

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
March 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:

FROZEN WATER PIPES/WATERMAINS, SNOW CLEARING AND WINDROWS

The media reported on March 4th, that a city official stated that the city had reached an "emergency level" regarding the frozen pipe woes. It was reported that 619 homes were without water due to frozen pipes on March 4th. The city has also faced challenges around snow cleaning and the Union has stated on many occasions that snowing clearing be brought back in house and those savings be passed back to the citizens of our city. The city is ignoring its own report that calls for concern around that contracted out service.

Granted, temperatures have been very harsh this winter. However, it remains our view, that the 14 years of property tax freezes, little or no commitment to infrastructure renewal and over 14 million in vacancy management, have left the city defenceless this year. Just imagine if we also had city staff off at the same time - which is what the operating budget is calling for during Christmas and New Year's Day.

SAFETY AND SECURITY ISSUES AT MILLENNIUM LIBRARY

Over the past few months, Local 500 members working at the Millennium Library have been experiencing a great deal of stress and concerns about their safety, due to an increased presence of gang activity in their workplace. This is a serious issue, and one that must have a total commitment by the city's administration and elected officials to make sure staff members and patrons have a safe place to work and visit. It's my understanding that the Manager of Library Services is working with the Winnipeg Police Service, supervisory staff and other city departments to deal with the gang problem and are communicating their action plans to the front-line staff.

CUPE members in many occupational groups are targets for violence or threats of violence in the workplace. These include anyone who works with the public, such as library workers. Local 500 takes safety issues very seriously. Our main concern right now is the safety and wellbeing of our members, and the general public who use the library.

CUPE MANITOBA CONVENTION IN BRANDON

CUPE MB held its 51st annual convention in Brandon, Manitoba from March 17 – 19. Delegates heard from a number of guest speakers who spoke about key issues facing our Union at both the civic and national level. Other highlights of the convention included a number of award presentations, committee reports, election of executive officers and video presentations.

I was re-elected to the position of Vice-President of CUPE Manitoba and Brother Mike Smoljanovic was elected to the Executive as the Young Member Representative. Also elected as a Three-Year Trustee is Brother Brendan Hellrung. Congratulations to both of the brothers in their election victory. Thanks also to all the members who spoke at the microphone on many key resolutions that hit the convention floor.

WINNIPEG CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF DOOR TO DOOR MAIL SERVICE

Council voted 13-2 on Wednesday, February, 27th, to call on Canada Post to delay a switch to community mailboxes for older city homes that still receive individual mail delivery. The motion calls to delay the change until extensive discussions are completed. Some councillors fear that the new system will endanger residents in high-crime areas.

Voting in support of door to door mail service were Mayor Sam Katz, Councillors Ross Eadie, Jenny Gerbasi, Paula Havixbeck, John Orlikow, Brian Mayes, Harvey Smith, Thomas Steen, Mike Paghtakan, Dan Vandal, Grant Nordman and Devi Sharma.

Against the motion were Councillors Scott Fielding, and Jeff Browaty.

Russ Wyatt was not present.

FORT GARRY LIBRARY

After nine months, the Fort Gary public library has reopened. There is a newly expanded multi-purpose room and study area. The library is also the first in Winnipeg to house an early literacy playground, which was funded in part by the Friends of the Winnipeg public library.

Libraries play a key role in all of our communities. The public most certainly enjoys all the services our libraries have to offer.

GOOD OF THE UNION

Many thanks go out to all the members who are working very long hours in harsh weather conditions defending our city at this time.

Conclusion:

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

In solidarity,



Mike Davidson

MD/ng
cope 342

cc: B. Sumerlus