

Over 200 delegates, observers and guests attended the 47th Annual CUPE Manitoba Convention held in Brandon, April 7 – 9.

Delegates to the convention strongly endorsed a number of resolutions and participated in some good discussions about workplace violence, workload issues, political action, contracting out/privatization and CETA (Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement).

Throughout the three-day convention, delegates heard from a number of guest speakers including CUPE National President Paul Moist, Secretary-Treasurer Claude Généreux, Jack Layton, Leader of Canada's New Democrats, Kevin Rebeck, President of the Manitoba Federation of Labour and South African activist Gati Malete.

Two recipients were presented with this year's Jack Rodie award. They were: Darlene Payette, Local 1973 (Concordia Hospital) and Eric David, Local 336 (City of Selkirk).

Michael Skafffeld was re-elected as CUPE Manitoba President and Jodi Jowett was elected Secretary-Treasurer. The positions for Area Representatives saw the re-election of Pat Unger in South Central, Darlene Skaritko in the Eastern/Interlake and Kelly Moist as Winnipeg Area Representative. Chris Pullen was elected Trustee for a three-year term.



Local 500 Delegate Matthew Dahl, Water and Waste Unit, speaks to a resolution at CUPE Manitoba Convention

National Aboriginal Day is June 21

Fifteen years ago, the federal government declared June 21 to be National Aboriginal Day, a day for all Canadians to celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding achievements and contributions to Canada of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

June 21 was chosen because of the cultural significance of the summer solstice, the first day of summer and longest day of the year. Many aboriginal groups mark the date as a time to celebrate their heritage.

On June 21, all Local 500 members are encouraged to participate in the local events commemorating this day.

Let's all share in the celebration!

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.

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Communicator



From the President Mike Davidson

Job security, fair wages and protecting the pension plan were key issues in bargaining

So far this spring has been a busy time for our Local on a number of fronts.

Bargaining with the City of Winnipeg which began in November 2010 took until March 2011 to conclude. During this period, we had to conduct a strike vote and access the conciliation process to reach an agreement.

In the end, we secured a four-year contract that provides for wage increases, employment security and protects our pension plan. Other highlights include benefit improvements and increases to shift premium and tool allowance. The agreement also renews a Joint Education, Training and Staff Development Fund.

I want to thank the bargaining team, strike preparation committee and the many activists who helped out during this stressful time. Most importantly, I want to thank you, the members and your families for your patience and support throughout these negotiations.

More Bargaining

In other areas of our Local, we successfully completed contract negotiations with the RM of East St. Paul.

At the Assiniboine Park Conservancy, negotiations are underway for a first agreement since it became incorporated on its own.

We are currently in bargaining with the Commissionaires (RCMP "D" Division), the Historical Museum Association of St. James Assiniboia and Varsity View

Community Centre. Bargaining will soon commence at Kirkfield Westwood Community Centre.

Later this year, we will begin preparations for negotiations at the St. Boniface Museum and Canlan Ice Sports.

Spring Clean-up/Flood Control Operations

I want to recognize our members who were involved in this year's flood fighting preparations and operations. From sandbag production to emergency planning, our members continue to lead the way to protecting our city.

During the months of April and May, spring clean-up operations take place across our city. For the third straight year, the Local aired radio ads to remind motorists to be watchful around clean-up and construction zones. We want to make sure all our members come home safe at the end of their shift.

In closing, I hope everyone has a great summer and takes some time to spend with family, friends and co-workers.

In solidarity,

Mike Davidson
President

Stay Connected!



Local 500 Table Officers

President

Mike Davidson

1st Vice President

Brian Barron

2nd Vice President

Shane Westover

Treasurer

Howard McCubbin

Secretary

Joan McMahon

Trustees

1 year

Keith Bousquet

2 year

Phil Dembicki

3 year

Margaret Feliksiak

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Scholarship and Bursaries



**APPLY FOR
LOCAL 500
SCHOLARSHIP
AND BURSARIES**
Deadline: June 30, 2011

THE LES BUTTERWORTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND is inviting applications for its scholarship and bursary awards.

This year the fund is offering **one scholarship of \$1,250 and three bursaries of \$750 each.**

The scholarship and bursaries are open to members in good standing of CUPE Local 500 and their families (Family is defined as: spouse, children, grandchildren, brother, sister, son-in-law and daughter-in-law. Also eligible are families of disabled, retired or deceased members who were members in good standing at the time of their disability, retirement or death).

Note: Previous award winners are not eligible, but previous applicants may re-apply.

For more information, contact the Local 500 office at 942-1001 or visit: www.cupe500.mb.ca

Remembering workers who died on the job



Each year on April 28, we gather to remember employees who have lost their lives as a result of a work-related injury or occupational disease. This year, ceremonies were held at City Hall and three other City facilities to commemorate the National Day of Mourning.

CUPE Local 500 President Mike Davidson reminded us that in a typical year, there are 1,000 workers killed, one million workplace injuries and thousands of workers made sick or diseased by their work.

"The toll of workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths remains enormous," he said. "We must continue to work hard on all fronts to make health and safety a priority."

