

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
March 28, 2011**

***CUPE*** / *Canadian Union  
of Public Employees*  
***Local 500***

TO: All Central Council Delegates

**RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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Greetings:

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

**1. Bargaining Update with the City of Winnipeg**

In early March, the Union recommended binding mediation as an alternative to job action. While the employer would not agree to a binding process, they did agree to mediation. A mediator was appointed by the Province and a date to resume bargaining was scheduled. However, on March 11, the City, through the conciliation officer, tabled another offer for the Union's negotiating committee to consider. The Committee met on March 13 and concluded that the offer should be recommended to the membership for ratification.

The Union's Negotiating Committee recommended that the members accept the tentative settlement.

Two information sessions were held on March 24 and members voted on the offer on March 25, 2011. The Local is very pleased to report that members voted overwhelmingly to accept the offer. This agreement will give the members wage and benefit increases and job security over the life of the four year agreement.

Thank you to the Negotiating Committee, the Strike Preparation Committee, staff and all the members who helped out.

**2. Bargaining with Assiniboine Park Conservancy**

Bargaining continues at Assiniboine Park Conservancy. As soon as the Bargaining Committee is able to release more details to the members, they will do so. The Local will continue to keep members updated through bulletins and meetings.

**3. Public Works Unit Files Policy Grievance**

The Local filed a policy grievance when they were made aware that a local company was contracted by the City to help make 500,000 sandbags, in preparation for the anticipated spring flood fight. It is the Unions understanding that this work has consistently been done by CUPE Local 500 members in the past.

The Local will keep the membership updated on this policy grievance.

**4. City of Winnipeg Operating Budget**

The City of Winnipeg tabled the City's 2011 Operating Budget on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

The \$800 million plus budget outlines the City's spending on policing, emergency services, insect control and other City programs.

Last year's budget was \$817.7 million, up from \$787.2 million in 2009.

This year was also the 14<sup>th</sup> year of property tax freezes. Every major city in Canada is experiencing property tax increases in order to keep pace with costs such as gas, materials, infrastructure renewal and wages.

**5. Winnipeg Golf Services**

Golf green fees will be added to the list of charges going up in the City of Winnipeg this year. The City's Golf Services Special Operating Agency is asking City Council's permission to raise green fees at City-owned golf courses this year by \$1.00 as part of an effort to boost revenues to \$1.9 million this year from \$1.73 million in 2010.

According to a 2011 business plan that was submitted to the Alternate Service Delivery Committee on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, Golf Services expects to lose \$1 million this year.

6. **Property and Development Committee Recommends Slashing Funding to Inner City Housing Programs**

In a turn of events, the Standing Committee on Property and Development voted to cut the funding to the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI).

Councillors Wyatt, Browaty and Havixbeck voted for the motion with Councillor Pagtakhan voting against. The Committee is recommending transferring \$500,000 of the million dollar fund to the Home Renovation Tax Credit Program (HRTC) and the other \$500,000 to be reviewed by the Housing Committee and by the Executive Policy Committee.

The HRTC is a program that is city-wide and may well require more funding.

7. **Mayor Katz Announces Committee Appointments**

Mayor Sam Katz announced the following appointments to various committees: Councillor Mike Pagtakhan is Chair of the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee, Councillor Justin Swandel, Chair of Downtown Development. Councillor Jeff Browaty is Chair of Property and Development with Councillor Devi Sharma as a member of the committee.

The Mayor also appointed Councillor Scott Fielding as the Chair of the Alternate Service Delivery Committee and Councillor Paula Havixbeck and Councillor Grant Nordman as members of the committee.

8. **Claude Généreux Announces He Won't Seek Re-election as National Secretary-Treasurer**

CUPE National Secretary-Treasurer Claude Généreux has announced he will not be seeking re-election to another term at the National Convention this fall. Généreux announced his decision while giving his report to the CUPE Saskatchewan Division Convention in Regina.

9. **Good of the Union**

Local 500's Virtual Town Hall Meeting makes CUPE National's Counterpoint magazine.

Twenty-four thousand Winnipeg residents experienced history as they participated in Manitoba's first ever virtual town hall meeting last fall. Local 500 was the first union to host such an event and the first ever CUPE Local to sponsor one.

The magnitude of this meeting would be like having one at the Winnipeg Stadium. We hope to host another one at a future date, given the success of this event.

***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, with the "D" and "avidson" following in a cursive script.

Mike Davidson

MD/ng  
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