

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
January 26, 2015**

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:

LOCAL 500/CITY OF WINNIPEG BARGAINING UPDATE

The Union and the City have exchanged proposals in the negotiations of a new contract. The Union's Negotiating Committee met on January 6 to review the City's proposal package.

At this time, we can report that the City's proposal package contains concessions that we have seen tabled in past rounds of negotiations. Concessions are requests by the employer to give up rights we previously fought for and gained in bargaining.

The two parties are scheduled to meet face-to-face on February 2nd and 3rd to commence joint bargaining. Your bargaining committee is committed to negotiating a fair and reasonable contract for its members.

Please watch for further bargaining updates as more information becomes available.

CITY HALL UPDATE

Councillor Jeff Browaty, Chairperson of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services has been appointed Chairperson of the city's Alternative Service Delivery Committee (ASD). The appointment of Councillor Browaty, was one of several appointments announced on January, 16th, by Mayor Bowman's office.

The media reported that reviving the ASD committee appears to be another way for Mayor Bowman to explore ways to find cost savings in civic operations, at least on a long-term basis, but it's unlikely to provide any quick fixes as Bowman and members of his Executive Policy Committee craft the 2015 operating and capital budgets.

Bowman made a campaign promise to dissolve the ASD committee and replace it with a formal innovations committee, but that hasn't happened yet.

Also joining Councillor Browaty on ASD are Councillors Scott Gillingham (St. James-Brooklands), Cindy Gilroy (Daniel McIntyre) and Mike Pagtakhan (Point Douglas), who is also deputy mayor.

Councillor Browaty said he doesn't know how long the committee will remain in existence, given Bowman's campaign pledge, but added it's possible the committee could continue to explore alternative service delivery models.

SNOW CLEARING

There has been recent media coverage regarding snow and ice clearing in the City of Winnipeg. The Local has presented to the standing committee of Public Works, responded to the media, taking the position that there is excellent value in having our members/workforce perform more of the snow removal than the private industry.

CITY OF WINNIPEG OPERATING BUDGET

City officials have reportedly been working with city staff regarding this year's operating and capital budgets. The media has reported that it will be a very tough budget.

The Local will take part in the whole budget process and represent the membership at the necessary standing committee and city council meeting.

ANOTHER CITY PROJECT OUT OF COST CONTROL

The latest estimates for upgrades to the South End Water Pollution Control Centre have pushed the cost of the project to \$335.6 million from \$272.75 million - a 23% increase.

This increase is typical when we examine world giant Veolia business practices. They are the vendor who holds the consulting contract in relationship to the upgrades.

GOOD OF THE UNION

During the months of December and January we saw many of our members working in round the clock in some very harsh weather conditions, to help keep our city up and running.

I want to thank and recognize all of our members for your hard work in providing valuable services to the citizens of Winnipeg.

The Local would also like to report the passing of a former member and activist John (Jack) Allen on January 8, 2015. John worked for and retired from the former Parks and Recreation Department. We will now observe a minute of silence in memory of Brother John Allen.

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: L. McLeod