

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
November 25, 2013**

***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:

**POSITIVELY PUBLIC CAMPAIGN**

The positively public campaign continues to move forward making communications to our members a priority. Our campaign includes working with coalition groups, advertising to the public and making presentations at City Hall. Through these efforts, the Local was able to demonstrate to enough Councillors that a long-term lease arrangement, with respect to our city owned golf courses, would not be in the best interest of Winnipeggers. As well, contracting out of grass mowing and custodial services, have been held off.

In the upcoming year, we will be facing a civic election and subsequently, bargaining with the City of Winnipeg. Any member, who has not signed up to receive email updates, should consider doing so. This is one way we will be communicating with our members on these and other issues.

***Local 500 TV Ad "For Sale"***

This TV advertisement was designed to reach out to the public to raise awareness on the impact of privatization of public services and the sell off of city assets. This ad was a finalist in the political ad category in North America. We should all be very proud of this recognition.

Also, we are thrilled to announce that Local 500 was the recipient of two communication awards – our website won the award for the English site with more than 1,000 members and we were the winning entry for the photo submission. Local 500 made "connecting" with our members a priority and being recognized for these two awards exemplifies that.

## **SANTA CLAUS PARADE**

CUPE Local 500 and Winnipeg's Urban Forestry Branch teamed up to host the Mrs. Claus float at the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual Santa Claus Parade on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

About 30 people, made up of Local 500 members and their families, took part in the parade handing out candy canes to thousands of spectators who came out for the annual event.

I want to thank the Local 500 members and their families who helped out at this year's parade.

## **UPDATES AT CITY HALL**

On Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> it was announced that Councillor Swandel has returned to EPC, being appointed by Mayor Sam Katz. Other EPC mainstays include Jeff Browaty, Mike Pagtakhan, Russ Wyatt and Grant Nordman.

Councillor Swandel becomes Deputy Mayor and will take Councillor Vandal's former role as head of the Standing Committee on Infrastructure and Public Works.

Brian Mayes, meanwhile, received a promotion, moving to take over Councillor Fielding's old job as head of the Standing Committee on Protection and Community Services.

## **AUDIT INTO DOWNTOWN POLICE HEADQUARTERS**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, Winnipeg City Council voted not to support a motion to conduct an independent audit for the new police headquarters. The project has cost overruns in the tens of millions of dollars.

The motion called for an independent audit, including interviews with all members of the public service and elected officials, who made decisions related to the project. It also asked that a report be forwarded to City Council by May 1, 2014.

In favour of the audit were: Councillors Paula Havixbeck, Jenny Gerbasi, Ross Eadie, Scott Fielding, John Orlikow, Harvey Smith and Dan Vandal.

Voting against the audit were: Katz and the members of his Executive Policy Committee – Jeff Browaty, Brian Mayes, Grant Nordman, Mike Pagtakhan, Justin Swandel and Russ Wyatt – and no surprise, speaker Devi Sharma and deputy speaker Thomas Steen.

## **CLC FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN**

Many of you, your families and friends may have seen the TV advertisement talking about the benefits of unions and fairness to working families. These issues are important to all Canadians. This is why CUPE is taking a leading role in our country to show that if we work together to fight for fairness, we can achieve positive results for all workers. This campaign and the Local's campaign tie into each other in a very big way.

## **BARGAINING UPDATES**

Local 500 members working at Southdale Community Centre have ratified their first collective agreement. The new four-year deal includes both wage and vacation improvements.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, employees working at the Emterra recycling facility voted in favour of their first agreement, which includes wage improvements over the five-year term. Employees working in the residential garbage pick-up services are still working towards a positive relationship between the union and Emterra.

The CUPE Provincial Health Care Council continues to bargain on behalf of health care workers, including our members at Riverview Health Centre. The bargaining committee will continue to keep the membership updated as more information is brought forward.

## **MANITOBA MUNICIPALITIES MATTER**

On October 29<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Manitoba Municipalities Matter event at the Union Centre. The intent of the event was to provide an overview on the importance and values of municipal politics.

Speakers included the Honorable Stan Struthers, City Councillor Brian Mayes, John Loxley, University of Manitoba, Ron Mazur, OURS Winnipeg, Councillor Ross Eadie, Heather Grant-Jury, UFCW and CUPE National President, Paul Moist.

## **GOOD OF THE UNION**

Recently, former City of Winnipeg employee and Local 500 member, Brother Dennis Bucko passed away. Dennis was a former Public Works member. He was a friend to many, a good union member and will be missed, but not forgotten.

### ***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: D. Grimaldi