

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
December 21, 2009**

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. Positively Public Campaign

CUPE Local 500 is running a TV and Radio ad to extend greetings to the public and remind them that our members are on the job throughout the holidays and everyday providing quality public services. The 15-second TV advertisement began airing on City TV Winnipeg from December 12, 2009 to January 3, 2010. Radio ads began December 7, 2009 and will go to January 3, 2010 on CJOB, Power 97 and 99.1 Groove FM.

The Local has also been busy handing out information regarding the proposed "Water Utility" at the University of Winnipeg, Red River College downtown campus and at the annual meeting of municipalities in Brandon, Manitoba.

The Local will continue with more workplace meetings, building our member email databank and meetings with other unions and associations.

2. Library Services Cuts

On December 8, 2009, the City of Winnipeg sent formal notice to the Local Re: change initiatives in the Library Services Division. The Community Services Department received direction from the Executive Policy Committee to proceed with the proposed outsourcing of a portion of the Library Services Division's support services operation.

The City now intends to proceed with a formal request for proposals from various library vendors to provide cataloging and possible processing services as part of the cost of purchasing library material from their companies.

Over the next couple of weeks, the Library Committee will be passing out information to the general public regarding the importance of adequate funding and keeping the library publicly owned and operated.

3. Local 500 attends Blue Summit in Ottawa

Local 500 attended a water summit held in November in Ottawa to learn, organize and act for public water. A declaration was also signed calling on all three levels of government to take action.

The Summit declaration states that Canada needs a national water policy “that recognizes water as a human right and a public trust; safeguards water resources from industrial abuse; and guarantees adequate funding for water services, watershed planning and management and the necessary science to protect water quantity and quality.”

Locals and activists from all over Canada took part in this very important event. We in our own city of Winnipeg face many challenges around the issue of public ownership in our water services.

4. Council passes sale of Winnipeg Parkade

Last month City Council voted 10-4 in favour of selling the Winnipeg Square Parkade for \$24 million to Toronto’s Crown Realty Partners. In 2009, this parkade contributed \$1.8 million to the Winnipeg Parking Authority’s bottom line.

Councillor’s who voted in opposition of the sale were: Councillors Harvey Smith, Lillian Thomas, Dan Vandal and Jenny Gerbasi.

5. Bargaining Update

On December 3, 2009, CUPE members approved the tentative agreement between CUPE Local 500 and the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

Highlights of the Agreement:

Term: 3 years

Wages: 2.5% in each year of the agreement – Salary adjustments for lowest paid classification (ranging from 6% - 10%).

On November 20, 2009 the St. Boniface Museum Board approved the new agreement with CUPE Local 500 and the Museum.

Highlights of the Agreement:

Term: 2 years

Wages: 2.5% in first year, 2% in second year – Salary adjustment for one classification and improvements to family illness provision.

Riverview Health Care – The extended Blue Cross issue is still outstanding for Local 500 members at Riverview Health Centre. More meetings have been scheduled to resolve this bargaining issue.

The Winnipeg Humane Society will be going into bargaining in the New Year.

6. Good of the Union

Another year is quickly coming to a close, and on behalf of the executive and the staff of Local 500, I would like to wish each and every one of you and your families a safe and happy holiday.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your president. Once again, best wishes for a happy holiday season and all the 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 letters are cursive and connected, with a large "M" and "D" at the beginning.

Mike Davidson
President

MD/ng
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