

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
July 22, 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:

CUPE OPPOSED TO UNPAID DAYS OFF

As you may be aware, on June 20, the City's Standing Policy Committee on Finance adopted a motion asking City administration to look at how much money would be saved by having non-essential civic employees take Fridays off without pay during the summer and possibly the fall.

The motion, which was tabled by Deputy Mayor, Russ Wyatt who is Chair of the City's Finance Committee, claims that the City has to come up with \$74 million in order to balance its budget, and believes about \$14 million would be saved if employees took 13 days off.

The Local has not yet been approached by the City or provided with any details regarding the proposal. We will continue to monitor this issue and provide further updates as more information becomes available.

CITY OF WINNIPEG 2014 BUDGET CONSULTATIONS

The City of Winnipeg undertook a consultation process to engage the citizens of Winnipeg in shaping the direction of the City's budget.

They want to know what the citizens of Winnipeg think about.

- What the priorities of the City should be; and
- What choices they would make if they were in charge of the City's budget.

While we are encouraged that this process is taking place, we are concerned about how the issues have been framed in the survey questions. For example, most of the questions are priority based and do not allow for citizens to describe their vision and values about the kind of city they want. This type of approach could lead to recommendations for significant cuts to programs and services that are less basic than protective services, water and sewer and roads.

In addition to the public consultation process, Citizens can provide feedback through an on-line survey, written submissions or by email or by phone.

The on-line survey and written submissions will remain open until September 30, 2013.

More information is available on the City of Winnipeg website.

WESTERN MUNICIPAL AND SKILLED TRADES CONFERENCE

The Western Municipal and Skilled Trades conference was held this past month in Victoria, Workshops were held throughout the conference and update reports were provided by all Locals in attendance.

Areas of common concern were core service reviews and contracting out and privatization.

WORKING IN HARSH WEATHER CONDITIONS

Many of our members have been performing their job duties in some very hot working conditions this past month. Their hard work keeps our city up and running twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Workers, supervisors and employers must work together to prevent heat stress and illness during these hot summer conditions.

Thank you to all our members who work in these often harsh conditions. Your efforts don't go unnoticed or unappreciated.

RIVERVIEW HEALTH CENTRE BARGAINING UPDATE

CUPE continues to bargain for a new collective agreement for health care locals under the central bargaining table. CUPE has been meeting with the employer group for over six months. Due to the employer's insistence that we need to resolve the non-monetary issues before discussing the monetary issues, we have not yet discussed wage proposals.

Local 500 members Val Sobiak (Chair) and Barbara Greengrass from Riverview Health Centre, both serve on the PHCC Bargaining Committee.

WINNIPEG CONVENTION CENTRE

The expansion of the Convention Centre is underway and has been renamed to the RBC Convention Centre. The expansion project is estimated to cost more than \$181 million and will extend over York Avenue. It is expected to be complete in 2016.

WORKPLACE EVENTS

The local has attended a number of twenty five year service pin events, work place orientations, retirements, and work place appreciation BBQ's. These events are important for the local to be part of.

In many cases this is one way we reach out to our members. Thank you to our members and all staff who worked behind the scenes to make these events successful.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "D".

Mike Davidson
MD/ng

cope 342

cc: W. Sumerlus