

# Communicator

Canadian Union of Public Employees – Local 500

FALL 2012

## President's Message

It's been an extremely busy few months since our last edition of the Communicator. The Local continues to face a number of issues and challenges that will require our attention and resources.

In July, Winnipeg City Council voted in favour of using a process called "managed competition" to decide the future operation of its golf courses. Under this type of model, the union and private businesses would compete to manage the city-owned golf courses. The Local has made it clear in our presentations to City Council that unions do not bid on the work of their members. The four golf courses affected include Kildonan, Harbour View, Crescent Drive and Windsor Park.

In early August, the City issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for industry experts to conduct an operational review of the Public Works Department to see if there are ways to improve operations and save money. The review is expected to be completed by the end of the year and will analyze areas such as core services, outsourcing and in-sourcing opportunities, operations, information technology, best management practices and performance measures and trend analysis. It is unknown how much this review will cost and whether it will be completed by the timeline proposed.

The Local will continue to monitor and raise these issues at City Hall in our efforts to preserve and enhance public services.

In addition to these major issues, the Local continues to deal with a number of grievances/ arbitrations, WCB/ LTD claims and other labour relation issues.



**Mike Davidson**

In other areas of our Local, we will be busy with contract negotiations at Gateway Recreation Centre, Winnipeg Convention Centre and the Winnipeg Humane Society.

Finally, our Positively Public Campaign, which is now in its fifth successful year, will continue to promote public services and the important work of our members. Our advertising initiatives include TV, radio and print ads in various newspapers and other publications.

In closing, I would like to thank each member of our Local for your continued support. I would also like to thank all our members who worked in some very hot conditions over the summer to help keep our city up and running.

Keep our Local strong!



## Table Officers

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Mike Davidson

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**1 year**  
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**3 year**  
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## In Our Community: *CUPE members making a difference*



**CUPE Local 500 Positively Public Big Bike Team raised over \$2,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation in 2012**



### **Pedaling the Big Bike for a good cause**

About 20 Local 500 members with big hearts came out on June 22 to pedal the big bike for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, a charity event that raises funds to support vital life-saving heart and stroke research.

This was the fourth year of participation for the CUPE 500 Positively Public team, and to date, the Local has raised over \$6,000 for the foundation.

"The Big Bike is but one example of the many community events our members participate in," said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. "The Local would like to thank our team members for their participation and thanks to everyone who supported their effort with pledges to fund a very worthy cause."

Many thanks to Margaret Feliksiak, Chair of the Local's Social and Sports Committee for her hard work in making this a fun and successful event!

## **Pulling power in support of the United Way**

On September 7, employees from the federal, provincial and civic levels of government gathered at the Legislative Building for the fourth annual Bus Pull for the United Way of Winnipeg. About 41 teams of 10 competed to see who could pull a city transit bus 40 feet in the fastest time. There were about ten teams from various City of Winnipeg departments who participated in this year's event.

This event marks the kickoff of the 2012 United Way workplace campaigns for all three levels of government.

"It's great to see public service employees from all levels of government pulling together in support of our community," said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. "I'd like to convey my sincere thanks to the many CUPE members who took part in this very worthy initiative."

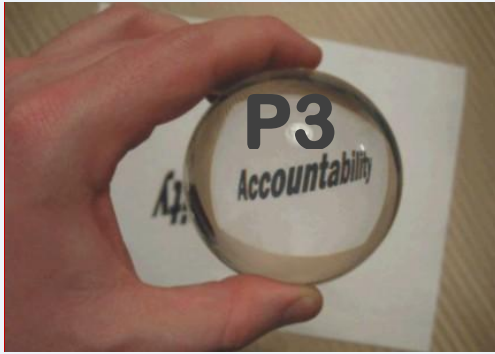
All donations raised through the annual workplace campaigns, go directly into the community through agencies and programs.



**Team Yahoo!ligans of the Public Works Department at the 2012 United Way Bus Pull**

### **Moving? Name Change? Please let us know!**

In order to keep our membership database current, please keep us informed of any information changes including name and addresses. Call us at 204-942-1001 or send us an email at [union@cupe500.mb.ca](mailto:union@cupe500.mb.ca)



# New Manitoba law requires P3 public accountability

A new provincial law will require more accountability and transparency before starting public-private partnership (P3) projects in Manitoba.

A public-private partnership or P3 is a long-term contract where responsibility for financing, management, operations, maintenance and/or ownership of a major public sector capital project is transferred to a private sector partner.

P3s are generally used for larger-scale assets that are designed and built by a private sector company for government.

