

October 27, 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

We are pleased to report that a number of additional workplace meetings have been completed and our e-mail contact list is increasing. The public relations phase of our campaign is also ongoing. Through the distribution of information pamphlets, we are continuing to educate and inform the public and our members about the pitfalls of contracting out and privatization of public services.

If you would like a workplace meeting or can help out with the campaign, please call the Local 500 office at 942-100.

Thanks to those members who have taken personal time to help distribute brochures to the public.

2. Municipal CUPE Conference

CUPE held its Municipal Conference this past month in Russell, Manitoba. Various Locals throughout the province including Local 500 were in attendance at this event. Issues such as the Do's and Don'ts of political action, pensions and Local reports were all part of the conference agenda.

CUPE Manitoba President, Kevin Rebeck brought greetings and highlighted the many events taking place in our province and at the national level.

As well, Sister Sallie Caufield, President of the Civic Services Unit was elected as the Municipal Committee Co-chair. Congratulations to Sister Caufield. We know she will do a great job as Co-chair.

3. Riverside Park Lease/Vote

On September 24, 2008 City Council voted in favor to amend a waterfront drive parking lot lease with Riverside Park Management; a company that sublets city land to the Winnipeg Goldeyes.

Council voted 8-6 to reduce the parking lot lease by 50% which resulted in the City covering the cost of \$233,000 in unpaid taxes.

Councilors who voted in favor of the motion were:

Jeff Browaty
Bill Clements
Scott Fielding
Harry Lazarenko
Grant Nordman
Mike O'Shaughnessy
Gord Steeves
Justin Swandel

Voting against the motion were:

Lillian Thomas
Russ Wyatt
Mike Pagtakhan
Harvey Smith
Jenny Gerbasi
Dan Vandal

4. City of Winnipeg Swimming and Skating Fees to Increase

City Council also voted last month to raise fees for swimming and skating programs 5% above inflation. This clause was a recommendation from administration. Here's how they voted:

In favor of the increases:

Jeff Browaty
Bill Clements
Scott fielding
Harry Lazarenko
Grant Nordman
Mike O'Shaughnessy
Gord Sleeves
Justin Swandel

Voting against the fee increases:

Lillian Thomas
Russ Wyatt
Mike Pagtakhan
Harvey Smith
Jenny Gerbasi
Dan Vandal

5. Convention Centre Expansion

The Winnipeg Convention Centre is planning a \$200-million expansion that will nearly triple its size and allow it to compete with trade-show facilities in other Canadian cities.

The non-profit organization held a press conference on October 2nd to unveil details of its plan to increase its floor space from 132,000 square feet to approximately 350,000 square feet - a size that would make the Winnipeg Convention Centre the fourth-largest of its kind in the country.

Our members working at the Convention Centre do a great job providing service for tradeshow, conventions and many other events.

6. Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund 2008

The Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund dinner was held on September 25, 2008 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. This event is in memory of Brother Les Butterworth for his dedication to his union and his selfless concern for the welfare of others.

This year's award winners were: Kaley Kawchuk (Scholarship), Nicole DeMelo (Bursary), Larissa Kostyniuk (Bursary), and Breanna Perrelli (Bursary). Good luck to all the award winners in all their future endeavors.

7. Honorary Life Dinner

The Local held its Honorary Life Dinner this year at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on October 24, 2008. This year's inductees were Denyse Lambert (Civic Services Unit) and Barbara Verschoore (Community Services Unit).

This dinner event pays tribute to members who have gone above and beyond for the good of Local 500.

8. Good Of The Union

Congratulations to Sister Sallie Caufield on being elected Recording Secretary of the Winnipeg Labour Council. Sister Caufield is also the Local's Recording Secretary and President of the Civic Services Unit.

Congratulations to Donald Swanson for his quick actions that saved the life of a patron at the Canlan Sports Centre. On November 13, 2008 he will be receiving a Resuscitation Award from the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Manitoba at their Annual General Meeting.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Davidson
President

MD/ng
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c.c. Sandra Oakley, CUPE Manitoba Regional Director