

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
June 27, 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:

LOCAL 500 LAUNCHES LIBRARY SERVICES AWARENESS AD

Local 500 has launched a radio ad that draws attention to the public library services provided by the more than 400 workers throughout the city.

The radio ad is an opportunity to remind and educate the public that our libraries are a valuable public service that they rely on each and every day.

The radio ads began airing on five stations starting June 14th. The campaign will also include print advertising.

CUPE 2016 SCHOLARSHIP AND BURSARIES – LES BUTTERWORTH

June 30 is the deadline to apply for the Local 500 Les Butterworth Scholarship and Bursary Program.

This year the fund is offering:

- **One scholarship of \$1,500 (awarded on the basis of high academic achievement)**
- **Four bursaries of \$800 each (awarded on the basis of high marks and financial need).**

Please contact the Local 500 office for more information or visit the Local's website at cupe500.mb.ca.

UPDATE ON EMTERRA ENVIRONMENTAL

Emterra Environmental, Winnipeg's largest garbage collection contractor, is alleging delays in yard waste collection can be attributed to city budget cuts. This information was contained in a confidential letter to members of the City's Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste that was leaked to the media. In the letter, Emterra claims that the poor pick-up rate in the fall was as a result of the city eliminating the 2015 fall street sweeping program to save \$700,000, and also due to a City campaign that encouraged residents to help clear boulevards, roadways and other public spaces.

Emterra further claims that the city's direction to revisit incomplete areas of the city before moving on to the current day's schedule exacerbated the problem, while leaving Emterra on the hook for daily fines and overtime costs.

Both Emterra's contract and the contract held by Progressive Waste Solutions, expire in 2017. Instead of the previous tendering process, the city has now issued request for proposals for garbage and recycling pick-up, instead of the tendering process. City Council expects to vote on its next collection proposals this fall.

PRIDE 2016

Once again, Local 500 members and staff participated at this year's pride parade that took place on Sunday, June 5. Many thanks go out to the members who volunteered at the festival held at the Forks and who took part in the biggest parade yet!

Across the world, there is certainly progress on many issues important to the LGBTTI community. We have come a long way. But events like the recent Orlando shooting tragedy remind us how much more there needs to be done.

Next year we will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Pride.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY

June 21st marked National Aboriginal Day in celebration of the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding achievements and contributions to Canada of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples.

Local 500 members participated in and helped organize some of the events that took place throughout our city and I would like to thank them for helping to commemorate this day.

The theme of this year's National Aboriginal Day was "Promoting truth and reconciliation" and I would encourage you, if you have not already done so, to read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report. You can find the report on the CUPE National Website at cupe.ca.

NORTH END POLLUTION CONTROL CENTRE UPGRADES

The media reported this month that upgrades to the North End Water Pollution Control Centre will miss another deadline.

The December 2019 provincial target is "not achievable," according to a city staff report.

The provincially required work is needed to remove nitrogen and phosphorous from the plant's effluent, which otherwise winds up in Lake Winnipeg. Those nutrients then fuel algae growth, which reduces the water's quality and oxygen level.

The upgrade's first completion deadline was back in 2014 and the latest delay comes with no new target date.

The media also reported that Veolia, a multinational French based for "profit company", that has been supposedly providing "cutting Edge" technology, but the city has not provided any details to our knowledge of the companies contributions.

BILL 7

Recently, Manitoba's new PC government launched its first direct attack on organized labour by introducing Bill 7. This Bill would amend The Labour Relations Act to make it more difficult for everyday Manitobans to join a union by eliminating automatic certification and giving employers more chances to meddle in union votes, including intimidating and bullying workers.

Organized Labour is expecting Bill 7 to be held-over until the fall, at which time there will be Public Committee Hearings on the Bill. Labour will be mobilizing a large number of speakers to send a clear message of opposition. This new Bill by the PC's is simply an attack on the gains made by working people including unions.

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

CUPE WELCOMES CPP EXPANSION DEAL

Canada's largest union is welcoming an agreement by the federal, provincial and territorial governments for a modest expansion of the Canada Pension Plan.

While significantly less than the proposed doubling of benefits as advocated for by the Canadian labour movement, CUPE is pleased the deal will mean a universal expansion to the CPP that will help all workers.

The Local will provide more details as information becomes available.

CANADA POST SERVICES

As you are aware, the former Harper government pushed through a series of massive cuts to Canada Post services, including the elimination of home mail delivery in urban areas. The new federal government has put a temporary moratorium on any further elimination of home delivery, and launched a Task Force to study and consult with the public about Canada Post's mandate and long-term future.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) has consistently offered innovative solutions to help sustain and grow Canada Post, such as the establishment of Postal Banking, which would take advantage of Canada Post's huge retail network and expand needed financial services to the millions of Canadians who are presently under-served by banks.

As a union we need to support our brothers and sisters at CUPW whenever we can. This is an important public service to all Canadians.

CONCLUSION:

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gord Delbridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.

GORD DELBRIDGE
President

GD/ng
cope 342

cc: L. McLeod