

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Greetings Central Council Delegates:**

Unfortunately, I cannot be here tonight as I am attending the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Convention in Toronto representing our Local.

The CLC is taking a leading role in addressing many of the issues facing our members in the City of Winnipeg. These include Public-Private Partnerships (P3's) and the Economic Opportunity Report (EOC), which calls for contracting out and privatization of public services.

During the convention, I will be speaking to resolutions that will provide direction to the CLC to assist us with our fight against privatization.

In closing, I would like to thank Brother Howard McCubbin for chairing tonight's meeting in my absence.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Davidson". The letters are cursive and somewhat slanted to the right.

Mike Davidson  
President

MD/ng  
cope 342

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 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. P3 – Disraeli Bridge:**

The City of Winnipeg is looking to enter into a public-private partnership arrangement with repair work for the Disraeli Bridge. City Council approved the deal on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008 which ultimately means that if the City goes ahead with the plan, it would cost the citizens of Winnipeg more money in the end.

P3's are more costly, less efficient, non transparent and they 0 prevent public control of vital public assets. When P3's go wrong, it is inevitably the taxpayer who has to bail the project out.

The repair job will begin in 2009 and will take about three years to complete. It is expected to be one of the most expensive construction projects in the city outside of the upgrades to the water and sewer system.

The vote at City Council was 11 to 4 in favor of proceeding with the P3 process. (Councillors Thomas, Vandal, Gerbasi and Smith against).

Voting in favor of entering into a P3 agreement were:

Councillors:	Jeff Browaty	Grant Nordman
	Bill Clement	Mike Pagtaakhan
	Scott Fielding	Gord Steeves
	Harry Lazarenko	Justin Swandel
	Brenda Leipsic	Russ Wyatt

## **2. *International Worker's Day:***

Local 500 took part in the march to celebrate International Worker's Day; also known as May Day. The Winnipeg Labour Council mobilized workers, students and activists to mark the annual celebration of gains made by the labour movement and the working class. Many of the Local's Table Officers, Chair of the Local 500 Political Action Committee, Gord Delbridge and about 300 people too part in the event.

Brother Brian Barron was a speaker at city hall just before the march commenced.

Thanks to all the activists who made this year's march a success.

## **3. *Positively Public Campaign:***

Phase 2 of the Positively Public Campaign has commenced. We are continuing to receive member contact update information for our database. To-date, we have received over 600 responses and about 350 email addresses from our members. This will allow us to send out information quickly and more frequently. Workplace meetings continue to take place, giving the membership the opportunity to put a face to the Union.

Many events are planned around the work our members are currently doing in this push back against privatization/contracting out of our city services.

Please help out by arranging a workplace meeting in your area or plan on attending any upcoming events concerning this campaign.

## **4. *Winnipeg Citizens' Coalition:***

I am pleased to advise you that the founding meeting of the Winnipeg Citizens' Coalition will be held on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:00 pm in the Carol Shields Auditorium, Millenium Library, 251 Donald Street.

The Guest Speaker is Shellie Bird from the “People for a Better Ottawa Municipal Coalition”.

At the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting there will be elections for a coordinating committee and adoption of by-laws.

In light of the EOC report and the attack on public services and our jobs, Winnipeggers need to stand together and push back against privatization.

I urge you as members to support this coalition.

**5. *Michael Pacheco and Family & Riley Scromeda Trust Fund:***

A fundraiser BBQ was held on Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> for Michael and his family and for the Riley Scromeda Trust Fund at 1155 Pacific Avenue. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who participated and those who organized this successful event.

A special thank you to Dave Gaudreau, who helped plan an event in memory of Shannon which was held on Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 at “Alive” in the Exchange District. This event along with donations from various labour and other organizations, helped to raise almost \$19,000.

Once again, thanks to all of our members for their support of these two families.

**6. *CUPE Local 500 Steward Orientation:***

This past month the Local held two Steward Orientations. These sessions are the first step in learning the role of a shop steward. Our Shop Stewards are the eyes and ears for our Union and Local.

Thank you to Karen Byzuk, Local 500 Special Assignments Officer, and Glenoria Molnar, Chair of the Shop Steward and Rapid Communication Committee for facilitating these two sessions. A Basic Effective Stewarding Course will be scheduled for sometime in June.

I would also encourage all worksites to have a Shop Steward.

**7. *Bargaining Updates:***

St. Boniface Museum:

St. Boniface Museum has requested dates to commence bargaining.

Riverview Health Care Centre:

Riverview Health Care Centre is currently bargaining as part of the Provincial Health Care Council (PHCC).

***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 slanted to the right.

Mike Davidson  
President

MD/ng  
cope 342

c.c. Sandra Oakley, CUPE Manitoba Regional Director