

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
October 22, 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



Metro Paper Ad – October 12, 2012

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.

2. Arbitrator Holds Up Local 500 Grievance

The Local received a good victory award in the Water & Waste Department around the issue of training opportunities.

The arbitrator agreed with the Union on many points throughout the arbitration process.

Anyone who wants a copy of the award, please call our office and a copy can be electronically sent to you.

3. **GPS Units in City Vehicles**

The City of Winnipeg is looking to install more global positioning systems (GPS) in City vehicles. We have many concerns why the City is doing this. Although, the City has a legal right to use these devices, is this money being well spent considering the state of our city's infrastructure and lack of funding to too many City departments?

The Local found out about this issue through the media and many members have contacted our office in frustration. Shame on the City!

4. **Local 500 Custodial Staff**

We're very disappointed that the members working as custodial staff had to learn of the City's plan to contract out their work through the media.

This approach to dealing with matters around labour relations is disrespectful and counterproductive. A meeting is scheduled for October 23rd with City staff. The Union is invited to attend.

5. **Real Estate Management Audit – City Council Motion**

A motion calling for an extensive Real Estate Management Audit was passed at City Council in September with unanimous support.

Here is the exact wording of what was approved:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT an external and objective Real Estate Management audit be conducted, going back a minimum of 5 years, which will review the processes and policies used for all major land acquisition, sales, transfers and external leasing activities including all transactions where commissions or management fees were paid with City of Winnipeg funds.

There has been extensive media coverage on issues related to the audit, specifically around accountability and conflict of interest concerns at city hall.

6. National Health and Safety Conference

I attended, along with Walter Gretschnan, President of the Water & Waste Unit, CUPE's 11th National Health and Safety Conference held in Ottawa from October 12 – 14, 2012.

Delegates attending heard from a number of guest speakers including CUPE National President, Paul Moist, Fred Hahn, President of CUPE Ontario, and others.

Safe workplaces should be considered a basic human right, not a request. Our ongoing activism to maintain and advance safety laws is important for all workers.

7. Manitoba Federation of Labour (MFL) Airs TV Ad

The MFL has aired a new TV ad about workplace Health and Safety. It was produced in partnership with the WCB's Safe Work campaign.

Our Local is an affiliate of the MFL. Health and Safety remains front and centre for our Union. You can view the ad by visiting the MFL Website at <http://mfl.ca>

8. Minimum Wage Goes Up

Manitoba's minimum wage went up this past month by .25 cents to \$10.25 an hour. The last increase of .50 cents was on October 1, 2011.

This increase puts Manitoba just above the average Canadian minimum hourly rate. Increases are recommended by the Province's Review Committee, which is made up of representatives from labour and business organizations.

9. Honorary Life Dinner



The Local held its Honorary Life Dinner on October 19th at the Winnipeg Convention Centre. This year's inductees were Wally Skomoroh and Gord Frost.

*2012 Honorary Life Inductees:
Wally Skomoroh, (left) and Gord Frost.*

This dinner event pays tribute to members who have gone above and beyond for the good of Local 500. Once again, our members at the Convention Centre provided outstanding service. Congratulations to both Wally and Gord.

10. Local 500 sponsors and serves lunch at Siloam Mission

On Saturday, September 29th, about twelve Local 500 members and staff helped serve lunch alongside other volunteers at the downtown homeless shelter.



I'm very appreciative to all the Local 500 members who gave back to the community, by sharing their time to help make a difference in the lives of people who really need it.

As many as 2,000 homeless people live in Winnipeg and about 400 - 500 people visit Siloam Mission every day.

The shelter is always in urgent need of items such as coffee, socks, underwear, toiletries like toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc. If you wish to donate any of these items, they can be dropped off at their main building at 300 Princess Street, Monday-Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,

Mike Davidson

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MD/ng
cope 342

cc: B. Sumerlus