

Victory against contracting out of Winnipeg's public golf courses!

Following months of groundwork, lobbying, research, and a strong public relations campaign, CUPE Local 500 is proud to announce a victory in the ongoing anti-privatization campaign.

On May 29, Winnipeg City Council voted 8 – 7 against a proposal led by the Mayor to contract out management of Winnipeg's public golf courses to a private company. The proposal, which was spearheaded through the City's Alternate Service Delivery (ASD) Committee chaired by the Deputy Mayor Russ Wyatt, was another move to contract out a public service and community asset.

"We are very pleased that council voted to stop the lease proposal," said Mike Davidson, President of CUPE Local 500. "We want to thank all the community groups and delegations who spoke in opposition of the lease proposal. This is a victory for all citizens of Winnipeg."



Anti-privatization Campaign

Over the past two years, CUPE Local 500 worked with community organizations such as Outdoor Urban Recreation Spaces (OURS), the Winnipeg Labour Council, the Manitoba Federation of Labour, and other groups to lobby City Council and inform the public on the detrimental effects of privatization.

In October 2012, CUPE Local 500 launched its anti-privatization "For Sale" TV ad, referencing a number of controversies surrounding the Mayor's privatization agenda. In March 2013, the Local launched a second TV ad entitled "No Bargain" referencing the fact that privatization means higher costs, service cuts, and no accountability.

Lack of Public Consultation

There was virtually no public consultation or community input regarding the future of Winnipeg's golf courses. Rather, the Mayor's office released a \$70,000 campaign intended to deceive Winnipeggers to pressure councillors to vote in favour of the lease. In the end, the Mayor's campaign was exposed by local media, and was called "unethical" and a "disgrace" by many city councillors.

The council vote required two-thirds majority to pass, but was ultimately defeated after 8 hours of debate and presentations.

Here's how they voted:

In favour of the lease proposal:

Mayor Sam Katz, Councillors: Wyatt, Fielding, Sharma, Nordman, Swandel and Pagtakhan.

Against the lease proposal:

Councillors: Vandal, Mayes, Havixbeck, Gerbasi, Smith, Eadie, Orlikow and Browaty.

Steward learning series workshops coming this fall!

This fall, the Local will be holding a number of three-hour workshops from the Steward Learning Series. Stewards who have taken the Introduction to Stewarding, and would like to further their learning, are eligible to attend. Watch for more information in the coming months or contact us at 204-942-1001 or union@cupe500.mb.ca.

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From the President Mike Davidson

Celebrating our past, building our future

Since our last newsletter, the Local has seen a lot of activity on a number of fronts.

First, on behalf of the Executive and Staff, I would like to extend a special welcome to our newest members from Emterra, Southdale Community Centre and Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA). Our Local is proud and honoured that they have chosen us as the Union to represent them.

This year, CUPE celebrates its 50th Anniversary. In 1963 here in Winnipeg, CUPE was formed by the merging of two unions - the National Union of Public Employees (NUPE) and the National Union of Public Service Employees (NUPSE). As we look back at our accomplishments, CUPE members have much to celebrate. We have fought hard for good jobs with decent wages. We have won significant gains at the bargaining table, fought for fairness and equality and battled hard against privatization. There is much more to do, and by working together, we can continue to build the strong and healthy communities we deserve.

For the moment, our biggest challenge has been the unprecedented threats of privatization of Winnipeg's public services. While we experienced a recent victory against the contracting out of golf courses, our job must continue in light of the attack on custodial services and most recently, inter-departmental mail courier services. Through numerous presentations to the City, we have attempted to convey the message to elected officials that we want to work with Council. We have also said many times, that we cannot legally participate in the modified bidding process. In such a political climate, it is necessary for us to stand up for these important public services.

Please watch for further action alerts on how you can support our campaign to defend public services.

In other news, the Local is busy with contract negotiations at Riverview Health Centre, Winnipeg Humane Society, Southdale Community Centre and Commissionaires (RCMP D Division).

We are also excited to report that another group of workers at Emterra have decided to seek Union representation through CUPE Local 500. On May 29, a certification vote was held at the Labour Board with the drivers and swamper. It is anticipated that this process will be finalized by the end of June. We will update you once more information becomes available.

In closing, I want to thank each of you for the important work you do day in and day out to make our community a better place to live. Please continue to stay informed about what's happening at our Local and in your workplace by watching your bulletin boards, visiting our website and facebook page. You can also sign up for email alerts to stay updated.

I wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer. Keep our union strong!

