

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Central Council
November 23, 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

This campaign remains a priority for the Local. Workplace and other external meetings are on-going. Our email address databank continues to grow daily. This allows the Local the ability to communicate very quickly with our members. If you would like to register your home email address with the Local visit our website at www.cupe500.mb.ca.

We have just recorded a new radio ad and for the first time a TV advertisement. Both ads will air in the month of December. As well, we are in our fourth round of billboard and third round of bus advertisements. The Local will continue to distribute information regarding the water utility and a new brochure is being developed in response to the recent cuts to Library services.

2. Library Services Cuts

On November 10, 2009 the Local made a presentation to the Executive Policy Committee of Council regarding changes to the cataloguing section of the Library Services Division.

In CUPE's view the business plan document is inefficient and lacks key information and explanation to describe the potential effectiveness of the proposed changes. We believe that a strong business plan process should be completed and analyzed before any decisions are made on what should be done with the cataloguing component, and the allocation of staff. The Local is filing a grievance regarding this process.

3. Upcoming Negotiations - City of Winnipeg/Local 500

The Local will soon start to prepare for upcoming bargaining with the City of Winnipeg. We are seeing tough economic times across our country, where lay-offs in the private sector are devastating communities. As public sector workers, we may be facing some of the toughest rounds of bargaining we have seen in some time.

Remember, the people we elect in the next civic election will be our 'bosses' and determine the outcome of our collective agreement. They could decide your job opportunities, control contracting out/privatization issues and determine your wages and benefits. I urge you to support the Councillors who have stood up for you and your family.

4. Winnipeg Civic Employees Benefits Program – Contribution Rates

On November 13, the Executive Policy Committee (EPC) of Council concurred in the recommendation to increase employer contributions to the Winnipeg Civic Employees Benefits Program for the pension and disability plans from the current 6.7% to 8% effective January 1, 2010.

The Local made a presentation in support of the proposed contribution increase.

Our pension plan is very important to all of our current members and to our retirees. The Local will continue to keep the members advised of any updates regarding the pension plan.

5. The City of Winnipeg 2010 Capital Budget

The City of Winnipeg's draft of the 2010 Capital Budget and 2011-2015 Five-Year Forecast was made public this past week. Your Local was at EPC for this meeting.

The Capital Budget outlines the projects the City will undertake in areas such as streets, public transit, active transportation, water and waste infrastructure and civic buildings. Our city faces a billion dollar plus infrastructure deficit and clearly the City should start to address this very serious issue.

Maintaining our physical and social infrastructure should be a priority for all civic governments including the City of Winnipeg.

6. New City Auditor

Winnipeg's EPC council voted this month to approve the appointment of Mr. Brian Whiteside to the position of Winnipeg's new City Auditor.

Mr. Whiteside has served as Acting City Auditor since the end of 2008, when former Auditor Shannon Hunt retired.

On November 25, City Council will debate a motion to have the City Auditor report to Council instead of the Chief Administrative Officer. The reporting relationship was changed in 2008 as part of the City's reorganization.

7. Civic Presidents' Meeting

The Civic Union Presidents met this past month to discuss many issues of mutual concern. The status of our pension plan is most certainly a concern for many of the civic unions/associations.

At these meetings, the Presidents discuss and debate issues that could impact our respective members. The civic council meets several times a year and these meetings serve to strengthen our shared solidarity.

8. Bargaining Updates

A tentative agreement was reached between CUPE Local 500 and the Winnipeg Convention Centre. The Union's negotiating

committee is recommending that the members accept the tentative settlement. Voting will take place on December 3, 2009.

Bargaining continues at the St. Boniface Museum and at Riverview Health Centre where the extended Blue Cross issue has yet to be resolved. Bargaining also continues at Gateway Recreation Centre and Varsity View Community Centre. Bargaining with Kirkfield-Westwood Community Centre is complete.

The Local will keep our members updated as information becomes available.

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 somewhat stylized, with the first letters of "M" and "D" being larger and more prominent.

Mike Davidson
President

MD/ng
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