

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
January 27, 2014**

***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:

**SNOW CLEARING**

There has been a lot of media attention around the issue of snow clearing in our city. Currently, the City of Winnipeg only provides approximately 20 per cent of the total equipment.

Clearly, the public is not happy with the job that contractors are providing with the snow clearing in our city. This service needs to be brought back in house.

In fact, the City of Winnipeg Operational Review of the Public Works Department report released in June of last year, speaks very highly of the Public Works Department – especially the work performed by CUPE members. It also notes that snow removal, which is 80% contracted out, is one area of public works where costs exceeds those of peer cities. The report further recommends that the city review the costs of contracted versus in-house snow and ice services. Even the city's finance chair, Councillor Wyatt said he was exploring if a switch to more public service snow removal could save money.

**FIRE HALLS AND POLICE HEADQUARTERS COST OVERRUNS**

The issue around cost overruns for the fire halls and new police headquarters has also seen a lot of media attention.

Many politicians and groups, such as the Winnipeg Taxpayers Federation and the Winnipeg Labour Council, are calling for audits and more transparency at city hall. A motion to conduct an audit on the new police headquarters is expected to be tabled at the upcoming meeting of City Council on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **AGING INFRASTRUCTURE**

*City crews have been repairing water-main breaks in Charleswood during the month of January 2014.*

After 14 years of a municipal property-tax freeze, it's no wonder our aging infrastructure is literally bursting at the seams.

In addition to starving our infrastructure of much-needed repairs for more than a decade, council's decision to reduce the city's workforce by millions of dollars in vacancy management has forced city crews to operate as skeleton teams, making it nearly impossible to provide the services Winnipeggers expect from their tax dollars.

I commend these and other members who are out in the field during some very trying weather conditions, doing a great job providing services to the citizens of Winnipeg.

## **BARGAINING UPDATES**

Bargaining continues with our members at Emterra (Drivers and Swampers) with meeting dates scheduled throughout January.

Members at Riverview Health Centre and at the Regional Health Authority are part of a central health care bargaining process. Currently, it has been determined that it is necessary to commence the process to seek votes enabling a strike mandate. All members are encouraged to watch for further information on this important issue.

Bargaining will soon commence for our new members looking to achieve a first agreement at the Downtown Business Association (BIZ).

The Local will keep the members updated as information becomes available.

## **INTRODUCTION TO STEWARDING – JANUARY 24 & 25**

Seventeen Local 500 members have completed the Introduction to Stewarding workshop that was held on January 24 & 25. The Local would like to thank the new shop stewards for taking time out to attend this important educational session.

**WINNIPEG HUMANE SOCIETY COLLECTING BOOKS, DVDS FOR FUNDRAISER**

Dig out any gently used books or DVDs you may have around the house — the Winnipeg Humane Society wants them. In support of the animals that the WHS cares for each year, a fundraising sale will be held February 16 - 17 from 12 Noon – 6:00 p.m. All genres of books and DVDs are being accepted, but the Humane Society kindly asks that you leave out any magazines.

The deadline for making a donation is Monday, February 10. Items can be dropped off at the reception desk at 45 Hurst Way.

***Conclusion:***

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

In solidarity,

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

Mike Davidson

MD/ng  
cope 342

cc: B. Sumerlus