

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
May 30, 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 of Winnipeg and Veolia Sign Agreement

The City of Winnipeg and Veolia signed an agreement on April 20th for Winnipeg's sewage treatment plant upgrade and expansion program. Information provided to the Local indicates that the private sector will do the design/build and the City will finance, own, maintain and operate.

In the 30 year agreement, the City also has the right to terminate the agreement.

2. Golf Courses

The Local attended the City's Audit Committee meeting this month to hear the contents of a recent report. The City owns 12 golf courses and Local 500 members operate three of them – Crescent Drive, Windsor Park and Kildonan. For many years, the infrastructure at these courses has declined and insufficient funding has left them in need of repair.

The Local made a presentation to City Council on May 25th and reminded them of the important role our municipal golf courses play in our communities. Mayor and Council voted on the following motion. There were two other parts to the motion. However, the following is of great concern to us:

2. That the City of Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Alternate Service Delivery Committee and Council.
 - A. In the short term, conduct a competitive bid process for the operation of the City run golf courses.

Voting in favour were Mayor Sam Katz, Councillors Scott Fielding, Jeff Browaty, Mike Pagtakhan, Paula Havixbeck, Gord Steeves, Justin Swandel, Grant Normand, Russ Wyatt, Thomas Steen, Dan Vandal and Devi Sharma.

Voting against the motion were Jenny Gerbasi, John Orlikow, Ross Eadie and Harvey Smith.

The Local will continue to update the members on this matter.

3. Park Patrol at Assiniboine Park

On April 20th, members of the Park Patrol were notified by the Public Works Department that as of January 1, 2012 the Assiniboine Park Conservancy would no longer require the services of the Park Patrol. The membership has many questions as to how this may impact budgets and staffing levels of the Park Patrol.

We will provide the members updates as information becomes available.

4. April 28th Day of Mourning

Every year hundreds of Canadian workers are killed on the job and hundreds of thousands are injured. Many more are permanently disabled or die from work related diseases. April 28th is a day to reflect and also to resolve to make health and safety on the job a priority. I attended and participated, along with many others in various ceremonies across the city.

As a Union, we need to continue to promote awareness of CUPE's role in standing up for health and safety improvements in the workplace. On that day, we together with workers remember those who have died on the job, and to reflect on what needs to be done to prevent more deaths and injuries.

Thank you to Walter Gretschan, Chair of the Local 500 Health and Safety Committee.

5. Steward Orientation Training/Education

Local 500 held a Steward Orientation session on May 12 and May 28 at the Union Centre. The orientation sessions are approximately two hours long and are a brief introduction to the Local. Members who attended these sessions will be sponsored to the Introduction to Stewarding Course on June 17 & 18.

Thank you to all the members who used personal time to take this very important training.

6. Communications Update

Local 500 printed an open letter to the citizens of Winnipeg thanking them for the support during the recent contract negotiations with the City of Winnipeg. The letter was published in the major and community newspapers. Local 500 members have provided uninterrupted service to the citizens of Winnipeg for over 90 years.

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.

CUPE Local 500 also printed an ad in the “Military Service Recognition Book” in support of the Veterans & Troops Support/Remembrance Ad – Royal Canadian Legion. The proceeds raised from this project will help in supporting Manitoba’s Veterans assistance programs, Military Personnel and our Legion Members as well as Local Youth Programs such as scholarships, cadets and sports in Manitoba.

7. In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that the Local reports 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.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Davidson

MD/ng
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