

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
August 22, 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. STAFF CHANGES AT CITY HALL

The City has announced Deepak Joshi as the new Chief Operating Officer (COO), to assist the City's Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). All Departmental Directors and Agency COO's will now report to the CAO, Phil Sheegl through the Corporate COO. Deepak Joshi will also serve as the Chair of the Planning Executive Advisory Committee (PEAC).

Deepak has served as the Director of Planning, Property and Development since November 2008. Alex Robinson will assume new responsibilities for significant strategic initiatives, which are a priority for the City.

With Deepak Joshi's appointment as COO, Barry Thorgrimson, Manager of Real Estate and Economic Development, will become Acting Director of Planning, Property and Development, effective August 15.

2. DIRECTOR OF WATER AND WASTE DEPARTMENT RETIRING

Mr. Barry MacBride, Director of the Water and Waste Department is officially retiring from the Winnipeg Public Service effective September 30, 2011. The City has begun the recruitment process to identify a new Director.

Barry began his employment with the Winnipeg Public Service in the Water and Waste Department in 1979 and has been employed in a variety of positions with the department, becoming Director in June, 1997.

I would like to thank Barry for the professionalism he showed in my dealings with him throughout the years. The Local wishes him all the best in his retirement.

3. CITY DEPARTMENTS

The City is considering reorganizing the City's by-law enforcement and inspections. Also, the City might create a new Parks Department. Winnipeg has not had a Parks Department for close to 20 years. Currently, park maintenance and planning for Winnipeg's 1,000 parks is spread across three City departments.

The Local will continue to monitor and report back to Central Council on any changes made to our Civic departments.

4. POLITICAL ACTION WORKSHOP

The Local 500 Political Action Committee organized a special workshop that was held on August 18th at the Union Centre. This workshop provided members and activists an opportunity to learn and discuss the nuts and bolts of political action and why it's important for CUPE Local 500 members to be involved.

I would encourage our members to participate on other standing committees of Local 500. They are the backbone of our Local. I would like to thank all Local 500 members who are active on a committee for giving up your personal time to help out.

5. THE LES BUTTERWORTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Four students won awards this year from the Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund sponsored by CUPE Local 500. One scholarship of \$1,250 and three bursaries of \$750 were awarded.

The scholarship, which is awarded on the basis of academic achievement, went to Adam Reisacher. Adam is enrolled in the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the University of Manitoba. His partner Lorraine is a Local 500 member in the Community Services Department.

The bursaries were awarded for high marks and financial need. The winners were:

- Kevin Bairos-Novak is enrolled in the Faculty of Science at the University of Manitoba. He is a Local 500 member in the Water and Waste Department.
- Courtney Brecht is taking Creative Communications at Red River Community College. She is a Local 500 member in the city's Assessment and Taxation Department.
- Meaghan Welby is enrolled in University 1 at the University of Manitoba. She is a Local 500 member in the Water and Waste Department.

Congratulations to our four award winners!

6. **GOOD OF THE UNION**

The Local thanks and recognizes the many members who performed their job duties during the summer's heat wave.

Our members are the backbone of our city and I thank you all for keeping our services up and running seven day a week.

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
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