

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
February 25, 2013**

**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. City Golf Courses and Custodial Services**

The City of Winnipeg released two statements regarding the Alternate Service Delivery process with respect to city-run golf courses and custodial services.

In these statements, the City maintains that the privatization and contracting out of these municipal assets and services will result in savings for the taxpayer. CUPE Local 500 asserts that this is completely false. The City's statements also allege that CUPE Local 500 did not participate in discussions related to these proposals.

This again, is false and misleading.

Local 500 has consistently presented to City Council, the highest decision making body in the city. Presenting to City Council is the most transparent way to assert our opinions. We will not be drawn into back-door meetings with select councillors and city officials - we present our views openly and publicly. Our position on the Golf Courses and Custodial Services has been made clear, and our position on Modified Managed Competition has been made clear, and is available on public record.

**2. CUPE's First National Bargaining Conference**

I attended along with about a thousand CUPE members from across the country, the National's first ever Bargaining Conference. Our Union is seeing more and new attacks on our collective bargaining rights in ways we haven't seen before.

Delegates examined different bargaining models and challenges we face at the negotiating table. This conference helped CUPE Locals share strategies and learn from each other on ways to make us stronger and better prepared.

3. **Health Care Bargaining Update**

The Health Care Bargaining Committee has been meeting with the employer group to negotiate a fair collective agreement for Health Care workers across Manitoba, including our members at Riverview Health Centre.

Val Sobiak and Barbara Greengrass from Riverview represent our members on the Provincial Health Care Council and Bargaining Committee.

The Local will keep the membership updated as information becomes available.

4. **City of Winnipeg Capital and Operating Budget Passed**

City Council voted on January 29 to approve Winnipeg's 2013 Capital and Operating budgets without any amendments. A motion was brought forward to Council to reduce the ward allowance increase by \$17,600 in order to restore nearly \$335,400 of funding cuts to museums and other non-profit organizations such as the United Way. The motion was defeated.

Most concerning to the Local is the \$13.6 million in vacancy management and \$300,000 relative to accelerating the Alternate Service Delivery process. The 14 years of property tax freezes has put the city's infrastructure very deep in debt.

**Here's how they voted:**

To decrease the ward allowances and reinstate the non-profit groups:

In Favor – Councillors Jenny Gerbasi, Brian Mayes, Ross Eadie, John Orlikow and Justin Swandel.

Voting against the motion – Mayor Sam Katz, Councillors Jeff Browaty, Scott Fielding, Paula Havixbeck, Grant Nordman, Mike Pagtakhan, Devi Sharma, Harvey Smith, Thomas Steen and Dan Vandal.

Voting In Favor of the Operating Budget were:

Mayor Sam Katz, Jeff Browaty, Scott Fielding, Brian Mayes, Mike Pagtakhan, Devi Sharma, Harvey Smith, Thomas Steen, Dan Vandal, Russ Wyatt and Grant Nordman.

Voting Against the Operating Budget:

Councillors Ross Eadie, Jenny Gerbasi, Paula Havixbeck, John Orlikow and Justin Swandel.

#### **5. Change in Mayor's Executive Policy Committee**

Mayor Sam Katz has replaced Paula Havixbeck by St. Vital Councillor Brian Mayes on his EPC Committee, effective January 30, 2013. Councillor Havixbeck voted in opposition to parts of the city's operational and capital budgets, including the property tax hike and increase to the councillors' ward allowances.

The remaining members of EPC remain unchanged: councillors Scott Fielding (St. James-Brooklands), Mike Pagtakhan (Point Douglas) and Dan Vandal (St. Boniface).

#### **6. Winnipeg Finalizes Deal to Treat Wastewater from the RM of West St. Paul**

City officials released a statement this month saying Winnipeg has signed an agreement with West St. Paul for sewage treatment. This is the first time Winnipeg has partnered with a neighbouring municipality. Officials said the first step will be a \$16 million installation of a main sewer pipe to connect to Winnipeg's existing sewer system and the city's North End sewage treatment plant.

West St. Paul has secured \$10 million of initial funding.

City officials say West St. Paul's wastewater could be treated at Winnipeg's North End plant as early as 2014. The Local will continue to monitor this matter.

#### **7. Campus Unions Stage Information Picket**

Six unions at the University of Manitoba held an information picket on February 11, 2013 as part of an effort to speak out against recent actions by the

administration in moving towards privatization, contracting out of services and increased work load.

This information picket was a collective notice to the University administration that the campus unions find this change of direction to be unacceptable.

This information picket was clearly a push back against the issue of privatization of services at the University.

***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 stylized.

Mike Davidson  
MD/ng  
cope 342

cc: B. Sumerlus