

April 27, 2009

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**

More workplace meetings are being planned to help promote and inform our members about the campaign. Please contact the office to arrange a meeting date and time if your workplace has not yet been visited.

You can expect to see bus and billboard advertising starting the week of May 18. A radio ad will run from April 30 to May 6 focusing on safety during spring clean-up and the public services our members provide.

The local continues to meet with coalition groups, other unions, government and political leaders.

Please continue to go to our web site for more information about the campaign.

**2. Executive Policy Conference**

Local 500 held a planning session on April 21 and 22, 2009 at the union centre. A number of issues and priorities were discussed including financial challenges, cultural research results and our current office operations.

CUPE Manitoba President Kevin Rebeck also attended and gave opening remarks. All of the executive, staff and many affiliate members were also in attendance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who took part in participating in this very important planning strategy session.

**3. Park Police Saved  
MAYOR AND EPC RECOMMENDATION DEFEATED AT  
COUNCIL.**

In a surprising vote at City Council, the Mayor and Executive Policy Committee's recommendation to reduce the Park Police Service was lost in a 7 to 7 tie vote.

Those who voted in favour of keeping the Park Police were: Bill Clement, Harry Lazarenko, John Orlikow, Jenny Gerbasi, Harvey Smith, Dan Vandal and Lillian Thomas.

Those who voted against keeping the park police were: Jeff Browaty, Scott Fielding, Grant Nordman, Mike Pagtakhan, Gord Steeves, Russ Wyatt and Mayor Sam Katz.

This budget reduction was submitted by the Public Works Department and approved by the City for implementation in March, 2009. However, Councillors Vandal and Gerbasi moved a motion at City Council to bring the issue before the Public Works Committee for a look at the impact of this service reduction.

Local 500 spoke out on behalf of our members through presentations at City Hall.

**4. Spring Clean-Up 2009**

City crews have started this year's spring clean up focusing on regional streets at night and working on residential streets during the day. Boulevard sweepers will start on major routes as weather permits. This year's clean up is expected to last four to five weeks.

As well, spring is showing an increasing number of pot holes on our city streets. City hall is considering a sponsorship concept whereby companies can advertise on pot hole patching trucks.

**5. Sandbagging/Flood Relief**

Special recognition and thanks go out to the many Local 500 members who worked countless hours performing flood duties. I also want to recognize the many members and their families who helped out in the community on their personal time. Many CUPE National staff also took part in defending our city from the rising Red.

**6. University of Winnipeg Bans Bottled Water**

Last month the University of Winnipeg became the first post secondary institution in Canada to ban the sale of bottled water from its campus. The bottled water industry is profit driven and undermines the public water services in municipalities. This is a huge step forward and the university should be commended for this move.

Congratulations to the individuals at the University of Winnipeg for showing strong political leadership on this issue.

**7. The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Civic Fun Bonspiel**

Many Local 500 members participated in this years 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Fun Curling Bonspiel held at the Fort Rouge Curling Club from April 15, - April 19, 2009. Local 500 has been a proud sponsor for the Second Event Trophy since 1978. This is a fun event for every one and I took part in the presentation following the finals held on April 19. Congratulations to the winners of the Second Event:

Rod Davidson – Skip  
Malcolm McArthur – Third  
Alf Mushumanski – Second  
Mary Jamber - Lead

***Conclusion:***

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

In solidarity,

*MD Davidson*

Mike Davidson  
President

MD/ng  
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