

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
August 26, 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:

EMTERRA DRIVERS AND SWAMPERS JOIN CUPE

Emterra employees in Winnipeg, who provide residential garbage pickup services, have voted to become members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 500 (CUPE).

We welcome our newest members from Emterra into our Local. All workers have the right to be represented by a Union, and we are looking forward to negotiating a fair contract on their behalf.

Our Local will now represent approximately 185 Emterra employees, including garbage and recycling collection (drivers and swampers) as well as employees working in the recycling plant, who voted to join CUPE in May, 2013.

EDUCATION CONFERENCE – SPRING 2014

The Local is planning to hold an education conference in the spring of 2014. This event is part of the "Together Fairness Works Campaign" introduced by the Canadian Labour Conference (CLC). This campaign is in response to the federal Conservative party's agenda, to devastate unions by attacking our basic democratic rights to negotiate fairly and freely with our employers. This conference will also help us to prepare the membership for the main challenges that we will be facing over the next few years.

The Local will keep the units and affiliates updated as we move through the planning of this important event.

LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY

Labour Day is a time to look back and remember that the progress we have made over the years with programs such as health care, maternity leave, pension plans, the eight hour work day, and many more.

In recognition and celebration of Labour Day, the Local is airing a radio and TV ad during the week of August 26 – September 2.

There is also a Labour Day Family Picnic event being organized by labour that will be held at Vimy Ridge Park on Monday, September 2 from 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm.

Please keep your calendars open and plan to attend this family fun picnic. We would like to see a strong Local presence at this year's event. Also, please take the time to mention this to co-workers that you are in contact with between now and then. Further information will be provided as we move closer to the date.

STRIKES, LOCKOUTS AND LABOUR ISSUES

Maples Personal Care Home

CUPE members at the Maples Personal Care Home in Winnipeg, Local 2719 ratified a new collective agreement on July 31st.

A 94 per-cent strike mandate was achieved on June 28th, followed by four days of information pickets.

Lions Housing Personal Care Home

Health Care Aides at Lions Housing Personal Care Home held an information picket on August 8th.

Issues such as working short staffed and low wages were key factors to raise public awareness of the concerns of the members of CUPE 3729.

I attended these events along with others from our Local in support of the CUPE members working in these facilities.

BARGAINING UPDATES

Bargaining continues for our new members at the Emterra recycling facilities and also at the Southdale Community Centre, Commissionaires and Riverview Health Centre.

The Local will continue to update the members as more information becomes available.

CUPE LOCAL 500 DONATES WATER BOTTLES TO SILOAM MISSION

On Thursday August 22, 2013, CUPE Local 500 delivered 200 reusable water bottles to Siloam Mission for distribution to the mission's users.

Clean, fresh water is one of the biggest needs in the homeless community and these reusable water bottles will allow them to carry fresh water with them each and everyday. Water is a basic human right and every member of the public, should be able to hydrate themselves, at no cost, with public drinking water.

Every summer Siloam Mission issues a request for hot weather supplies like sunscreen to help people manage the heat. They are also in need of powder laundry detergent, deodorant, and disposable razors. Donations can be delivered to 300 Princess Street in Winnipeg, or by calling (204) 956-4344.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,



Mike Davidson

MD/ng
cope 342

cc: D. Grimaldi