

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
April 18, 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. Bargaining Updates:

City of Winnipeg

On Friday, March 25, CUPE members ratified the Collective Agreement between Local 500 and the City of Winnipeg. As well, City Council voted in favour of the memorandum of agreement at a special meeting held on April 8.

I would like to thank the bargaining committee, strike preparation committee and all the members and activists who worked hard and gave up their personal time on behalf of the membership.

Assiniboine Park Conservancy

Bargaining continues between the Local and Assiniboine Park Conservancy. Once more details are available, the Local will update the members through bulletins and meetings.

2. City of Winnipeg Operating Budget

On March 22, City Council voted 10 – 6 in favour of the 2011 City of Winnipeg Operating Budget. Key issues for this budget were the \$1.20 increase per foot in street renewal frontage levy and an increase in user fees for recreation programming such as “Learn to Skate” and “Learn to Swim” programs. This was also the 14th straight year of a property tax freeze.

Voting in favour of the budget were Mayor Sam Katz, Councillors Fielding, Havixbeck, Nordman, Sharma, Steen, Steeves, Swandel, Vandal and Browaty.

Voting against were: Councillors Eadie, Gerbasi, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Wyatt and Smith.

3. Sandbagging and Flood Preparation Efforts

Sandbagging production has remained a high priority for the City of Winnipeg. The City identified a need for millions of bags for the city and also for nearby municipalities. Many civic departments are working tirelessly to be fully prepared for any level of flooding our city may be facing. Local 500 members have been a key resource and have worked very hard in meeting the targeted demands.

4. Community Unemployment Help Centre Annual General Meeting

I attended the Annual General Meeting of the Community Unemployment Help Centre held at the Union Centre on March 28th. Local 500 is one of the many unions and CUPE locals who contribute to the centre.

In 2010, the Community Unemployed Help Centre provided over 1,200 individuals with Employment Insurance information, advice and representation; appealed 349 decisions on their behalf and obtained 320 favorable EI decisions in whole, or part.

The Community Unemployed Help Centre has been, and continues to be committed to the rights of unemployed workers. Many Local 500 members have benefited from this service over the years.

5. CUPE Members Can Food Drive A Huge Success

The CUPE Members Can food drive in support of Winnipeg Harvest was a huge success. A special thank you goes out to all our members who donated food items and cash during the Local 500 ratification vote on March 25th.

In these trying times, it's important to rally behind causes like Winnipeg Harvest to help those in need in our community who are struggling with hunger.

CUPE Local 500 members were also joined by Winnipeg Blue Bomber, Kelly Butler who came out to the event in support of CUPE's food drive initiative.

Winnipeg Harvest distributes food to more than 40,000 people every month. Over 18,000 are children. Winnipeg Harvest provides emergency food assistance throughout the year.

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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