

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
May 30, 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:

**CUPE MANITOBA CONVENTION**

About 230 delegates, observers and guests attended the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual CUPE Manitoba Convention held in Winnipeg from May 5 – 7.

Delegates to the convention endorsed a number of resolutions and participated in some good discussions about workload issues, vacancy management, contracting out and privatization, and other social issues that affect us all.

In his first address to CUPE Manitoba, National President, Mark Hancock pledged CUPE National's commitment to build safer workplaces, fight income inequality and precarious work. National Secretary-Treasurer, Charles Fleury encouraged members to work together and continue to fight against government cutbacks and funding freezes.

Other guest speakers included Winnipeg Labour Council President, Dave Sauer; Manitoba Federation of Labour President, Kevin Rebeck; CUPE Saskatchewan President, Tom Graham; and CUPE Regional Director, Lee McLeod. We also heard from Nahanni Fontaine and Shaina Siddiqui, who both gave an emotional but inspirational speech which lifted the hearts of all delegates.

I was proud and honoured to have been elected as CUPE Manitoba Vice-President, and chosen as the nominee for Regional Vice-President on the CUPE's National Executive Board.

This year's recipient for the Jack Rodie award was former CUPE National President and past Local 500 President, Paul Moist. Mike Davidson, former Local 500 president was recognized with a long service award given to him by the Division.

I want to thank all the Local 500 members who participated in the convention whether it was speaking at a mic or sitting on a convention committee.

### **LOCAL 500 LEADERSHIP & SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE**

The Local held its Leadership and Solidarity Conference on May 25 - 28, 2016 at the Canad Inns in Portage la Prairie.

During the conference, delegates heard from a number of guest speakers and discussed a number of important topics and challenges that we currently face and will be facing in the future.

Thank you to all the members, staff and guests who participated and helped make our conference a huge success!

### **CUPE 2016 SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARIES – LES BUTTERWORTH**

Local 500 is proud to accept applications for its Annual Les Butterworth Scholarship and Bursary Program.

This year the fund is offering:

- **One scholarship of \$1,500.**
- **Four bursaries of \$800 each.**

The scholarship will be awarded on the basis of academic achievement and the bursaries on the basis of good academic standing with consideration of financial need.

The deadline for applications is **June 30**. Please contact the Local 500 office for more information or visit the Local's website at [cupe500.mb.ca](http://cupe500.mb.ca).

## **CCPA/CUPE LOCAL 500 RESEARCH PROJECT – REACHING OUT TO OUR INDIGENOUS MEMBERS**

The Local 500 Aboriginal Council is committed to promoting and defending the rights of all Indigenous workers in our union and in our communities. One of the goals of the committee is to increase the participation of Indigenous members in our union - but we need your help.

The Local 500 Aboriginal Council Committee Chair is working with two researchers from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) Manitoba, on a project regarding the relationship between our union and our Indigenous members.

If you would like additional information or would like to take part in the research project, please contact Lynne Fernandez at [lynne@policyalternatives.ca](mailto:lynne@policyalternatives.ca).

## **NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING**

April 28<sup>th</sup> was the National Day of Mourning, a time when workers, families, employers, unions and others come together to remember those who have lost their lives to work-related incidents or occupational diseases. Since 1978, fourteen Local 500 members died due to a workplace accident or illness.

I attended many of the events throughout the day to help pay tribute to our fallen and injured workers. I would also like to thank the many Local 500 members who also attended one of the worksite ceremonies.

## **97<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE**

The 1919 Winnipeg General strike, which lasted for forty days, took place between May 15 and June 25. It was the largest general strike in Canadian history and is believed to have been the largest in North America. About 30,000 workers, virtually the entire working population of Winnipeg, took to the streets during the strike including the building and metal workers, public transit workers, telephone operators, postal workers, federal workers, water workers, firefighters, newspaper workers, clerical workers, and retail workers. Many of those who took to the streets were non-unionized.

The strike was also sparked by business being unwilling to bargain with the newly formed umbrella unions, the Building Trades Council and the Metal Trade Council.

Local business leaders formed a secretive "Citizens' Committee" to oppose the strike and utilized their connections with Prime Minister, Robert Borden's federal government. This is an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our present working conditions, our current business environment and government.

## **CUPW MAIL CAMPAIGN**

The Federal Liberal Convention will be held in Winnipeg, in the near future. CUPW is organizing a media hit to keep their issues on the public radar and engage delegates on five priority areas, including:

1. Service expansion
2. Restoring home delivery
3. Postal banking
4. Environmental innovations
5. Maintaining daily mail delivery

The CUPW National Office is working on a service expansion brochure for distribution to delegates. CUPW is hoping to present their piece and speak to the media as representing a coalition that wants a strong public Canada Post.

Local 500 is supporting CUPW's Campaign and is opposed to privatizing a core service such as mail delivery to Canadians. The Local will provide more details as information becomes available.

## **CONCLUSION:**

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

In solidarity,



GORD DELBRIDGE  
President

GD/ng  
cope 342

cc: L. McLeod