

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**  
**LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council**  
**February 22, 2016**

**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:

**CITY OF WINNIPEG BUDGET/LOCAL 500 ADVERTISEMENTS**

The City will be tabling its preliminary 2016 Operating and Capital budgets at a special meeting of Executive Policy Committee on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016. Just two days later, on March 4, the various standing committees will be hearing from delegations to begin the budget debate process. A special meeting of City Council will be held on March 22 to vote on the budget.

The local will be making presentations as necessary at the standing committees and city council throughout the process. Once again, we are disappointed that the city is giving very little time (less than three weeks) for citizens and concerned groups to fully understand and debate the budget.

*Local 500 Airing Budget Radio Ad*

The Local has been airing a radio ad that speaks out against any potential public service cuts in the upcoming operating budget. The ad reminds people about the importance of protecting public services and that Winnipeggers deserve an operating budget that is committed to fixing our roads, providing safe, reliable drinking water, and delivering programs and services important to all citizens.

Public services are important to the citizens of Winnipeg and the City shouldn't be saving money by cutting services, contracting out and leaving jobs vacant.

The radio ad will continue running over the next few weeks.

## **2016 CUPE MANITOBA CONVENTION**

The 2016 CUPE Manitoba Convention will take place from May 4-7 in Winnipeg.

The local will be participating at the convention and units are encouraged to send as many delegates as possible as it is being held in Winnipeg this year.

Members are reminded that resolutions for the upcoming CUPE Manitoba Convention, must be submitted before March 14 to the Local for approval by the Local's Executive, and, subsequently Central Council later in March. Resolutions are a key part of convention that helps decide on policies and guide the work of the Division. Our Local will be submitting a number of resolutions on a range of issues that affect all of us and need to be discussed on the floor of convention.

## **LOCAL 500 OFFERS SUPPORT TO CITY'S COMMITMENT TO TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION CALLS TO ACTION**

Recently, the Mayor of Winnipeg announced the city's commitment to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action.

CUPE has a long and proud history of being a good ally to Indigenous peoples, and the Local has offered our support to the Mayor and Council to help facilitate changes at the City of Winnipeg. The Local can play an important role to support actions in the area of diversity education and training and other reconciliation activities that will be beneficial to our members and to the community.

The calls for action by the City are all positive things that we can achieve especially when we all work together.

You can read a copy of the letter to the Mayor and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report on our website.

## **WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES**

An engineering consulting firm sued twice by city hall in the past two years for its allegedly shoddy design work and project mismanagement at sewage and water

treatment plants, has been awarded a multimillion-dollar contract to oversee upgrades to yet another city sewage-treatment plant.

AECOM was recently awarded a \$16-million contract to act as the city's advocate for the design-build stage of the \$570-million upgrade to the North End sewage-treatment plant and to assume the role of consultant for the design-bid-build stage of the project.

Some time back, the city awarded French company Veolia a 30-year consultant contract. The local and the citizens of Winnipeg are still unsure who is in fact "running the show" regarding these upgrades. The Local will keep the membership updated as information unfolds.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Every February we observe and celebrate Black History Month to recognize the achievements and contributions of people of African descent in our communities. It is also a time to reflect on the issues and difficulties that were faced, and continue to be faced within the Black community.

Across Canada, many community groups and CUPE locals are organizing events to learn more about Black history, and to celebrate Black History Month.

## **GOOD OF THE UNION**

I along with CUPE Researcher, Matt McLean, and David Jacks, CUPE Communications, attended an information picket in solidarity and support of the Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals. These members have been without a contract since March 2014. They deliver vital services such as x-rays, MRIs, CTs, EKGs and other vital components of diagnosis and treatment for all Manitobans. It is important for the Local to support other unions.

Elsewhere in Manitoba, MGEU ratified a five-year deal last month, after a long two-year bargaining process. Members will see pay increases of 1, 1, 2, 2 and 2 per cent over the five-year agreement. Congratulations to the bargaining team on a job well done. CUPE is averaging 1.7 per cent increases this year, so far.

Finally, CUPE Local 416 representing 5,400 outside workers in Toronto have reached a tentative settlement. Some of the major stumbling blocks included job security, wages and benefits. Maintaining their job security clause is a huge win for Local 416.

**CONCLUSION:**

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

In solidarity,



GORD DELBRIDGE,  
President

GD/ng

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cc: L. McLeod