

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
October 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 RELEASES FULL PUBLIC PLOWING WORKS REPORT AND HAJER REPORT

On Friday, October 23, 2015 Local 500 held a press conference to release our full Public Plowing Works report, highlighting all the comments, stories, and experiences of Winnipeggers with private snow removal.

Back in February, the Local launched its Public Plowing Works campaign to solicit feedback from Winnipeggers through the “Snow Plowing Hotline” or wpgsnow.ca website.

Over 400 Winnipeggers provided their personal stories and experiences with Winnipeg's snow removal contractors. Feedback included damage to personal property, safety concerns with the quality of snow clearing and a diminishing trust.

The Local also worked with Herb Hajer, former Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Winnipeg's Fleet Services and President of Double H. Consulting to develop a viable alternative to the wasteful practice of contracting out Winnipeg's snow removal.

The Local has been ready with its report since June. The City's administration delayed presenting their report until September, and then again until November. We are still unsure if the city's report is ready or where it's headed.

The Local will keep the membership updated as more information becomes available.

You can read both reports on the Local 500 website or at wpgsnow.ca.

FEDERAL ELECTION

We have a new government and the CLC is urging them to act immediately on their key campaign promises, including expanding the CPP, increasing GIS

and lowering the eligibility age for OAS; expanding apprenticeship and training opportunities; increasing infrastructure funding; negotiating a new health accord; repealing anti-labour laws; and calling an inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women.

We urge the new government to make the details of the TPP public and ensure it is amended to protect Canadian jobs, health information and prescription drug costs.

We also urge the new government to strengthen its position on childcare by implementing an affordable and accessible child care system for all families.

CUPE NATIONAL PRESIDENT, PAUL MOIST ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AFTER 12 YEARS

After 12 years at the helm of Canada's largest union, CUPE National President, Paul Moist announced he will not stand for re-election at CUPE's National Convention next November. He stated at his retirement announcement that "CUPE members serve Canadians around-the-clock, 365 days a year, delivering public services such as Medicare and Public Education that makes Canada a fairer more just society".

He further went on to say, "But after 40 years of membership, 32 years of full-time union work, and the last 12 years as National President, it is time I stepped aside and let a new generation of leaders emerge within CUPE."

Moist is CUPE's 5th National President, the first ever from Western Canada. Since his election in 2003 as the head of Canada's largest union, he's made our Local proud!

THE PETER LOUGHEED WESTERN DINNER

On October 8th, I attended the Annual Western Dinner that featured the presentation of the **Peter Lougheed Award** for Leadership in Public Policy. The 2015 recipients were Gail Asper, Lloyd Axworthy, Gary Doer, Justice Murry Sinclair and CUPE National President, Paul Moist.

This special annual event is an opportunity to recognize the substantial contributions of Western Canadians to public policy on both a regional and a national scale. The late Peter Lougheed served as the 10th Premier of Alberta and was widely acknowledged as one of Canada's most respected leaders and great Premiers.

Congratulations to Brother Paul in being one of this year's recipients.

HEALTH CARE SUPPORT WORKERS' WEEK

This year, the Government of Manitoba proclaimed the week of October 5 – 9 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. Thank you!

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.

CUPW RALLY HELD IN WINNIPEG

I attended a rally organized by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers on October 10th at Broadway and Main Street. The rally was well attended by other Union leaders and activists. The purpose of the rally was to make the public aware of the elimination of door to door mail delivery service despite the fact that Canada Post made tens of millions of dollars last year.

LOCAL 500 STEWARD **ORIENTATION/INTRODUCTION TO STEWARDING** **WORKSHOP**

Local 500 held a Steward Orientation/Introduction to Stewarding Workshop on October 23rd and 24th. Congratulations to the fifteen Local 500 members from our units and affiliates who participated in the workshop.

Shop stewards are the backbone of our Local. I want to thank all our members who give up their personal time for training and for taking on this important role of representing and defending our members.

CONCLUSION:

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

In solidarity,

M Davidson

Mike Davidson

MD/ng
cope 342

cc: L. McLeod