

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
January 28, 2013**

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. Complaints continue with the city's garbage pickup service

Complaints about the city's contractor (Emterra) for garbage and recycling pickup service are still ongoing. Some councillors say the contractor is still missing areas around the city and want to know what fines are being levied.

The city says that under FIPPA (Freedom of Information and Privacy Act), they are unable to disclose the amount of fines Emterra received. However, it was reported in the media that fines were estimated to be in the range of \$350,000 to \$400,000 for one month.

The Local has asked the city to undertake an outside audit of the garbage and recycling service in our city and so far we have been denied. By bringing this service back in house, would result in a higher level of service and achieve savings that could be passed on to the citizens of our city.

2. City of Winnipeg neglects downtown recreation facility

On November 29th the City of Winnipeg closed Sherbrook Pool following a city inspection. The Local has not been provided with any information as to why the downtown pool closed or when it will reopen. Community swimmers, including 130 kids enrolled in free lessons through the Kid Swim program, want back in the water as soon as possible. The nearest facility, Cindy Klassen Recreation Complex, is more than two kilometers away and may be inaccessible to many inner-city families because of distance and cost.

Sherbrook Pool was the third public pool built in Winnipeg and the oldest one still standing. This shut down could have been prevented if the city properly maintained the building over the years.

3. Major Arbitration Award for Local 500

The Local was successful in winning a major arbitration award for two members from the Public Works Unit. The employer alleged “theft of time” by the grievors and that they fraudulently filled in time records.

The Local was able to clearly demonstrate that the employer did not apply a consistent approach to discipline. As a result, the grievance was allowed and the discharge of the two members was rescinded.

4. Workplace Meetings

If any members want to have a workplace meeting with the union, please first ask for permission from your supervisor. This is the employer’s property and the Local can’t just show up and disrupt work schedules.

Personal grievances are not discussed at these meetings. At these meetings, the president talks about what issues members are facing in the workplace and what the Union has been doing in these areas.

The President also answers questions members have and listens to the issues that members feel are important to them. Workplace meetings take place before or after work, or at lunch time.

If you would like to arrange this type of meeting with your Local 500 President, please contact Norina at 204-942-1001.

5. Public Works Department Audit - KPMG Consulting Firm

KPMG consulting has been awarded the contract to conduct the audit for the Public Works Department, which should be completed by late this spring. The cost for this review is expected to cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. The city has once again, failed to work with the Union to discuss or explore any work practices that might benefit the citizens of Winnipeg. Issues such as stand by time for private contractors for snow removal should be examined for example.

The Local will provide updates on this review as more information becomes available.

6. 18th Annual CUPE Winter School

CUPE Manitoba held its 18th Annual Winter School in Gimli, Manitoba on January 24 – 27. The Local had a number of members in attendance at this important weekend school. These courses provide our shop stewards and activists on the shop floor the necessary tools to defend our members and other union issues.

7. Shop Steward Training

Introduction to Shop Stewarding:

Eighteen Local 500 members completed the Introduction to Stewarding Course on January 11 & 12. The Local would like to thank all the members who came out in blizzard conditions to take this important training. Congratulations to all 18 participants!

8. Good of the Union

Please see the link below to watch a video on the hidden cost of bottled water. This was brought to the Local's attention by one of our young members.

<http://www.insurancequotes.org/hidden-cost-bottled-water>

To all our members who have been working in some extreme weather conditions, thank you for your hard work and dedication.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,



Mike Davidson

MD/ng
cope 342

cc: B. Sumerlus