

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
June 24, 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:

**WINNIPEG'S PUBLIC GOLF COURSES**

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Winnipeg City Council voted 8-7 against a proposal to contract out the management and operation of Winnipeg's public golf courses to a private company. The proposal was spearheaded through the City's Alternate Service Delivery (ASD) Committee, which is chaired by Deputy Mayor, Russ Wyatt.

We want to thank all the community groups and delegations who spoke in opposition of the lease proposal. We look forward to working with City Council to re-build our golf courses.

Over the past two years, CUPE Local 500 worked with community organizations to lobby City Council and inform the public on the detrimental effects of privatization. In October 2012, CUPE Local 500 launched its anti-privatization campaign through a TV ad entitled "For Sale". In March 2013, the Local again launched a second TV ad entitled "No Bargain"; referencing the fact that privatization means higher costs, service cuts, and no accountability.

Here's how they voted on the leasing proposal:

**In favour of the lease proposal:**

Mayor Sam Katz, Councillors: Russ Wyatt (Transcona), Scott Fielding (St. James-Brooklands), Devi Sharma (Old Kildonan), Grant Nordman (St. Charles), Justin Swandel (St. Norbert), and Mike Pagtakhan (Point Douglas).

**Against the lease proposal:**

Councillors: Dan Vandal (St. Boniface), Brian Mayes (St. Vital), Paula Havixbeck (Charleswood-Tuxedo), Jenny Gerbasi (Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry), Harvey Smith (Daniel McIntyre), Ross Eadie (Mynarski), John Orlikow (River Heights-Fort Garry), and Jeff Browaty (North Kildonan).

## **CITY LOOKING TO CONTRACT OUT INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MAIL PICKUP AND DELIVERY SERVICES**

The City of Winnipeg is looking at contracting out its Inter-departmental Mail Pickup and Delivery Services. According to the City's administrative report, the external delivery of this service will result in an estimated financial savings of \$30,000 per year. However, we cannot find these proposed savings, as there was no business plan provided - just a financial forecast.

The report on this matter was tabled at the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Alternate Service Delivery (ASD) Committee of Council. The Local was there speaking in opposition of this contracting out initiative. For many years, our members have provided a dependable and reliable internal mail pick-up and delivery service for the City of Winnipeg. We will continue to work hard on our members' behalf to stop the contracting out of this work.

Please watch for updates on this issue as more information becomes available.

## **ANOTHER EMTERRA GROUP LOOKING TO JOIN CUPE**

Another group of Emterra workers have decided to seek union representation through CUPE Local 500.

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, a certification vote was held at the Manitoba Labour Board for the Drivers and Swampers at Emterra in Winnipeg. We anticipate that this process will be finalized by the end of June and will update the membership as more information becomes available.

On May 6, 2013 about 80 employees who work at Emterra's material recycling facility became members of CUPE Local 500.

Please watch for further updates in the coming weeks.

## **SHERBROOK POOL**

Sherbrook pool has been shut down since November due to some safety concerns. Local 500 appeared in front of the City's Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development this month, along with other delegations in opposition to the permanent closing of the pool.

The pool serves the residents of the community well and it is also considered to be a historic building. The Local will keep the members updated as more information becomes available.

### **SEVEN DAY OPERATIONS IN CENTRAL SERVICES BRANCH**

On May 19, the Central Services Branch of the Public Works Department commenced a seven day operation schedule.

Two crews, designated as “A” and “B” shift, with a total of 24 employees, will work opposite days to cover the seven day operations from 7 am to 6 pm daily and will work statutory holidays, as scheduled. The two crews are made up of Foremen, Concrete Finishers, Rakers, Concrete Saw Operators, Operator 2's, and Skilled Labourers.

The objectives of the seven day operation are:

- To enhance service delivery and achieve greater operational efficiencies seven days a week in the Streets Maintenance Division.
- To remain competitive with the private sector in providing seven day operations.
- To meet the Council directive to expedite completion of work on regional streets, especially the critical routes.

### **WINNIPEG HUMANE SOCIETY MEMBERS RATIFY NEW AGREEMENT**

On June 6, 2013 CUPE Local 500 members at the Winnipeg Humane Society voted overwhelmingly in favour of a new collective agreement. We are pleased with the ratification of this agreement by our members at the Winnipeg Humane Society. I would like to thank the Negotiating Committee for all their hard work in negotiating this agreement.

#### **The Negotiating Committee:**

Heather Neil, Ashley Tsutsumi, Crystal Pariseau, and Shannon McAteer, CUPE National Staff Representative.



### **CUPE LOCAL 500 POSITIVELY PUBLIC BIG BIKE TEAM**

Once again the CUPE 500 Positively Public team pedaled their way through our community in support of heart disease and stroke research. The event took place on June 18 at The Forks.

The Big Bike is an important fundraising event for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba. Teams participate by registering to ride the Big Bike which has 29 seats and one driver.

Ten Manitobans die each day from heart disease and stroke. It is the number one cause of death in Manitoba and across Canada.

Thank you to the CUPE 500 Positively Public team and Margaret Feliksiak, Chair of the Local's Social and Sports Committee for her organizing efforts.

### **WORKPLACE ORIENTATIONS, MEETINGS, PIN CEREMONIES AND RETIREMENTS**

The Local has been very busy attending a number of employee orientations, workplace meetings, pin ceremonies and retirements. I would to thank all the members and staff who have worked hard to make these events fun and successful.

The Local's face to face communication with our members is very important. As well, the Local will be hosting a number of BBQ's to reach out and connect with our members.

If you would like a work place meeting please contact the Local's office at 204-942-1001.

***Conclusion:***

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

In solidarity,

*MD Davidson*

Mike Davidson  
MD/ng

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cc: W. Sumerlus