

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
March 26, 2012**

CUPE / *Canadian Union
of Public Employees*
Local 500

TO: All Central Council Delegates

RE: *PRESIDENT'S REPORT*

Greetings:

The following is my monthly report of the activities and issues facing the Local since our last Central Council meeting:

1. City of Winnipeg Operating Budget

On March 20, 2012, City Council adopted the 2012 operating budget. Highlights of the budget include: a 3.5% property tax hike on existing homes and commercial buildings, a water and sewer increase, a business tax reduction (from 6.39% to 5.9%), and \$15 million dollars in vacancy management and attrition.

Voting against the budget were Councillors Jenny Gerbasi, John Orlikow and Ross Eadie. Harvey Smith was absent.

The Local made a number of presentations in opposition to the budget at various standing committees and to City Council. Copies of the Local's presentations are available from our website or you can contact the office to have copies mailed out.

2. Mayor's Annual State of the City Address

On March 16, the Mayor gave his annual state of the city address during a luncheon held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.

In his speech, the Mayor referred to a number of city accomplishments such as upgrades to recreational centres and roads, and the opening of new sport facilities. He also talked about the need for more funding from the province through portions of the PST or fuel taxes, land transfer taxes or motor-vehicle registration. He also spoke about the creation of a Transportation Authority that will be coming forward to city council sometime in the spring.

3. President's Annual Report

I've completed the yearly President's Annual Report and copies were available at last month's Central Council meeting.

The President's Annual Report is a review of the Local's activities and events of the previous year. It also serves as a plan to help us prepare for the many challenges the Local will face in the upcoming year.

Please take copies to your workplace and for your unit meetings.

4. CUPE Delegation at World Water Forum in France

I attended as one of the CUPE delegates to the Alternative World Water Forum (FAME) which took place in Marseilles, France from March 12 – 17, 2012. We met with other public sector union delegates to plan strategies to promote public water and discredit the corporate Water Forum (WWF6), which has become nothing more than a trade show for privatization and big water corporations.

Worldwide, privatization of water services is proceeding at an alarming pace. In our city, we are dealing with Veolia, who is trying to get their foot in the door.

5. Steward Orientation Training – March 13, 2012

A Shop Steward Orientation Training Session was held on Tuesday, March 13th at the Union Centre. The orientation is a brief introduction to the role of a Union steward and to the structure of our Local.

Please contact the Local 500 office at 942-1001 to find out how to register for this training. Thank you to the members who used personal time to attend this session.

6. Standing Together for Public Services – National Day of Action on Thursday, March 1, 2012 at 12:00 Noon

Thousands of workers across the country stood together to demonstrate support to all Canadians who depend on public services.

I took part in a rally on Broadway in support of unionized workers who work in the public service sector field. The Public Service Alliance of Canada, the union who represents these members, is also trying to make communities across Canada aware of the value of public services.

7. February marked Black History Month

Every year Canadians are invited to take part in various activities that commemorate the legacy of Black Canadians, past and present. This is a time to celebrate their progress, achievements and contributions made in Canada and around the world.

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, and "Davidson" is written in a cursive script.

Mike Davidson

MD/ng, cope 342

cc: J. Lepine