Since 1978, twelve CUPE Local 500 members didn't come home from work. The lives of their families and friends were forever changed by a workplace incident. In 2010, seven CUPE members across Canada died on the job - the most since 1998.

"Not every workplace accident can be foreseen, but the vast majority can be prevented," said Davidson. "As workers, unions and employers, it is up to us to ensure that health and safety remains an active discussion and activity in all workplaces."

Recognition Increasing

The Day of Mourning was founded based on a resolution written by CUPE's National Health and Safety Committee in 1984. The federal government brought in legislation in 1991 recognizing April 28 as a Day of Remembrance for workers killed or injured at work.

What began through the efforts of Canada's labour movement is now observed in more than 100 countries around the world.

Unions continue to lead the struggle for improved working conditions, dignity and respect on the job. We have won laws and protections that have made work places safer. But the struggle is far from over. We must stand together with the world's workers to reaffirm our commitment to occupational health and safety for now and for future generations.

In Memoriam

It is with deep regret we report the passing of honorary life member Dave Edwards.

Our sincerest sympathy goes out to his family and friends.

We know he will be deeply missed.

Shop stewards keep our union strong



Thirteen new stewards attended the orientation session held in May

In order to assist our Shop Stewards in performing their function more effectively, CUPE Local 500 offers a Steward Orientation and Introduction to Stewarding Course.

Are you interested in becoming a Shop 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.

CUPE members can and did!

Over 600 pounds of food collected for Winnipeg Harvest

The "CUPE Members Can" food drive in support of Winnipeg Harvest was a huge success! A special **thank you** goes out to all our members who donated food items and cash during the Local 500 ratification vote on March 25.

"I am very proud of the tremendous amount of food items brought in by our members throughout the day," said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. "We don't stop caring about our community. That's who we work for, and provide services to, every day."



Local 500 members donate food items to Harvest during ratification vote on March 25.

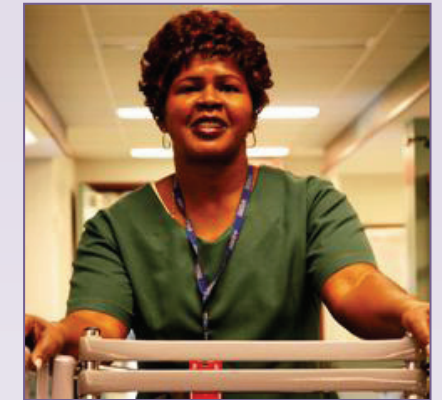


(From left) Brian Barron, 1st Vice-President of Local 500; Nick Ternette, Winnipeg Harvest; Mike Davidson, CUPE Local 500 President; Winnipeg Blue Bomber, Kelly Butler.

CUPE Local 500 members were also joined by Winnipeg Blue Bomber, Kelly Butler and Nick Ternette, Winnipeg Harvest volunteer who came out to the event in support of CUPE's food drive initiative.

Winnipeg Harvest distributes food to more than 40,000 people every month. Over 18,000 are children. Winnipeg Harvest provides emergency food assistance throughout the year.

Meet Iona:



Riverview Health Centre Unit

You may have seen her picture on a billboard or bus advertisement. Iona, a Health Care Aide at Riverview Health Centre, is one of the Local 500 members we featured in our Positively Public ad campaign.

As a Health Care Aide, Iona provides important support services in caring for the daily needs of clients and patients.

In Manitoba, CUPE has over 10,000 health care support workers. About 470 members work at Riverview Health Centre and are represented by Local 500. They work in various positions such as Health Care Aides, Service Partners, Rehab Attendants, Housekeeping Staff, Dietary Staff, Clerical and Maintenance Staff, among many others.

"Our members at Riverview Health Centre make a valuable contribution to our health care system," said Unit President Val Sobiak. "I am proud of their commitment and dedication to the quality of life in our community."

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**. Already signed up? You can still enter the contest by visiting our website. **Don't miss out, sign up today!**

EOC report alive and well - Positively Public Campaign continues

More contracting out and privatization issues have emerged in a number of City departments that threaten our jobs and the vital services we provide to the citizens of Winnipeg.

In 2007, the Local launched its Positively Public fight-back campaign in response to the City's Economic Opportunity Commission Report (EOC) which aimed to contract out and privatize a number of Winnipeg's public services.

Here is a list of issues that have arisen and are considered to be at "risk" by the Local:

- Review of Grass Cutting Operations;
- Review of Timekeeping Functions – all departments;
- Contracting out/Privatization of Golf Courses;
- Animal Control – contracting out of after-hours services;
- Transfer of various public works functions to the Assiniboine Park Conservancy.

"These initiatives are cause for concern for both the Local and the public," said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. "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."

Local 500 is taking steps to actively respond to these challenges. With the support of our National Union, we will continue to work hard on behalf of the membership to defend our work and these important services.

"We will devote all necessary resources and do our utmost to block any attempt to pursue contracting out and privatization in any of these areas," Davidson said.

The Positively Public Campaign has already seen some successes along the way, but we must continue to stand up for city services. It's important for every Local 500 member to support and assist their Unit and Local Executive with this campaign. Please contact us if you have any information regarding these issues or if you wish to help out.