

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
March 25, 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. City Golf Courses

On March 14th, representatives of CUPE attended an information meeting held with seasonal golf course employees to discuss the proposed plan to lease four city-run golf courses.



At the meeting, the approximate 24 seasonal employees were informed that for now, "it's business as usual" for golf course operations until City Council votes on the matter on April 24, 2013. According to a city representative should city council approve the plan, the city has committed to offer current seasonal staff work within the Parks and Open Space Division of the Public Works Department.

On February 25, 2013 the city's Alternate Service Delivery (ASD) Committee of Council approved a recommendation to lease four city-run golf courses -- Crescent Drive, Harbour View, Kildonan Park and Windsor Park -- to the private sector. "Our golf courses don't lose money - this is simply a shell game with figures."

The Local will continue its public relations campaign which will include radio, TV and print ads leading up to the city council vote.

2. Custodial Services

The Local is continuing its fight-back campaign to keep our custodial services public.

On February 25, 2013 the city's Alternate Service Delivery (ASD) Committee of Council approved a recommendation for a proposed competitive bid process for custodial services of offices and other buildings.

We have and will continue to speak out at City Council and work hard on behalf of our members to stop the privatization of this important service.

In addition to the postcard campaign, the Local is airing a radio ad and will soon be launching an on-line video highlighting the work of our custodial members. We are also in the production stages of a second "For Sale" TV ad, that will once again highlight the risks of privatizing public services including custodial and golf courses.

About 53 members of Local 500 provide custodial services in office buildings, libraries, aquatic and recreation facilities. Please watch for further updates and action alerts regarding the custodial services campaign.

3. Multiplex Arenas

City Council unanimously approved a plan in February that will see the city and province each contribute one-third of the \$17-million cost to build a multiplex at Garden City Community Centre and one-third toward a \$9-million renovation and expansion of East End Arena.

In both cases, the remaining one-third of the cost will be paid by the community centres, which will operate the facilities.

When those facilities are ready, the city will decommission Roland Michener, Vimy and Old Exhibition arenas.

Winnipeg has 39 sheets of ice, including 15 in city-owned-and-operated arenas. The city has estimated that it would cost \$51 million to maintain the facilities in their current state and \$80 million to improve them. According to a 2010 city report, most of the city's arenas are more than 40 years old and are nearing a "crisis" state.

Mayor Sam Katz said the city has a policy of decommissioning an old arena every time a new one is built.

4. Mayor's State of the City Address

On March 8, Mayor Katz delivered his annual state of the city address hosted by the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce. Katz used his annual state of the city address to celebrate the city's accomplishments - from IKEA arriving, the overhaul at the Assiniboine Park Zoo to the sports and entertainment district taking shape in downtown.

After his speech, Katz hinted he may run for re-election in 2014. A reporter at the event reminded Katz that if he did run for a third term, he would be formally contravening the two-term limit he once voted for at council.

5. Veolia Update

During question period at February's City Council meeting, the Mayor stated that Veolia has not ordered any new equipment for the plants and that city staff continue to operate and maintain the plants – Veolia does not have plant operators in Winnipeg. He went on to say Veolia's role is to provide advice in order to find optimization. He also said that during the course of the capital program, it is very likely that new equipment will be installed which our operators have no familiarity; however they will receive the required training.

6. Bargaining Updates

Bargaining for a "first agreement" is underway at Southdale Community Centre. Bargaining is still in progress for members at Riverview Health Centre and will soon commence with the Commissionaires.

The Local will update the membership as information becomes available.

7. Labour Liaison Meeting

I attended a meeting this past month that involved labour leaders and government. Part of the meeting agenda was an update regarding P3 regulations. Other matters discussed included pension and health and safety reviews.

These meetings provide an opportunity for the government to hear labour's concerns on important matters of mutual concern.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,

M Davidson

Mike Davidson
MD/ng

cope 342

cc: B. Sumerlus