

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
October 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:

**WINNIPEG CIVIC ELECTION**

Winnipeg held its Civic Elections for mayor, councillors and school trustees on October 22. Although we did not end up with all the results we were looking for, we did see Shawn Dobson, Cindy Gilroy, Matt Allard and Jason Schreyer as newly elected councillors. We look forward to working with them and wish them all the best in their term in office.

As well, re-elected were: Councillors Gerbasi, Orlikow, Eadie, Mayes, Wyatt Browaty, Pagtakhan and Sharma. Also elected were Councillors Scott Gillingham, Janice Lukes, Marty Morantz and Brian Bowman for Mayor.

We have many challenges ahead of us and the Local remains committed to work with City Council in order to provide the very best front line services to the citizens of Winnipeg.

**LOCAL 500 RADIO AD**

The Local aired a new radio ad urging voters to ask their mayoral and councillor candidates about their plans to deliver and defend public services.

Over the past decade Winnipeggers have experienced a political mind-set determined to sell off city assets and privatize public services. We know that privatization, means higher costs, service cuts and no accountability. Reliable public services delivered by dedicated public employees are one of the reasons why Winnipeg works.

The radio ad began airing on September 22 and continued up to the election date on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## **HEALTH CARE SUPPORT WORKERS' WEEK**

CUPE Local 500 members working Riverview Health Centre and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority recently celebrated Health Care Support Workers' Week. This year, the Government of Manitoba proclaimed the week of October 13 - 17 as "Healthcare Support Workers' Week" to acknowledge their contribution and dedication to the health of Manitobans.

Health care support workers are important and essential to our health care system. I'm pleased to see that their contributions and commitment to patient care are being recognized, and I commend our members for their dedicated efforts day in and day out.

Local 500 members provide a wide range of services such as housekeeping, sterilizing and maintaining equipment, serving meals, laundry, clerical personnel, activity workers, among others.

## **RALLY FOR PUBLIC TRANSIT**

Local 500 showed our support for public transit on October 17<sup>th</sup> at a rally leading up to the municipal election.

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1505 co-sponsored this event with the Canadian Federation of Students. It's important for the Local to support civic unions where we can. Public transit is an important public service.

## **BARGAINING UPDATES**

The Local has sent the City of Winnipeg formal notice of its intent to commence bargaining. Very soon the Local's bargaining committee will be meeting to strategize for the negotiations.

Kirkfield-Westwood Community Centre and Varsity View Community Centre have also sent notification to the employer requesting to commence bargaining.

St. Boniface Museum is also preparing to commence the bargaining process with its employer.

On October 24, Local 500 staff and I met with our members at River View Health Care Centre to provide an update on Health Care Bargaining.

The Local will be very busy in connection to bargaining a number of collective agreements this year! Thank you to all committee members and good luck in achieving a fair collective agreement for everyone.

## **LES BUTTERWORTH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

The Les Butterworth Scholarship Fund awards dinner was held this past month at the RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre. This event is in memory of Brother Les Butterworth for his dedication to his Union and his selfless concern for the welfare of others. The fund helps union members and their families defray the cost of higher education.

This year, one scholarship of \$1,250 and three bursaries of \$750 were awarded.

The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic achievement and went to **Karen Thiessen**. Karen is a Local 500 member working at the Millennium Library in the Community Services Department. She is enrolled in the Library and Information Technology Program at Red River College.

The bursaries are awarded on the basis of good academic standing with consideration of financial need.

Here are the bursary award winners for 2014:

**Quentin Robb** is enrolled in the Faculty of Science at the University of Manitoba. He is a Local 500 member working in the Community Services Department – Aquatics Division.

**Marisa Thompson** is enrolled in the Faculty of Kinesiology at the University of Manitoba. Her father Randy is a Local 500 member working in the Water and Wastewater Services at the City of Winnipeg.

**Kelsey Solarchuk** is enrolled in the Faculty of Education at the University of Winnipeg. She is a Local 500 member working at the City of Winnipeg in the Recreation Services Division.

The Local would like to thank **American Income Life** for their generous donation to the fund.

**Congratulations to the 2014 award winners!**

## **CONVENTION CENTRE EXPANSION UPDATE**

The expansion project for the RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre is moving ahead and appears to be on schedule. The \$200 million dollar expansion will see the centre nearly triple its size and will allow it to compete with trade show facilities in other Canadian cities.

Our members working at the Convention Centre do a great job providing service for tradeshows, conventions and many other events.

## **GOOD OF THE UNION**

At the CUPE Manitoba Executive meeting this month, Brother Phil Dembicki of our Local was elected Secretary-Treasurer of CUPE Manitoba, on an interim basis until our 2015 CUPE Manitoba convention in Dauphin, next April.

On behalf of our Executive and members, I want to thank Brother Phil for his dedication to our Union. Phil is a great secretary treasurer for our Local, and will do a great job for CUPE MB as well.

Congratulations Phil!

### ***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  
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