

August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008

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:**

Twenty-one workplace meetings/visits have been held since April. I would like to thank our members and activists for helping to arrange these important meetings. I would encourage our members in those workplaces that have not been visited, to contact the Local 500 office and arrange for a workplace meeting.

Throughout the month of August, the Local has been distributing information to the public regarding the important role public services play in our lives and our community. The "Economic Opportunity Commission" report not only attacks our workforce, but also threatens public assets and public control.

A huge thanks to our members and their families who helped drop flyers and took the time to talk to the citizens about the important jobs our members do day in and day out.

We will continue to hand out flyers in our community parks, municipal golf courses and other locations as our campaign continues to unfold.

Our member contact databank continues to grow with about 600 members signed up. In the near future, we will be asking our members to encourage their family members, friends and neighbours to contact their city councillor to talk about the importance of public services and the dangers of privatization and contracting out.

## **2. Contracting Out of Custodial Services**

The Planning, Property and Development Department, Building Services Division is undertaking a plan to contract out custodial service at 52 locations, including recreation, libraries, museums, police and office buildings. Currently, CUPE members clean 41% of the occupied space while the private sector/contractors clean approximately 59%.

It is proposed that building cleaning contractors be invited to submit bids for providing custodial and other associated services. The contracting process, if City Council approves it, would follow a staged implementation over the next three to four years based on the City's ability to redeploy the affected members. In 1977, the City employed 86 staff in that area. Today, there are only 38 members in the Branch. This work is also part of the EOC report/agenda that calls for contracting out/privatization of these services.

The Local is gathering information to make presentations at city hall and is contacting other interest groups. Our members provide good, dependable service and there are many strong arguments why we need to continue to provide this service.

## **3. Contracting Out of Golf Course Greens Aeration**

On June 13, 2008 the Union filed a policy grievance regarding the contracting out of golf course greens aeration. This work has always been done by our members in the past and should continue to be done by city staff. The City contends that they did not have the available equipment to perform this work and engaged the services of a private contractor. The Union is awaiting a hearing date and has asked the employer to provide a copy of the business plan regarding this operation.

#### **4. Municipal Corporate Utility Model – Water & Waste**

The Union and City of Winnipeg, Water and Waste staff were advised this month that the City is taking an extensive look at our civic water and waste service governance systems. They will be considering the merits of a municipal corporate utility model and have retained the services of Deloitte as their consultant.

The City claims that a municipal corporate utility is similar in structure to a crown corporation, but is owned by the municipality and governed by an appointed board of directors.

CUPE's research department is currently examining cities like Grande Prairie, Edmonton and Kingston who presently use a municipal corporate utility model to deliver their water and services to the citizens.

For many reasons, our Local is concerned about this undertaking by the City and will continue to meet with government officials as needed. We will update the members as information becomes available.

#### **5. Bargaining Updates**

##### Gateway Recreation Centre:

Bargaining is about to get underway and the members have been meeting to go over the proposals and discuss strategy. This is a huge recreation complex where our members provide numerous services to the public.

##### Riverview Health Centre:

Bargaining continues for the centre with wages and benefits being a priority. Many thanks go out to the bargaining representatives from Riverview who have been at the table for some time now.

#### **6. Commissionaires**

The City of Winnipeg is looking for a new private company to take over the municipal parking enforcement and replacing the non-

profit Commissionaires corps that has provided the service for decades.

The contract recently tendered by the City is restrictive for these members to operate under, given they are a not-for-profit work force. There were many issues such as high penalties that made the Commissionaires not bid on the contract. The Local will be having discussions with the City to hopefully bring this work back in-house.

## **7. Good of the Union**

### Aubrey Sarah Forbes-Idman

Sister Aubrey left us on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008. Aubrey was on the CUPE Manitoba executive and was a member of CUPE Local 500.

Sister Aubrey was a long standing union activist and lived her life to her motto “Challenge Injustice”.

She will be missed by many people and not forgotten.

### **Conclusion:**

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Davidson". The "M" is large and stylized, followed by "Davidson" in a cursive script.

Mike Davidson  
President

MD/ng  
cope 342

c.c. Sandra Oakley, CUPE Manitoba Regional Director

