

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
May 28, 2012**

***CUPE*** / *Canadian Union  
of Public Employees*  
***Local 500***

TO: All Central Council Delegates

**RE: *PRESIDENT'S REPORT***

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Greetings:

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

**1. CUPE Manitoba Convention**

CUPE Manitoba held its annual convention in Dauphin, Manitoba from May 2 – 5. Delegates to the convention strongly adopted a policy paper that will see the union focus on five key strategic priorities with corresponding recommendations for action. Delegates also debated a number of resolutions and participated in some good discussions about violence against women, pension issues and contracting out and privatization.

Guest speakers included CUPE's National President, Paul Moist, National Secretary Treasurer, Charles Fleury, the Honorable Pat Martin, Barry O'Neill, President of CUPE B.C., Tom Graham, President of CUPE Saskatchewan and MFL President, Kevin Rebeck, just to name a few.

Sister Kelly Moist was elected President of CUPE Manitoba and I was re-elected as Vice President. Other elections were also completed involving Local 500 members.

Thank you to all the Local 500 delegates who met with their committees and also spoke on the convention floor.

**2. The Western Canadian Municipal Workers Conference**

The Western Canadian Municipal Workers' Conference was held from May 24 – 26 in Edmonton this year. Local 500 was well represented at this year's conference.

At this conference, reports are given by a large number of locals attending throughout Western Canada. I provided an updated status report on behalf of our Local. The topics covered are relative to municipal issues in our provinces.

Keynote speakers included National President, Paul Moist and National Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Fleury.

### **3. Water Park at the Forks**

The original plan called for a surface parking lot located at The Forks known as to be sold for \$6 million to Drumheller, Alberta hotelier Canalta, which planned to build a 250 room hotel, a 50,000 square foot water park and a 450 stall parkade at the 2.2 hectare site adjacent to The Forks.

The plan also called for the City to give Canalta \$7 million in exchange for \$700,000 worth of admission credits every year for the next 25 years. Absent from the whole deal/proposal were any design details.

A motion put forth by Dan Vandal to hold off approval until the developer provided more project details, was voted 10 – 5 in favor.

In favor of delaying approval and seeking additional information were Councillors Vandal, Sharma, Fielding, Browaty, Smith, Orlikow, Eadie, Steen, Mayes and Gerbasi.

Against Vandal's motion due to complete opposition to the Canalta plan were Councillors Nordman and Pagtakhan.

Against Vandal's motion to support the existing Canalta Plan were Councillors Swandel, Havixbeck and Wyatt.

Canalta has since stated that they are withdrawing their proposal.

### **4. Land Sale Audit Sought After**

Councillor Jenny Gerbasi has called for an audit into City land sales after what she described as a "policy disaster". She is calling for an audit of the land (known as Parcel Four) transaction and other City land sales to ensure Winnipeg's processes are fair and transparent.

The Local would also like to see audits conducted by an outside firm regarding residential garbage pick-up and the process relative to the sale of Glacial Sand

and Gravel. We are now paying double for winter treated sand now that the City has sold it off.

**5. Infrastructure in our City**

Almost 3,500 votes were cast in CAA Manitoba's first Worst Roads campaign.

The clear winner was Winnipeg's St. James Street which earned 455 votes, making it the worst road in Manitoba.

Every year our City's infrastructure deficit increases. The Federal government needs to develop a national plan to address infrastructure renewal in our country.

**6. May Works 2012 Festival/Celebrating Labour and The Arts**

The 1919 Winnipeg General Strike is one of the greatest working class struggles in Canadian history that combined the solidarity of the majority of Winnipeg workers to stand up for improved working conditions, fair wages and safer working conditions.

Many events at this year's May Works Festival highlighted this very significant general strike.

**7. April 28<sup>th</sup> Day of Mourning**

Every year hundreds of workers in Canada are killed on the job and thousands more are injured. The Day of Mourning is a day to pause, reflect and resolve to make health and safety on the job a priority. We also remember the 12 Local 500 members killed on the job since 1978.

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, I attended and took part in a number of ceremonies held across the city to commemorate the day. Thank you to the many members and staff who took part in ceremonies and who took the time to reflect on what needs to be done to prevent more deaths and injuries.

**8. Fundraiser in memory of Shannon Scromeda with proceeds to Osborne House**

A Bud, Spud and Steak fundraiser in memory of Shannon Scromeda was held on Friday, May 4th.

Shannon, who worked for the City of Winnipeg, died tragically in April, 2008 as a result of domestic violence. She was a caring and loving mother to her young son.

All proceeds from the event were donated to Osborne House. Special thanks go out to Brother Dave Gaudreau and all the members who supported this event.

***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.

Mike Davidson

MD/ng  
cope 342

cc: J. Lepine