

April 28th, 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. City of Winnipeg – 2008 Preliminary Operating Budget:

The local made presentations at both the City's Executive Policy and City Council regarding the 2008 Operating Budget.

There are 12 million dollars in vacancy management and millions of dollars hidden in other/general/expenditure management lines. For example, all the operational efficiencies add up to over \$10 million. Details on the actual staff cuts and their impact on services are not identified in the budget documents. However, it is very clear that front service delivery will affect the quality of services provided to the citizens of Winnipeg. The local recommended that City Council reject the budget and send it back to city officials to develop a budget that meets the citizen's needs now and into the future.

Here is who voted in favor of the operating budget:

Mayor Sam Katz
Jeff Browaty
Scott Fielding
Harry Lazarenko
Brenda Leipsic
Grant Nordman
Mike O'Shaughnessy
Gord Steeves
Justin Swandel

Russ Wyatt
Bill Clement

Opposed to the operating budget:

Jenny Gerbasi
Mike Pagtakhan
Harvey smith
Lillian Thomas
Daniel Vandal

2. *CUPE Manitoba Convention:*

CUPE Manitoba held its annual convention from April 23 – 26th, 2008 in Brandon, Manitoba. Many locals from across Manitoba came to this convention to discuss and debate resolutions, participate in elections and it was an opportunity for many committees to meet.

Guest speakers included CUPE's National President Paul Moist, National Secretary Claude Genereaux, Premier Gary Doer and Manitoba Federation of Labour President, just to name a few. Local 500 had an opportunity to highlight the "Economic Opportunity Commission" report and its negative ramifications to the citizens and the many CUPE members living and working in Winnipeg. Privatization/contracting out remains to be CUPE's number one concern and here in Manitoba it remains on top of the list.

Thank you to the many people who took part and participated in making the convention a success. Sister Sallie Caufield and Brother Howard McCubbin both took very active rolls in this year's convention sitting on convention committees.

3. *April 28th, 2008 Day of Mourning:*

Each year approximately 1,000 Canadian workers are killed on the job. Hundreds of thousands are injured. Many others become disabled or die from work related diseases.

April 28th is a day to pause, reflect and gather our resolve. I and many others participated and attended ceremonies across the city to reflect on this day. As a union, we need to continue to promote awareness of CUPE's role in fighting for health and safety improvements in the workplace. Today we stand together with workers to remember those who have died on the job, and to reflect on what needs to be done to prevent more deaths and injuries.

Thank you to the many members and staff who took part in today's ceremonies.

4. *Positively Public Campaign Phase 2:*

Planning for phase 2 is presently underway. Having good strategies in place are key to building our union's power to take on the challenges our union faces. Our strength lies within our members, and as such we continue to educate, inform and organize our members.

Building our database and arranging workplace meetings is imperative in reaching our goals. Through a network system, we can contact and send information to thousands of people, both labour and community.

If you can arrange a workplace meeting or provide information regarding our databank, this will only strengthen our union. We face challenges such as the EOC report, the business tax elimination, the upcoming City of Winnipeg's operating budgets for 2009 and 2010 and property taxes that have remained frozen for 11 years.

5. *Civic Unions and Councils of Winnipeg:*

The Civic Council made up of union presidents and associations continue to meet and discuss matters of mutual concern on a regular basis. This year's operating budget offered many challenges and raised many concerns for the next two upcoming City of Winnipeg's operating budgets.

Loren Schinkel, President of the Winnipeg Police Association has retired. Local 500 wishes him all the best in his further plans and recognizes his dedicated years of service. I enjoyed my time when he was President and know under his leadership his members and the local had a very good relationship.

6. *City of Winnipeg Spring Clean-up has begun:*

Early this month the annual spring clean-up for the City of Winnipeg kicked off. Local 500 members take part cleaning the winter's accumulation of sand and dirt from streets, sidewalks, lanes and boulevards.

This is a 24 hour a day process as the majority of sweeping an regional streets will take place at night and day time sweeping will focus primarily on residential streets.

The clean-up has been budgeted at 2.5 million, involving 200 pieces of heavy equipment and 500 employees.

Our CUPE workforce provides quality service and is well received by the citizens and businesses in our community.

7. *Strikes:*

This past month myself, Kevin Rebeck and Local 500's Chair of Political Action Committee Gord Delbridge attended two information CUPE picket lines at health care homes here in the city. Oakview Place and Tuxedo Villa had information pickets highlighting issues of decent wages, benefits and manageable work loads.

I spoke at these events and made it very clear if any employer mistreats any CUPE local, they will have to deal with all 25,000 members in Manitoba and 570,000 members right across Canada. The CUPE members were very happy to see the biggest local in Manitoba come out and support them.

8. *Civic Unions and Associations:*

Long time President of the Winnipeg Police Association Loren Schinkel retired this spring. It's very important for the civic council president's to support each other and I have the greatest respect for Loren and his contributions he's made to the council. I spoke at his retirement and reminded his membership that Loren always had his member's priorities front and center. The civic council president's meets on a regular basis and deals with matters of mutual concern.

Good luck to Loren and all his future endeavors.

9. *Another City Worker Seriously Hurt:*

Michael Pacheco, 27 had been working for only two days when the City of Winnipeg employee had his legs crushed by an intoxicated driver. Pacheco is a member of CUPE Local 500.

He could be facing the possible amputation of his right leg and an extremely long and difficult recovery, according to the doctors who treated him.

Both of the young man's legs were badly damaged. "It looks better than it did before, but it's not 100 percent," his wife, Kathy, said yesterday. "He's having more surgery and then I guess we'll know."

Pacheco was walking behind a city pick-up when he was hit by a vehicle driven by a 51 year old woman. She has been charged with impaired driving causing bodily harm and driving over the legal blood-alcohol limit of .08 percent.

Last year, two other workers (non-unionized) in Winnipeg laying coaxial cable were hit by a car and killed.

This is a reminder that our members are always a moment away from an incident because of the nature of the work they perform, the equipment they use in performing their jobs. They are out there 7 days a week, 24 hours a day in all kinds of conditions doing their jobs.

10. *Infrastructure Continues to Crumble:*

Early in April, a Local 500 operator's backhoe collapsed onto its side inside a sinkhole on Saturday, April 6th, 2008. Our members had been repairing a water main break at the corner of Saskatchewan Avenue and Bradford Street a little after 9:00 a.m. when the backhoe suddenly began to sink into the concrete.

This article published in the Winnipeg Free Press on April 7th, 2008 most certainly highlights the fact that both our physical and social infrastructure is failing/crumbling at a fast pace.

We need to start to address this problem today and not wait, the city must reinvest now.

11. *Big Bike with The Heart & Stroke Foundation:*

The Social & Sports Committee of Local 500 has registered our local for the Manitoba Heart & Stroke "Big Bike" event.

The ride will be on Monday, June 16th, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. and the team is called "CUPE 500 Positively Public". We can all help promote our campaign. We will have "Positively Public the Winnipeg Way" t-shirts available for all the riders.

We'll need a total of 29 riders with \$50.00 in pledges each or a total of \$1,450 for the whole team.

12. *Civic Employee's Fun Bonspiel:*

The Civic Employee's "Fun" Bonspiel for 2008 was the 43rd annual and was held at the Fort Rouge Curling Club on April 4th to April 6th. 1978 was the first year a trophy was donated by CUPE Local 500 for the annual competition and the local has continued to be a proud supporter ever since.

This year is a special one for CUPE Local 500, as it will be the 31st anniversary that the local has supported this event.

Here are the winners in the second event:

P. Carson, D. Hogg, B. Boughey, K. Beck

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

