

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
June 27, 2011**

CUPE / *Canadian Union
of Public Employees*
Local 500

TO: All Central Council Delegates

RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings:

Good evening everyone. I am unable to attend Central Council tonight as I have to attend my son's graduation dinner and reception. I am taking a leading role in the school's Safe Grad and must send my regrets for tonight's meeting.

Thank you to Brother Barron for chairing and to everyone for coming out tonight.

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

1. Environmental Health Inspectors Transferring to the Province

Beginning in April 2012, public health inspection services, which are currently delivered by the City of Winnipeg, will shift to the Province of Manitoba. On June 22nd, City Council voted unanimously in favour of the transfer. This transfer will eliminate the current split over the jurisdiction of public health service delivery between the City and the Province. The Local will keep the affected members informed as more details unfold.

2. Province Will Stop Buying Single Use Water Bottles

This past month the Manitoba Provincial Government developed a new policy to ban the purchase of bottled water by government departments. Bottled water undermines support for public water systems and helps pave the way for corporate control of local water resources. The Province will buy only single use bottled water when clean water is not available or in emergency situations such as fighting forest fires.

Congratulations to the province/current government for taking steps to stop buying "for profit bottled water".

3. Provincial Election Issues

On Friday, June 10 Councillor Gord spoke about his plan to resign at City Hall and run provincially against NDP Health Minister Theresa Oswald in the October 4th provincial election.

If Councillor Steeves resigns in late summer, a St. Vital by-election will likely be held after the provincial election.

Councillor Steeves has been representing the St. Vital area for 11 years.

4. City Hall Adding Two Electoral Wards

The Chair of the City's Governance Committee, Grant Nordman said Winnipeg's population has grown by about 75,000 people since the last boundary review was done. The Governance Committee made it official on June 14, that two new wards would be added to the city. The final step was approved by City Council on June 22.

5. Strikes and Lockouts

Local 500 will continue to help and support the members of CUPW throughout their negotiations. On June 10, members and staff of Local 500 attended the rally held at the downtown Graham Avenue location. Some 500-700 people showed their support and we want CUPW members to know that they have Local 500's support in reaching a fair and reasonable deal.

6. Western Municipal Conference

The Western Municipal Conference was just held in Winnipeg from June 9th – 11th. Delegates took part in two great tours – one at the new Decon's water treatment plant and a lunch at the Ukrainian Labour Temple followed by a tour of the 1919 General Strike.

Local reports provided information such as the many challenges facing many of the locals today. Guest speakers were also heard at the conference. I would like to thank all Local 500 members who took part in the conference. CUPE Local 500, 1st Vice President, Brian Barron was elected as Co-chair of the Manitoba Municipal Committee.

7. FCM – Federation of Canadian Municipalities

This past month, I joined hundreds of local government councillors, mayors, regional district representatives, senior staff officials and many others from coast to coast at a national conference hosted by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in Halifax, NS. We gathered to share ideas, exchange experiences and get a chance to see new models, ideas and technology that could make our communities better places to live.

At this conference, I made myself available to speak with municipal leaders about the common challenges we face and how we can work together to resolve them and enjoyed countless productive discussions. Big national and internal businesses attend this conference and it's very important that CUPE has a presence there as well.

8. Good of the Union

Riverview Health Care Centre celebrates 100 years of service this year. Congratulations go out to our members at Riverview for their contribution as they celebrate this milestone.

9. In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that the Local reports the passing of Honorary Life member Donald Chesky. Our sincerest sympathy goes out to his family and friends. We know he will be deeply missed.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,



Mike Davidson

MD/ng
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