

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
May 27, 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:

ASD and EPC approve lease of four city-run golf courses

Both the Alternate Service Delivery (ASD) and Executive Policy Committee (EPC) of Council have voted to approve a 20-year lease with Golf North Properties to operate Kildonan, Windsor Park, Crescent Drive and Harbourview Golf Courses. EPC also approved the proposed sale of John Blumberg Golf Course by a vote of 6 -1.

The approval came after the Mayor who is the Chair of EPC, agreed to split the motion into two parts.

" Voting in favour of the 20-year lease were:

Mayor Katz, Councillors Russ Wyatt (Transcona), Scott Fielding (St. James-Brooklands) and Mike Pagtakhan (Point Douglas).

Voting against the 20-year lease were:

Councillors Dan Vandal (St. Boniface), Jeff Browaty (North Kildonan) and Brian Mayes (St. Vital).

The two motions will now move to city council on May 29 where it requires a two-thirds majority vote.

You can read a copy of the Local's presentation on the website.

1. Positively Public Campaign

The "Positively Public Campaign" continues with an emphasis on educating the public on the importance of public services and the pitfalls of privatization.

The Local is airing radio ads that discuss the city's current push to privatize Winnipeg's municipal golf courses.

The Local also continues to place print ads in a variety of newspaper and magazine publications.

A number of other events have also been planned around the main issues of our campaign.

Thank you to all the members and staff for your hard work on this campaign over the years.

2. CUPE Local 500 welcomes Emterra recycling workers as its newest members in Winnipeg

Emterra recycling workers in Winnipeg have voted to become members of CUPE Local 500.

The Manitoba Labour Board counted the vote on May 6, 2013. CUPE will not represent approximately 80 employees who work at Emterra's material recycling facility.

We are very honoured and privileged to welcome our newest members to CUPE Local 500. All workers have the right to be represented by a Union, and we are looking forward to negotiating a fair contract on their behalf.

3. 50th Annual CUPE Manitoba Convention

CUPE Manitoba held its annual convention here in Winnipeg from May 1 – 4, 2013. A number of resolutions were discussed and debated, elections were held and the various committees had an opportunity to meet and present their yearly reports.

Guest speakers included the Premier of Manitoba, Greg Selinger, CUPE National President Paul Moist, Barry O'Neil, President of CUPE BC, Kelly Moist, CUPE Manitoba President, and National Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Fleury to name a few.

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of our Union. Thank you to all the members who attended and participated at this year's convention.

4. New Rental Fees for City Fields Coming Under Question

Some community groups are upset at the city's increase to user fees for athletic field rentals.

One group noted that the lack of regular maintenance has resulted in poor playing conditions year after year.

Another organization believes the fee increase is fine, but argues the money could be better spent to repair the diamonds, as opposed to chasing groups who have outstanding fees for field use.

This is another example where the City is abandoning its responsibility to repair and renew its infrastructure.

5. 2013 Les Butterworth Scholarship and Bursaries for Local 500 Members and Their Families

The Local 500 Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund is inviting applications for its scholarship and bursary awards. This year the fund is offering:

One scholarship of \$1,250.00
Three bursaries of \$750.00 each.

The Les Butterworth Scholarship and Bursary Fund is open to members in good standing of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 500 and their families.

6. Day of Mourning Ceremonies

On April 26th, I and many other Local members participated in ceremonies throughout our workplaces bringing awareness to and honoring the memory of workers who have been injured or who have lost their lives due to a workplace injury or illness.

Since 1978, fourteen Local 500 members died due to a workplace accident or illness. Safety must come first and we all must work towards safer and healthier workplaces.

7. May Day Event

May Day has come to symbolize the international spirit of the Labour movement going back more than 120 years when hundreds of thousands of

North American workers mobilized on May 1, 1986 to fight for an eight-hour day.

Many members from Local 500 attended this historic event as a reminder of the gains and successes we've had as a labour movement, but also a reminder of the work and challenges ahead.

8. Siloam Mission recognizes CUPE Local 500 with Award Plaque

Local 500 was presented with an award plaque from Siloam Mission in recognition of its "Partner for Hope" sponsorship this month.

In the fall of 2012, Local 500 contributed \$1,000 to sponsor a meal and volunteered to help serve alongside others at the downtown homeless shelter.

In light of the tough economic times, the Local decided to give back to our community by providing financial support and to help those who are less fortunate. Thank you again to all our members who took personal time to help out.

9. CUPE Local 500 Workplace Wins Environmental Award

The Living Prairie Museum in Winnipeg has been given an award for community environmental stewardship. The environment group, Polar Bears International, has recognized the museum with a Paw of Approval Award for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Winnipeg.

Kyle Lucyk, who works at the museum, is a Local 500 member and sits on the CUPE National Environmental Committee, received the award on behalf of the museum.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,



Mike Davidson
MD/ng

cope 342

cc: W. Sumerlus