

December 22, 2008

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

The Local is continuing its work on the "Positively Public" campaign. It's very important that our members understand the ramifications of the City's Economic Opportunity Commission (EOC) Report and what actions we need to take to deal with it. I would encourage all members to discuss the EOC report with co-workers, family, friends and elected political representatives. Our public services are an important part of our community and as such we need to protect them and promote them.

There are a number of events planned in the New Year that will promote public ownership and the value of the services we provide to the citizens of Winnipeg day in and day out. Please take part in these events and discuss them with your co-workers.

I would also encourage our members to join the "Winnipeg Citizens' Coalition Group". This group is standing up for public services and helping to influence a positive direction for our City by speaking out at City Hall on various civic issues. To become a member, you can go to their website at <http://www.winnipegcitizenscoalition.com/> and download the application form. A suggested fee of \$25 will provide you with a membership to the coalition.

2. City of Winnipeg Capital Budget

The City's capital budget was unveiled this past month. This budget calls for \$2.1 billion dollars over six years – almost all of it on projects announced in previous budget years. About \$21 million of the cash comes from Ottawa under a gas-tax agreement signed in 2005.

The City faces a billion dollar infrastructure deficit and will need help from all levels of government to catch up on some major projects. Our city's wastewater upgrades, water pipe renewals, street and bridge repairs need to remain as top priorities.

This budget is status quo in terms of other big city capital budgets.

This is how the Councillors voted on the capital budget:

Opposed to the motion to pass the capital budget.

- Jenny Gerbasi
- Harvey Smith
- Lillian Thomas
- Dan Vandal

In favour of the motion:

- Jeff Browaty
- Scott Fielding
- Harry Lazarenko
- Grant Nordman
- Mike O'Shaughnessy
- Mike Pagtakhan
- Gord Steeves
- Justin Swandel
- Russ Wyatt
- Mayor Sam Katz

3. Change in Methods of the Park Police Section, Department of Public Works

Our office received a letter dated December 5, 2008 regarding the above referenced matter. The letter served as written notice of the Public Works Department's intention to transform Park Police to

Park Patrol and Park Watch Ambassador Services. This change in operation and budget reduction was submitted by the Public Works Department and approved by the City for implementation in 2009.

Currently, there are 14 Park Police officers (permanent) with full policing powers. This change in operations will modify the positions to a Park Patrol Officer function and reduce permanent positions to 7, while adding Park Watch Ambassador student (CUPE) positions. At this time, seven surplus Park Police officers will be re-deployed in accordance with the collective agreement.

We will be working closely with the employer on this matter and keep the members informed as information becomes available.

4. Water & Waste Labour Management Meeting

The executive members of the Water and Waste Unit met this month to exchange workplace information and to discuss matters of mutual concern with the supervisors of the department.

The Council approved initiative to explore a city-owned Municipal Corporate Utility and the procurement of a strategic partner for the waste water control centres were discussed at the meeting.

These meetings allow our members to ask questions regarding workplace issues and question any initiative the department is contemplating. These meetings are important and I thank all of the members who participated.

5. Bargaining Updates

Gateway Recreation Centre is in the middle of the bargaining process and should be completed shortly. Kirkfield-Westwood Community Centre just commenced bargaining and Varsity View Community Club will commence in the New Year.

The Convention Centre and St. James Historical Society will be bargaining in 2009. The Local will keep the members updated as information becomes available.

6. December 6th is Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women

On December 6th, many Canadians paused to remember that day in 1989 when a deranged gunman walked into a Montreal engineering school and murdered 14 women simply because they were women. The lives of fourteen women were taken from us by an act of hate.

In April, 2008 CUPE mourned the loss of our Local 500 member Shannon Scromeda who died as a result of domestic violence.

Across the country, in small and large gatherings, women and men joined together to pay their respects to these women and others who have died since as a result of such violence.

7. Season's Greetings

I would like to thank all of our members for their continued support throughout the past year. As well, my heartfelt thanks go out to all the Unit Executive, Chairs of Local 500 Committees and the Local 500 staff for their hard work and dedication to our Union. We have had a very busy year and no doubt the Local will be faced with more challenges in the New Year.

I hope everyone has a safe and happy holiday and all the very best to you and yours in the New Year.

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
cope 342

c.c. Sandra Oakley, CUPE Manitoba Regional Director