

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
December 20, 2010**

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. Public Works Department – Leave of Absence - Unit President

The Public Works Department has given notice to the Local of its intention to discontinue the funding of the fulltime Public Works Unit President.

The Public Works Department has had this position in place for over a decade and we believe it has been a benefit for both sides. The Local has requested a meeting with the City to discuss this matter further. Needless to say, the Local is very concerned and disappointed with their decision to delete this position.

2. City of Winnipeg Garbage Examination Underway

The city's \$350,000, six-month examination into what Winnipeggers want in a revamped garbage handling system got under way earlier this month.

A recent newspaper publication highlighted Brady Road Landfill, trash and recyclables, and trash collection systems.

The Local will continue to monitor this matter.

3. December 6th - National Day of Remembrance Action on Violence Against Women

December 6th marks the anniversary of the 1989 shootings, in which fourteen women were singled out for their gender and murdered. One of the women was a CUPE member.

For many years, CUPE has been engaged in the struggle to end violence against women and children. December 6th is an occasion to reaffirm CUPE's commitment to the broader struggle for women's equality.

4. Bargaining Updates:

Local 500/City of Winnipeg

The Union and the City have exchanged proposals in the negotiations of a new contract. The two parties met on November 29, 30 and December 1 to review and discuss the proposals. We want to make sure we have a mutual understanding of what the proposals mean and why we are requesting them.

Negotiations between the City of Winnipeg and CUPE Local 500 will begin again in January. While the Local has a good track record of achieving results, it can never be guaranteed that job action will not be needed. It is important to hope for the best, but plan for the worst. In view of this, you may want to put off any discretionary spending, just in case.

The rumour mill will be hard at work. Please do not believe anything you hear, unless it comes from the Union. If you have a concern or question, contact the Local 500 office directly. Ignore the rumours and get the facts.

From now on and until we reach a tentative agreement, we'll be sending out regular communications. Please check your bulletin board for bargaining updates.

Assiniboine Park Conservancy

The Bargaining Committee for Assiniboine Park has set dates relative to bargaining. The committee will keep the members informed as information becomes available.

RM of East St. Paul

The Local 500 members in East St. Paul have ratified a new three year collective agreement. Members will receive increases in wages and benefits over the life of the agreement.

Gateway Recreation Centre

Effective November 8, 2010, members at Gateway Recreation Centre received group benefits as outlined in its policy, recently approved by the executive of Gateway Recreation Centre. Prior to this date, there was no policy in place for our members. These new group benefits for our members and their families are a move in the right direction. Thank you to the Bargaining Committee who worked hard to make this happen.

Public Works Supplementary Agreement

The Public Works Department has commenced negotiations on their new Supplementary Agreement. These negotiations will continue.

Many thanks go out to all the bargaining committees within Local 500.

5. Good of the Union

Another year has come and gone and I would like to wish each and every one of our members and your families a joyous and safe holiday. It is both a pleasure and an honor to serve as your President. Best wishes for a happy holiday season and all the very best in the New Year.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "D".

Mike Davidson

MD/ng
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