

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Central Council
October 26, 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

The Positively Public campaign was launched by the Local in late 2007 in response to the recommendations contained in the City's Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC) report. Ultimately, this campaign intends to stop the contracting out/privatization of Winnipeg's public services.

We are now moving into our forth round of billboard and third round of bus ads in addition to advertisements in the community papers and various magazines and publications. Our mass email databank now has over 1,000 addresses and our workplace meetings are continuing. You can help out by scheduling a workplace meeting and asking your co-workers to sign-up for email news and updates.

On October 14, the Local was at the University of Manitoba distributing pamphlets with respect to the corporate water utility. The Local will continue to participate at upcoming public events to educate the public on the pitfalls of privatization in our communities.

2. Upcoming Civic Election

In less than a year, we will be facing a civic election. This will be the council that determines the outcome of our collective agreement, future job opportunities, wages, benefits and the possible privatization of public services; which will ultimately affect our jobs. A new City Council could be the body that determines the direction of our pension plan.

Please take the time to reflect on who has been voting to privatize our work and sell off city assets and who has been standing up for you and your family in favour of quality public services.

The following are the councilors who voted to give BFI a possible seven year contract in the cities northwest area:

Mayor Sam Katz, Jeff Browaty, Scott Fielding, Grant Nordman, Bill Clement, Gord Steeves, Mike Pagtakhan, and Justin Swandel.

Councilors who voted against this motion were: Jenny Gerbasi, Russ Wyatt, John Orlikow, Harvey Smith, Dan Vandal and Lillian Thomas.

3. CUPE 2009 National Convention - Montreal

This year, CUPE held its 24th National Convention in Montreal. At this bi-annual event, CUPE members from across the country gather to take on tough issues, debate resolutions and hold elections. It is also an opportunity for committees to meet and table their reports and we hear from a number of guest speakers.

Three members from Local 500 now sit on the CUPE National Executive Board. Brother Paul Moist was re-elected as National President. Brother Brian Barron holds a Diversity VP position for Aboriginal Workers and I was elected as a Regional VP, representing Manitoba.

Other topics of discussion included the economic crisis, improving pensions, reforming employment insurance and working together to share strategies and tactics to counter our employer's attack on our collective agreements. Political action is the key!

4. Manitoba Federation of Labour 2009 Convention

The Manitoba Federation of Labour held its convention this year in Brandon, Manitoba from October 2 - 4, 2009. The Federation of Labour is made up of about 97,000 affiliates; which includes members from our Local.

Many committees met and provided reports to the convention delegates. Elections were held and many resolutions were discussed, debated and voted on. Guest speakers included Gary Doer, Jack Layton and many others.

Darlene Dziewit, MFL President, did not seek re-election and CUPE Manitoba President, Kevin Rebeck was elected to the position. We thank Sister Darlene for all her hard work over the years and wish Brother Rebeck all the very best in his first term as Federation President.

Congratulations also go out to Sister Cathy Williams-Stewart from Local 500 who was elected as VP for the MFL Workers of Color Committee.

5. Bargaining Updates

Kirkfield Westwood C.C. just ratified a two year agreement with wage and benefit increases over the term of the agreement. Negotiations at the Winnipeg Convention Centre are continuing. Riverview Health Care Centre is still waiting for the issue of extended Blue Cross to be resolved. Bargaining is also still on-going at St. Boniface Museum.

The Local will keep the members informed on these negotiations as information becomes available.

6. Honorary Life Dinner

The Local held its Honorary Life dinner this year at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on October 23, 2009. This dinner event pays tribute to members who have gone above and beyond for the good of Local 500.

This year's inductees were:

- Brian Ellis
- Howard McCubbin
- Glenoria Molnar
- Chris Carruthers
- Ray Reeves

Congratulations on behalf of the members of Local 500 and staff.

7. Health Care Support Workers' Week

Local 500 took part celebrating in this year's Health Care Support Workers' Week held October 19 – 23. Our members provide a very valuable service at Riverview Health Care Centre and at the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

Support Workers' Week is about recognizing the importance of the service that our members provide day in and day out. Health Care workers improve the quality of life for many people in our society.

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, and "Davidson" is written in a cursive script.

Mike Davidson
President

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