

September 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

The Local is continuing its work on the "Positively Public" Campaign. I would encourage all members to discuss the "EOC" report with their co-workers, family, friends and elected political representatives. Our public services are an important part of our community and as such, we need to promote and protect them.

Over the summer months, the Local distributed information pamphlets in our city parks and golf courses. The response from the citizens was both supportive and encouraging. It is clear that they value their public services.

The Local will keep the membership updated as issues unfold.

2. 311 Committee Recognized at Celebration Event

The 311 Committee of Local 500 celebrated their success of keeping the City's new 311 contact centre internally operated, during a celebration event held at the centre on September 16. The City presented each member with a letter of thanks and certificate in recognition of the key role they played in keeping this important service publicly operated. Following a tour of the new centre, the members were treated to cake and coffee.

The Local would like to thank and acknowledge the 311 Committee for their hard work and efforts in successfully retaining this important public service.

Our committees are the strength and backbone of our union. We have many committees that work tirelessly for the Local on a number of important issues. I would like to thank each and every member for their participation, hard work and dedication to our Local.

3. Commissionaires

The City of Winnipeg put out bids for the work currently being provided by the Commissionaires. We have met with the employer and are looking at our options. We'll keep the members updated as more information becomes available.

The Commissionaires are a non-profit organization and have provided an outstanding service for over 50 years.

4. Bargaining Updates

Bargaining continues at Riverview Health Care Centre and Gateway Recreation Centre.

Bargaining will commence at Canlan Sportsplex in the near future.

The Local will keep the members updated as information unfolds.

5. Workplace Meetings

Our workplace meetings are continuing throughout the fall. These face to face meetings are an important way to inform our members about the "Economic Opportunity Commission Report" (EOC) and its affect on the services we provide to the citizens of Winnipeg. It's important that the members know about the key issues facing our Local and also how we are dealing with them.

If you would like a workplace meeting, please contact your Unit President, National Staff Representative or call our office at 942-1001. (**Note:** These meetings must be held before work, lunch hour or after work).

6. United Way of Winnipeg

The United Way of Winnipeg kicked off its 2008 Annual Labour Fundraising Campaign by holding a breakfast event at the Union Centre on September 15. The theme for this year's event was "The President's Breakfast". Labour leaders throughout the city agreed to don an apron and help serve up a hot breakfast to rank and file members.

I took part in this fundraising event and would encourage all of our members to assist the United Way during this year's campaign.

7. Labour Day Holiday

The Labour Day holiday is an important event which recognizes the contribution to society of all working people.

This Labour Day we celebrated the incredible strength and dedication of our brothers and sisters in Canada and around the world. The most important issue facing our membership is the attack of privatization of public services. We need to continue to work hard and fight-back to keep our services "Positively Public".

8. User Fees in Our City

For some time now, we have seen the transferring of water and sewer revenue to the City's general revenue. These annual transfers have risen from \$21 million in 2004, to \$35 million this year.

The City's Executive Policy Committee (EPC) is slated to vote in favor of ending these transfers once and for all after this year. This is clearly an indication of a user bill increase.

The local will keep you posted on the outcome of the vote.

9. Riverside Park Management/EPC Meeting

At the City's Executive Policy Committee meeting held on September 17, the vote was carried to cut the size of a leased waterfront drive parking lot in half and eliminate a \$233,000 tax bill. Councillors Gord Steeves, Justin Swandel, Bill Clement and Mike O'Shaughnessy voted in favor.

The only EPC member to vote against the plan was Transcona Councillor Russ Wyatt, who would prefer to see the City outsource the Riverside Park issue to an independent lawyer.

10. Good of the Union

For many years, Sister Cathy Williams-Stewart has helped raise money for the United Way of Winnipeg. The United Way helps people who need additional support and resources. The Local is very proud of the work Cathy is doing with this organization and would like to recognize her efforts.

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.

Mike Davidson
President

MD/ng
cope 342

c.c. Sandra Oakley, CUPE Manitoba Regional Director