In May of this year, the Manitoba Provincial government presented new rules to improve transparency and accountability in public-private partnerships (P3s) taking into account many of the well researched concerns about P3s. Research, in Canada and internationally, has found that when contracting out the responsibility for any project, the government and its citizens end up paying more while receiving less, have less overall

accountability and encounter difficulties in resolving problems. The long-term financial obligations of P3s are a form of debt which may be hidden from the public.

“This legislation is the first of its kind in Canada and will help expose more details regarding P3 projects and ensure taxpayers get the best value for their dollar,” said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. “Both the Charleswood Bridge and Veolia are prime examples of P3 initiatives, where, despite many attempts to obtain more information/details about the projects, we have been unable to do so.”

The new legislation will require public sector entities and municipalities in Manitoba that wish to enter into public-private partnerships (P3s) for projects, to:

- conduct a detailed risk and value-for-money analysis to determine if a P3 arrangement provides the best value for the money;

- consult with the public before proceeding with the bidding process;
- appoint an independent fairness monitor to oversee and review the bidding process;
- publicly report the terms of the P3 contract; and
- provide regular status reports during the term of the partnership.

As a prominent and credible opponent of P3s, CUPE has long pushed for greater transparency and accountability of privatization deals, P3s and private contracts.

“This is definitely a step in the right direction to addressing our concerns around public consultation and full disclosure of P3 deals,” said Davidson. “We’ll be watching to see how this legislation unfolds in tackling these long-standing concerns.”

## CUPE launches guide for municipalities outlining the risks of P3s

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**ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS ABOUT P3s**

CUPE has launched a new guide that encourages municipal officials to show caution in considering the use of public-private partnerships to finance public infrastructure projects. In this guide, economist John Loxley, the guide’s author and economics professor at the University of Manitoba, takes a critical look at the case for and against using public-private partnerships (P3s) for municipal infrastructure. To download or view the guide, go to [cupe.ca/p3guide](http://cupe.ca/p3guide)

# Winnipeg Convention Centre set to expand



Work will soon get underway on the \$180 million plus expansion project at the Winnipeg Convention Centre that will see the facility nearly double its current size.

The project includes contributions from all three levels of government with the remaining funds expected from property tax revenues from a new hotel and commercial space adjacent to the facility.

"This expansion project will have a positive economic impact to both the city and the province," said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. "Our Local currently represents about 130 members at the Convention Centre, and we anticipate this number will grow over the next few years."

The expansion project is expected to be completed by the fall of 2015.

## 2012/2013 scholarship and bursaries awarded

The Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund awards sponsored by Local 500 were presented to the award winners at a dinner held on September 20, 2012. One scholarship of \$1,250 and three bursaries of \$750 were awarded.

The scholarship, which is awarded on the basis of academic achievement, went to Helene Morakis. The bursaries are awarded for high marks and financial need. The winners were: Alan Chorney, Michael Gallagher and Matyas Toth.

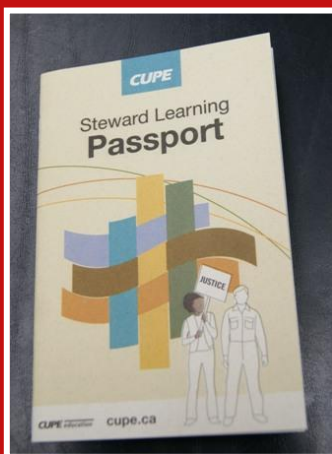
The annual awards competition is open to Local 500 members and their families. Applications are available in mid-April and the competition closes at the end of June.

The scholarship was set up in 1980 in memory of Les Butterworth, a past CUPE education representative who had a strong belief in the value of education.

"The success of our scholarship and bursary program would not be possible without the generous and ongoing support of American Income Life and the Local's Social and Sports Committee, said Local 500 President Mike Davidson." "Congratulations to our 2012 award winners!"



*Local 500 President Mike Davidson (far right) with award winners: (from left) Michael Gallagher, Helene Morakis, Matyas Toth. Missing: Alan Chorney.*



## Steward Learning Series: Your Passport to Activism

The Steward Learning Series includes a number of 3-hour modules to provide in-depth education for stewards as grievance handlers, advocates, problem solvers, communicators, leaders, workplace organizers, and human rights' champions.

**Note:** The Introduction to Stewarding workshop is a prerequisite.

To learn more about becoming a shop steward and education courses, contact a member of your unit executive or the Local 500 office at 204-942-1001.

## Sign up for email news!

Sign up at  
[cupe500.mb.ca](http://cupe500.mb.ca)  
to receive the latest  
email news  
and updates. Don't  
miss out!