

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
July 25, 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. City to Extend Water and Sewer Lines

The City of Winnipeg has agreed according to the media to extend water and sewer lines to Centre Port to allow industrial development to proceed. This geographic area is mainly within the Rural Municipality of Rosser, Winnipeg's north-western neighbor.

It was also reported that the City is trying to reach a deal with the Rural Municipality of West St. Paul to extend water and sewer lines past the perimeter highway in exchange for a charge.

The Local will continue to monitor the situation.

2. Assiniboine Park

The media recently reported on acts of intimidation and threats made towards patrons using the park. The Local warned City Council that there could be consequences to the decision they made in 2009 to cut park police positions. The City cut \$1.1 million spent on park policing in the city.

For over 100 years, our park police have provided an excellent service to the citizens and visitors to our city. The Local will continue to monitor this situation and report back to Central Council as information becomes available.

3. CONVENTION CENTRE EXPANSION

The convention centre will start the expansion project by sending out a request for proposals to contractors and developers. The construction cost should be around the \$200 million dollar price range.

There is an agreement in principle between the Province and the City of Winnipeg to move forward on the project. The Federal government is also expected to participate in this initiative as well. The convention centre is about 37 years old and the original building is also in need of some repairs as well.

4. New Local 500 Radio Ads Highlight Importance of Public Services

Local 500 has launched two new radio ads to highlight the importance of public services including City-run golf courses. The 30 second golf course ad began airing on June 22 and the quality public services ad will begin airing on June 23 during the Blue Bomber broadcast on CJOB.

Every city should have municipal golf courses that are affordable and fun for everyone to enjoy and our city is no exception. Our municipal courses have a long and proud history with the citizens of Winnipeg. Our City needs to reinvest in them for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

5. Local 500 Servicing Assignments

Effective June 20, Brother Brian Ellis has been reassigned from Local 500. The Local thanks Brother Ellis for his work in Local 500 and wishes him the very best in his new servicing assignment.

Sister Paula Raposo who brings with her experience and energy has transferred into Local 500 and will assume the duties of servicing the Public Works Unit. We welcome Sister Raposo to the Local.

Sister Shannon McAteer will continue servicing in Local 500 within the Community Services Department and Riverview Health Centre.

The Local has three very committed and experienced National Servicing Representatives and we look forward to working with them.

6. CIVIC PENSION/BENEFIT PLAN

At July's City Council meeting a motion was carried to increase employee contributions from 8% to 10%. With an increase of 0.5% per annum over a 4-year period with the first increase effective September, 2011 and subsequent increases effective January 1st of each of 2012, 2013 and 2014.

These contribution increases are necessary to keep the plan in a positive position.

All Councillors and Mayor voted in favour of the motion with the exception of Councillor Swandel and Russ Wyatt.

7. TRAFFIC SIGNALS BRANCH

City Council also voted to accept an audit report as information relative to the Traffic Signals Branch. This motion was carried unanimously.

There was also a second vote that the Traffic Signals Branch business unit be forwarded to the alternate service delivery development evaluation process. This motion was carried.

Voting against sending the report to the ASD Committee were Ross Eadie, Harvey Smith and Jenny Gerbasi.

8. GOOD OF THE UNION

BROTHER ED BLACKMAN 1933 - 2011

CUPE and the labour movement have suffered a great loss with the passing of Brother Ed Blackman on Tuesday, July 12.

Ed served as the President of Local 500 from 1976 until his retirement in 1993. He also served as a General Vice-President on CUPE's National Executive Board.

On behalf of the members, executive and staff of Local 500, I extend my heartfelt condolences to his wife Shirlee, and his entire family.

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/am
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