

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
November 28, 2011**

CUPE / *Canadian Union
of Public Employees*
Local 500

TO: All Central Council Delegates

RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings:

The following is my monthly report of the activities and issues facing the Local since our last Central Council meeting:

1. CUPE NATIONAL CONVENTION

The twenty-fifth CUPE National Convention was held in Vancouver from October 31st to November 4th. At this week-long event, CUPE members from across Canada determine policy, set priorities for the Union and elect leaders. National Convention is CUPE's highest decision-making body.

Paul Moist was re-elected to another term as National President. Charles Fleury was elected CUPE National Secretary-Treasurer.

Currently, Local 500 holds three seats on the National Executive Board. Brother Paul Moist as National President, I am the Regional Vice President and Brother Brian Barron holds one of two positions of Diversity Vice-President.

2. CITY OF WINNIPEG CAPITAL BUDGET

Last Tuesday the City of Winnipeg tabled its 2012 Capital Budget which represents a spending blue print for infrastructure upgrades next year.

The City has budgeted \$30.8 million for repairs on main and residential streets, sidewalks, shoulders and back lanes, which is down from \$42.9 million in the previous year.

The Local will keep the membership updated on this budget as information becomes available.

3. CITY OF WINNIPEG BUS FARE INCREASE

City Council voted this month to raise Winnipeg's transit fares by 25 cents in order to pay for the Rapid Transit expansion.

Although approved by Council, the fee hike has to be approved by provincial officials due to the provinces transit-funding agreement with the City of Winnipeg.

Here's how they voted:

For the increase: Mayor Sam Katz, Councillors Browaty, Havixbeck, Nordman, Steen, Swandel, Vandal and Wyatt.

Against the increase: Councillors Eadie, Gerbasi, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Sharma and Smith.

Absent: Councillor Fielding.

4. CITY SHUTS DOWN MAGINOT ARENA

The City has closed down Maginot Arena due to the presence of mould found on the ceiling. Staining has also been confirmed at St. Vital Arena and Roland Michener Arena. Mould has also been detected at Bertrand Arena but it will stay open for the balance of the season.

It's through years of neglect and lack of investment that have lead to infrastructure problems throughout the city of Winnipeg and this mould issue is just one of many.

5. WINNIPEG'S SOUTH END POLLUTION CONTROL CENTRE

Last month the media reported that Winnipeg's South End Pollution Control Centre had been discharging up to 60 million liters of sewage into the Red River on a daily basis.

It's unclear at this time if Veolia is involved relative to the "problem solving".

The Local will continue to monitor this matter and meet with City officials.

6. **GOOD OF THE UNION**

On Thursday, November 10, Dave Gaudreau (St. Norbert) and Sharon Blady (Kirkfield Park) were the last 2 NDP MLA's elected in the October 4th provincial election, to be sworn into office.

The end results were:
NDP 37 of the 57 seats.
PC: 19 seats
Liberals: 1 seat

The Local is very proud of Dave and we wish him all the very best in his term in office.

Conclusion:

Please share this current issues document with your co-workers.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Davidson". The "M" is large and stylized, and "Davidson" is written in a cursive script.

Mike Davidson

MD/ng
cope 342

cc: J. Lepine