

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
January 25, 2010**

CUPE / *Canadian Union
of Public Employees*
Local 500

TO: All Central Council Delegates

RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings:

Listed below please find a review of some of the key issues our Local has dealt with since our last Central Council meeting.

1. Message From The President

I hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season and had a chance to relax and spend time with family and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and recognize all of our members who worked throughout the holidays providing valuable public services to the citizens of our city, who we serve.

2. Automated Garbage Cart Collection – Northwest Winnipeg

The first of Winnipeg's new rolling garbage carts were delivered to homes beginning on January 11, 2010. About 42,000 households north of the Assiniboine River and west of the Red River will have their garbage cans replaced with these carts. This type of method of operation was proposed by Local 500 to the City of Winnipeg years ago and it fell on deaf ears. It should come as no surprise that when a private contractor proposed this very same initiative, it became a great idea. Councillor Scott Fielding, (St. James-Brooklands Ward) is the author of the City's Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC) report that called for garbage pick up services to be carried out by the private sector. Councillor Fielding got his wish - now one vendor dominates residential garbage pick up. As a result, prices are up and services are down.

3. Positively Public Campaign

The Local received positive responses regarding the season's greetings radio and TV advertisements that ran over the holiday season. The Local will continue with its internal and external

communication plan, including the production and distribution of three newsletter editions in 2010. The newsletters will provide members with updates and information that pertain to current issues.

A second round of workplace meetings are currently being planned for the members working in the Water and Waste Unit. We will also be meeting with the members working in Assiniboine Park.

4. Library Brochure Distributed

This past month 15 members and staff distributed hundreds of brochures to the public in profiling the valuable services libraries provide to the citizens of Winnipeg. The City has projected a loss of 7 full-time equivalent positions in the Library Services Division in the 2010 operating budget and some further cuts in 2011.

The attack on Library Services is highlighted in the EOC report.

5. Winnipeg Citizens' Coalition - AGM

The Winnipeg Citizens' Coalition held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at the University of Winnipeg. Elections of the new executive were held and some amendments to the policies and by-laws were voted on. The event featured Charley Beresford, Executive Director of the Columbia Institute as the guest speaker.

I personally support this organization because of their strong belief in protecting public services and their commitment to other social issues, which I believe are important to all of us.

6. Upcoming Civic Election

In October of this year, we will be facing a civic election in Winnipeg. This is the opportunity we get as workers to elect "our bosses". This will be the City Council that will decide your job opportunities, contracting out/privatization initiatives and will vote on our collective agreement. Therefore, it is extremely important

that work together over the next ten months to elect a City Council that supports public services.

7. Bargaining Updates

- Riverview Health Care Centre is still dealing with the outstanding issue of extended Blue Cross.
- Humane Society is currently in bargaining.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Davidson". The first letter of "Mike" is a large, stylized "M", and the first letter of "Davidson" is a large, stylized "D".

Mike Davidson
President

MD/ng
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