

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
February 24, 2014**

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:

PRESIDENT'S 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

At this month's Central Council meeting, you will find copies of my annual report.

The purpose of the report is to review the events of the previous year and prepare for the upcoming year.

We have some key activities fast approaching such as the civic election in the fall of 2014, and collective bargaining with the City of Winnipeg as our agreement expires at the end of 2014.

3.5 UNPAID DAYS – CITY OF WINNIPEG

In December, City Council passed the operating budget that called for city staff to take 3.5 unpaid days off between Christmas 2014 and New Year's Day.

To date, the Local has made presentations to the city opposing this action and are pursuing this matter with our legal counsel. We have also formally written to the city on two occasions, asking for confirmation on their plans to implement these unpaid days.

In recent weeks, the Local has communicated to our members via mass email and bulletin about our position and action plan, with respect to this issue. We have been very clear with the city, that we will take legal action if the terms of our collective agreement are not followed. The Local will continue its public relations campaign, to reach out to Winnipeggers about the impacts these service reductions will have on the programs and services they value and depend on.

The Local will continue to update the members on this matter as more details become available.

SNOW CLEARING IN OUR CITY

Earlier this month, the Local made a presentation to the Standing Committee of Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works regarding a motion to deal with inadequate snow clearing in St. Vital and Island Lakes.

In our presentation, it was highlighted that the Local had submitted a Freedom of Information request, asking that the city provide copies of reports comparing in-house versus contracted out snow removal from 1998 to present. The response was troubling to say the least – it was discovered that the city has not attempted to review or compare these two service delivery models in nearly 16 years. Despite providing this information at the committee meeting, the media never even printed this story.

In the end, the motion was carried to refer the issue to city staff.

It was also reported in the media that Councillor Russ Wyatt (Transcona) raised a motion calling for a staff report on options to remove windrows along back lanes, since they're already cut down along front drives.

Wyatt also suggested exploring an administrative idea to remove snow removal costs from property tax bills, and add them as a new fee on quarterly water bills. The idea would allow charges to increase or decrease based on the actual number of plowing operations.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS AUDIT APPROVED

The new Winnipeg Police Headquarters project will be audited, with monthly updates provided to City Council.

Both items were approved in a near-unanimous vote by City Council on January 29, with Councillor Justin Swandel (St. Norbert) casting the sole opposing vote.

WEEKLY TRASH UPDATES

A new council motion, moved last month at city hall, calls for weekly reports to city councillors on missed and late garbage pickups in their wards.

Councillor Havixbeck called for the report to include all known pickup issues, not just complaints reported through 311. Councillor Havixbeck said this information is critical, so councillors can accurately assess how Emterra Environmental is handling waste collection.

Councillor Havixbeck said she and other councillors are considering how the system can be improved, even if that requires replacing the current contractor.

GOOD OF THE UNION

I would like to thank the many members and their families who donated warm winter clothing to shelters in Winnipeg, including Siloam Mission this past winter.

This winter has been very hard on the many disadvantaged living in our city, and it's good to see us all as a community watching out for our neighbours, who need help at times like this.

As well, my sincere thanks go out to our members who are working long hours in some very harsh winter conditions to help keep our city up and running.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Davidson". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Mike Davidson

MD/ng
cope 342

cc: B. Sumerlus