

June 23rd, 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 Positively Public Campaign was undertaken by the Local in late 2007 to fight the recommendations of the Economic Opportunity Commission report. Ultimately, this campaign intends to stop the contracting out, shutting down and privatization of Winnipeg's public services.

I am very happy to report to Central Council Delegates that the Local sent out its first ever mass e-mail. During the month of May, we collected over 350 e-mail addresses. This added technology will only increase the Local's ability to contact and mobilize our members, their families and friends.

Our workplace meetings with our members are continuing. These face-to-face meetings are an important way to inform and educate our members about the dangers of the Economic Opportunity Commission report. If you can help out by scheduling a workplace meeting, please contact the Local 500 office.

2. Civic Council of Unions and Associations:

The Civic Presidents continue to meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of mutual concern.

These meetings are an important means of building strength and solidarity. This council is an example right across the country. We share information and support each other's union/association on many fronts.

3. Union Education:

Local 500 held another new steward orientation class this past month put on by the Chair of Education, Sister Glenoria Molnar. After members have received the orientation, they are ready to take the shop steward training offered by the Local.

Our stewards are the Local's eyes and ears in the workplace and I would like to thank all of them for giving up their own personal time to take this training. Please remember the law firm of Myers Weinberg will be offering a free class in the fall that is geared to new shop stewards.

Congratulations to:

- Ron Delbridge
- Sid King
- Brooke Wellby
- Shelly Bailey
- Peter Buchko
- Warren Klassen
- Yvonne Ricard
- Carol Robinson

4. National Aboriginal Day – June 19th, 2008

On Thursday, June 19th, 2008 The City of Winnipeg and CUPE Local 500 celebrated their 6th Annual Aboriginal Day.

Diversity is one of our Union's greatest strengths - Aboriginal Day is a great opportunity for us to appreciate the heritage and contribution of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters.

I would like to thank CUPE's Aboriginal Council for their participation and all those who offered their assistance to make this a great day to remember.

5. Big Bike Event:

This month CUPE Local 500 took part in the big bike event to raise money for the heart and stroke foundation. All the bike riders wore Positively Public t-shirts which highlights the work that our members provide to the citizens of Winnipeg. Positively Public is also the name of the Local's fight back campaign against the City's Economic Opportunity Commission report.

This is one example of the community involvement our members regularly participate in. Many thanks to Sister Sallie Caufield for working hard to make this event fun and successful for everyone involved.

6. May Works Picnic:

The May Works Picnic held by the Winnipeg Labour Council was recently held at the Freight House in the inner-city. Many children and citizens came to this picnic and took part in the games, rides and free hot dogs and drinks.

The labour movement is much more than dealing with worker's rights, it is also about taking part in our communities. Many thanks to Sisters Sallie Caufield and Cathy Williams-Stewart for helping out to make this picnic successful and fun for many people.

8. Celebration of Learning:

The Seventh Annual Celebration of Learning was held on June 4th, 2008 at the Union Centre. The Essential Skills Program began in the spring of 2001 and has been a huge success story. For many members it is about getting the education they need.

It is also about a joint partnership between the City of Winnipeg and CUPE Local 500 who have worked together to educate the City's employees and our members.

9. Education – Attendance Management Policies/Programs:

A free education seminar on attendance management was held at the Union Centre, put on by the law firm of Myers Weinberg. Many unions including our local are dealing with an attendance management program. These programs should be clear and our members should understand them.

Another education course is being planned for the fall time for new shop stewards. I would strongly encourage all units to send new stewards to take this free education course. This issue is very important to the membership and as such we need to educate as many stewards as possible.

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" and "D" are large and stylized, while "Davidson" is written in a cursive script.

Mike Davidson
President

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