

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
January 25, 2016**

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:

SNOW PLOWING CAMPAIGN

On January 5, 2016, the City's Standing Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works voted 3 – 1 in favour of instructing city administration to meet with the Union on the issue of snow clearing cost saving measures.

In November of 2015, the Local presented a report that provided solutions to improving snow clearing services that would save money, and build a comprehensive, modern fleet at the same time.

The Public Works Committee has agreed to ensure senior city administrators meet with CUPE 500, to further discuss the union's recommendations on improving snow removal in Winnipeg. The Local looks forward to meeting with the City to have our ideas heard and will keep the members updated as more information becomes available.

BARGAINING UPDATES

Local 500 members working at Canlan Ice Sports (Highlander location) and Varsity View Community Centre have ratified new collective agreements. Our members at Canlan negotiated a three-year deal that calls for a wage increase of 2.5% each year, while Varsity View agreed to a four-year deal with 1.5% in the first year and 2% in each of the remaining three years.

Bargaining will also soon commence at the RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre and preparations will soon get underway for negotiations with the City of Winnipeg.

PENSION PLANS

Last month the issue of civic pension plans received some media attention, specifically around the police plan costs, but also questioned other civic plans as well.

The story in the Winnipeg Free Press talked about how pension plans are supporting many more retirees and that low interest returns have pressured the "solvency" tests for the plans, triggering huge payments by employers.

I cannot comment on the police plan, but I will say our plan is extremely well managed and basically takes care of itself.

As soon as we hear Politicians using terms "unsustainable", we know that they are saying "we don't want to pay our share".

311 CALL CENTRE

The City of Winnipeg's 311 system is looking to add experts to improve its services.

A city official at the city's 311 call centre said callers who have questions about assessment and taxation or animal services will soon be connected to a trained employee within the 311 department.

Rica Mangahas, manager for 311, says an analysis of the more than 1.6 million calls the 311 service received in 2014 showed they were the top areas about which callers wanted information.

City officials claim it will be more efficient and talk time will be shortened. The Local has many members who work at the call centre, providing a valuable public service 24/7.

The Local will keep central council delegates updated as information becomes available.

WORKPLACE MEETINGS

I along with Local 500 and National Staff, are conducting workplace meetings on an ongoing basis. We need help from all of our many activists and unit executives to help arrange these meetings. They can be held before shift, at lunch or after shift.

Please remember to get permission from the supervisor to let them know the union will be at the workplace. Once you have the supervisor's permission, contact the Local 500 office and your National Staff Representative. Our office will need some details about the meeting and will ensure that the necessary staff and materials are provided.

GOOD OF THE UNION

I would like to congratulate all the newly elected and the re-elected Chairs of the Local 500 Committees. Committee members give up personal time to contribute to committees. I thank you for that.

CONCLUSION:

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

In solidarity,



GORD DELBRIDGE
President

GD/ng
cope 342

cc: L. McLeod