

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Central Council
August 24, 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 – Update

On July 15, Local 500 along with thirty delegations made presentations to the City's Executive Policy Committee regarding the proposed new water and sewer utility. EPC voted unanimously to proceed with a proposed corporate utility model for our Water and Waste Department.

The Local also appeared and presented on the proposed utility at the meeting of Winnipeg's City Council on July 22. Voting in favour to move forward on the corporate utility was:

Councillors Jeff Browaty, Bill Clement, Scott Fielding, Harry Lazarenko, Grant Nordman, Mike O'Shaughnessy, Mike Pagtakhan, Gord Steves, Justin Swandel, and Mayor Sam Katz.

The City will still need to get approval from the Provincial government to create a water utility. Only the Province has the authority to alter the charter. Our campaign will continue with more planned events and more workplace meetings. We know from some polling results that 67% of the citizens of Winnipeg wanted to hold off on moving forward with the utility until more questions could be answered.

2. Alternative Service Delivery in the Library Support Services Division

The City of Winnipeg has given formal written notice to Local 500 that it plans to outsource portions of the Library's Support Services operations that are currently performed by our members.

Included in the EOC report (Economic Opportunity Commission Report) are job functions of the Library Support Staff that could be privatized/contracted out. This is one of many services that our members provide that are listed in the EOC report to be contracted out/privatized. It is clear the City is moving forward with its agenda regarding the EOC report. Councillor Scott Fielding is the author of the report.

3. Bargaining Updates

Bargaining is underway at the Winnipeg Convention Centre and the Varsity View Community Centre. The Local will provide updates as information becomes available.

4. Winnipeg Labour Council Policy Conference – September 19, 2009

The Winnipeg Labour Council's one day Annual Policy and Educational Conference will be held this year on Saturday, September 19, 2009. It will run from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Union Centre, 275 Broadway.

The keynote address to the conference will be about the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike. Plenary session will include "What is this economic crisis and how does it affect us", "How do cities and school boards deal with this crisis in their budgets", and "What motivates people to serve their constituents under this crisis."

There will also be concurrent breakout sessions on effective lobbying, election campaigning and public speaking and parliamentary procedure.

5. Strikes and Lockouts: Toronto Strike Settled

CUPE 416, CUPE 79 and Toronto City Council have now ratified tentative agreements reached last month. This was a labour dispute that involved 30,000 thousand civic employees and had a ton of media attention. The City of Windsor also had a strike/labour dispute and CUPE members across the country helped out by providing support to our brothers and sisters in Windsor. Employers need to know we are one union and when you

take on one local you take on all CUPE locals in Canada. We stand together, all 600,000 of us.

6. CLC Kids Camp - Clear Lake Manitoba

The CLC held its annual kids camp in Clear Lake, Manitoba. The kids have fun at camp with swimming, games, bon-fires, and many other typical camp activities. They also learn the value of unions and why they are so important. Local 500 has had and has members' children who have taken part attending this fun camp.

Thanks go out to the Local's Warden, Cathy Williams Steward who takes part as a camp councilor. Cathy has done this for many years.

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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