

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Central Council  
May 25, 2009

**CUPE** / *Canadian Union  
of Public Employees*  
**Local 500**

TO: All Central Council Delegates

**RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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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 April 30 – May 6, the Local ran a .30 second radio ad on three stations that focused on public services and safety of our workers during spring clean-up operations.

As well, this past week the local launched its second bill board and first of a series of bus ads as part of the Positively Public Campaign. These ads will highlight the importance of our public water and sewer services.

We have also planned and scheduled more workplace meetings with our members to help promote and inform you about the campaign. These meetings are political in nature and provide an update about what is affecting the work that we provide and the many challenges we face. If your workplace has not been visited, please contact the Local at 942-1001 and speak to Anna or Norina.

On May 21, I took part in a panel discussion regarding the “privatization of water services in our city” at the Millennium Library. The event was well attended and clearly this issue is a concern to the majority of citizens in Winnipeg.

**2. CUPE Manitoba Convention**

CUPE Manitoba held its annual convention from Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> in Dauphin, Manitoba. Many Locals from across Manitoba attended the convention to discuss and debate a variety of resolutions and participate in elections. The convention also provides an opportunity for many committees to meet.

Thank you to all the local 500 members who participated in making the convention a success. Sister Sallie Caufield and Sister Glenoria Molnar both took active rolls in this year's convention by sitting on various committees.

**3. April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Day of Mourning**

Every year hundreds of workers in Canada are killed on the job and thousands more are injured. The Day of Mourning is a day to pause, reflect and resolve to make health and safety on the job a priority. We also remember the 12 Local 500 members killed on the job since 1978.

On April 28, I attended a number of ceremonies held across the city to commemorate the day. Thank you to the many members and staff who took part in ceremonies and who took the time to reflect on what needs to be done to prevent more deaths and injuries.

**4. Supplementary Agreement for the Water and Waste Unit**

The Water and Waste Supplementary Agreement is almost complete, and the Union will be meeting soon with the employer. This supplementary agreement has been a work in progress for a long time and a great deal of effort has been put into it.

Thanks to all the members who took part in the negotiation of this important agreement.

**5. Canadian Museum for Human Rights**

On May 7, CUPE National President, Paul Moist was in Winnipeg to announce a \$250,000 donation to the Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. About 40 people attended the event which took place at the Union Centre. Gail Asper, National Campaign Chair for Friends of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, accepted the donation. Also speaking at the event was Kevin Rebeck, President of CUPE Manitoba.

CUPE has a long history of protecting and promoting human rights and is proud to continue this tradition by supporting this new national museum.

**6. The Winnipeg General Strike Ninetieth Anniversary 1919-2009**

The 1919 Winnipeg General Strike is one the greatest working class struggles in Canadian history that combined the solidarity of the majority of Winnipeg workers to stand up for improved working conditions, fair wages, and safer working conditions.

Many events at this year's May Works Festival highlighted this very significant general strike.

**7. Health Care Acquired Infection**

On May 14, 2009 an information session was held here in Winnipeg at the Union Centre to learn more about health care associated infections in Canada. I provided opening remarks on behalf of CUPE MB to the many healthcare participants from across the province.

Steve Davies, a senior researcher from Cardiff University in Scotland was the key note speaker. The local has many members from Riverview who deal with this issue on a daily basis.

***Conclusion:***

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

In solidarity,



Mike Davidson  
President

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