

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
September 24, 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. Positively Public Campaign

A number of advertisements will be aired this fall and throughout the year to educate the public about the public services our members provide and denounce any form of privatization.

These ads will include TV, radio, print ad in newspapers and other publications. The public values the services we provide such as golf courses, pools, libraries, parks and many others.

Selling off our gravel pit and contracting out of residential garbage pickup has cost citizens more and delivered less. The agreement with Veolia is a mystery and details are still not being made public.

2. CUPE Manitoba Municipal Employees Conference

CUPE Manitoba held its Municipal Employees Conference from September 20 - 23, in Flin Flon, Manitoba. Many Local's throughout the province, including Local 500, took part in this year's event. CUPE Manitoba President, Kelly Moist and Regional Director, Bill Sumerlus brought greetings to the conference participants.

This conference speaks to many issues and trends in our sector of municipal work. Reports are also provided by Locals and guest speakers talk about various topics that affect our municipalities.

3. Town Hall Meetings on Employment Insurance

Local 500 members and staff made themselves available to attend a town hall meeting on employment insurance held September 6 at the Union Centre.

Neil Cohen, Executive Director of the Community Unemployment Help Centre, spoke about the changes to EI as a result of the Federal government budget cuts. He also discussed the EI process and what resources are available to Manitobans.

4. City of Winnipeg Fraud Line

The media reported on September 4 that Winnipeg officials say only a very small number of tipsters have reported instances of fraud and waste to an internal city hot line. The City of Winnipeg launched a fraud hotline last April for employees to report tips about wrong doings in the City departments.

The initial costs to set up this internal service was estimated to be around \$25,000 however, we're not sure of the costs to maintain this operation. Clearly, this is a waste of taxpayer's money and could have been used in other areas of the public service. The Local will continue to seek information regarding the costing of this hotline.

5. Bargaining Updates

Bargaining has started with the Winnipeg Convention Centre, Gateway Recreation Centre and will commence soon with the Winnipeg Humane Society.

The Local will advise the membership as information is available.

6. **Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund**

The Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund awards dinner was held this past month at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. This event is in memory of Brother Les Butterworth, a past CUPE education representative, who had a strong belief in the value of education.

This year's award winners were:

Scholarship: Helene Morakis

Bursaries:

- **Alan Chorney**
- **Michael Gallagher**
- **Matyas Toth**

Conclusion:

Please share this current issues document with your co-workers.

In solidarity,



Mike Davidson

MD/ng

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cc: B. Sumerlus