In solidarity,

Mike Davidson
President

Local 500 Table Officers

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| President | Mike Davidson |
| 1st Vice President | Howard McCubbin |
| 2nd Vice President | Glenoria Molnar |
| Treasurer | Phil Dembicki |
| Secretary | Rebecca Scott |
| Warden | Cathy Williams-Stewart |

CUPE Manitoba annual convention celebrates 50 years!

More than three hundred CUPE members, staff and guests (including a number of first-time delegates) gathered at the Winnipeg Convention Centre from May 1 – 4 for the 50th annual CUPE Manitoba Convention.

Members debated and endorsed a number of resolutions and discussed changes to employment insurance, pension security, violence against women, and many other important topics. Convention delegates also approved a resolution to support the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) in its campaign against the conservative government's attack on unions and their right to freedom of association.

This year's guest speakers included Premier Greg Selinger, CUPE National President Paul Moist, Robert Chernomas, Professor of Economics, University of Manitoba and Charles Fleury, CUPE National Secretary-Treasurer.

Kelly Moist was re-elected as President and CUPE Manitoba's nominee for General Vice-President. Laurissa Smerchanski-Sims of Local 2343 was elected Secretary-Treasurer and Chris Mravinec of Local 998, was elected Trustee for a three-year term. Local 500 President Mike Davidson, was nominated as CUPE Manitoba's candidate for Regional Vice-President.

Other highlights included a 50th Anniversary video and panel discussion with past and present CUPE Manitoba Presidents.

At the conclusion of convention, the annual Jack Rodie award was presented to Darren Cook of Local 4270.



Top Photo: Over 300 delegates, staff and guests at 2013 CUPE Manitoba Convention



Bottom Photo: Past and present CUPE Manitoba Presidents: (L-R) Kevin Rebeck, Paul Moist, Kelly Moist, Jacques Samyn and Jack Rodie.

Riverview holds first ever joint safety and health event



Amanda Schmall, CUPE Co-Chair, Safety & Health Committee (left) and Neil Armer, Safety Coordinator, Riverview Health Centre.

Riverview Health Centre kicked off the North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) week with a first ever Joint Union/Employer event held on May 3.

"This is the first time we ever held anything like this and we hope to make it an annual event," said Amanda Schmall, CUPE Co-Chair of the Workplace Safety and Health Committee. "Our plan was to make it an educational but fun event, and I think we accomplished that."

Activities included safety and health quiz games, photo and material displays and safety videos.

NAOSH Week is an annual event where employers, workers, and all partners in occupational health and safety focus on preventing injury and illness in the workplace.

Do we have your home email address? Sign up at cupe500.mb.ca

Day of mourning ceremonies remember workers killed, injured or who suffered illness due to their job



On April 26, CUPE members along with other organizations and labour groups, remembered workers who were killed, injured or who suffered illness due to their job. Ceremonies marking the National Day of Mourning

for 2013 were held in various locations throughout our city and province.

Local 500 President Mike Davidson, joined MLA Dave Gaudreau, the Mayor, city officials and other civic union leaders to mark the event at a ceremony held at city hall.

"As we take time today to remember those who have lost their lives, been injured or became ill, I ask you to do more than reflect on the importance of health and safety, I ask you to think about the families who have lost a loved one through an unnecessary workplace accident or occupational illness," said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson.

Since 1978, fourteen Local 500 members died due to a workplace accident or illness.



Local 500 President Mike Davidson speaks at City Hall during Day of Mourning Ceremony on April 26.

"Safety and health must come first," said Davidson. "Workplace tragedies must be prevented. And making a living should never mean dying."

The Day of Mourning was founded based on a resolution written by CUPE's National Health and Safety Committee in 1984. What began as a Canadian tradition is now observed by more than 100 countries around the world, making this landmark day an international day of remembrance.

2013 Scholarship and Bursary Awards



Apply for the Les Butterworth Scholarship and Bursary Awards

The Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund, sponsored by the Union, is open each year to Local 500 members and their families. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of high academic achievement, while the bursaries are given for high marks and financial need. Family is defined as spouse, children, grandchildren, brother, sister, son-in-law and daughter-in-law. Also eligible are families of retired or deceased members.

Note: Previous award winners are not eligible, but previous applicants are welcome to re-apply.

Applications are available from the Local 500 office and on our website at cupe500.mb.ca. **Deadline to apply is Friday, June 28, 2013.**

For more information, contact the Local 500 office at 204-942-1001 or email us at union@cupe500.mb.ca