective agreement, we need to make sure a steward is available," said Davidson.

Stewards are elected by the members in their workplace. They undergo training and serve as union officials under the collective agreement. The collective agreement contains provisions for a dispute mechanism known as the grievance process. Both the employer and the union are legally bound to the rules outlined in the process, and stewards use this process to defend your rights.



"Stewards play a key role in helping members deal with workplace issues and problems."

Local 500 provides an orientation and basic stewarding course for members interested in becoming stewards. The two hour orientation is held in the evening or during the day (in the case of shift-workers), and the two day basic stewarding course is offered without loss of pay. Other training courses on topics such as communications, preparing for bargaining and financial officers workshops are also available. A number of conferences and weekend schools are also held each year.

Across Canada, thousands of CUPE members serve as stewards in the workplace. Anyone with an interest in promoting a fair and respectful workplace, solving workplace problems and building a strong union, can be an effective steward.

Want to serve as a steward?

If you are interested in becoming a shop steward, you should contact a member of your unit executive or the Local 500 office at 942-1001. Once we've added your name to our steward list, we'll contact you about upcoming steward training dates.

Get Involved!

THIS IS YOUR UNION and we need your voice to help make Local 500 stronger. Join a committee or participate on your unit executive. There's lots of ways to help build our Local for the future. Give us a call at the Local 500 office for more details.

Steward Profile



**Lionel Brunel, Second Cook
Winnipeg Convention Centre**

Lionel has been a shop steward for the last seven of his 21 years working as a Second Cook at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

He says his main purpose for getting involved as a Local 500 steward was to be more active in addressing the concerns of his co-workers whether it's a safety related or other workplace issue.

"It's great to be able to help others and stand with them when facing the employer on an issue," he said.

Lionel says that whether the member is right or wrong or there is no violation of the collective agreement, they still need your support.

"There are times when you are able to correct a mistake made by the employer and deliver good news to the member. But there are also times when members are not happy with the results or messages I have to tell them, especially when something is happening that seems unfair or appears to be wrong."

Along with his shop steward duties, Lionel also serves on the Health and Safety Committee and participated on the negotiating committee during the last round of bargaining.