

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
December 16, 2024**

***CUPE*** / *Canadian Union  
of Public Employees*  
***Local 500***

## **ESSENTIAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

The Local has begun negotiating the terms of an essential services agreement (ESA) with the City of Winnipeg.

We will continue to work on ensuring that an ESA will not impede our bargaining strength. The Local has brought on external legal to assist with the process. In the event job action needs to be taken to get the membership the best contract we can, we will work diligently to protect our rights.

This is an ongoing process, and we will keep the membership updated as new information becomes available.

## **CITY OF WINNIPEG BUDGET**

The City of Winnipeg tabled its preliminary 2025 update to the 2024-27 multi-year balanced budget.

After decades of tax freezes that have impacted our city infrastructure and service delivery, Mayor Gillingham made the bold move to a proposed 5.95% property tax increase. Through this, the Local is looking to gain 40 new FTEs in the areas of libraries, Community Safety Officers, and the Community Action Team. There will also be no increase in vacancy management.

Historically, we have seen cuts in service and consistent increases in vacancy management during the City's budget process.

As much as no one wants to see increased taxes in the current state of our economy, Winnipeg remains among the lowest of any major Canadian city for property tax rates.

## **SPECIAL WAGE ADJUSTMENT #2**

We have recently ratified an agreement with regards to the SWA #2. The details will be released shortly.

Just a reminder that this SWA is retro active to January 2024.

## **CITY OF WINNIPEG BARGAINING**

The Local served its notice of intent to bargain to the employer on December 2nd, in accordance with section 61(1) of the Labour Relations Act.

The Bargaining Committee will have its first meeting in late January 2025. The Committee will begin to go through the proposals submitted by the membership, as well as the roles and procedures of bargaining.

I want to thank the members for stepping up in this role on the Bargaining Committee. It is a high pressure, often stressful position to be in.

This round of bargaining is expected to be a difficult one. I want to thank the rest of the membership for their support. Your solidarity is what keeps us strong!

## **GOOD OF THE UNION:**

- The Local has settled the dispute between the Winnipeg Police Association and the Local regarding the Community Safety Officers (CSO). We are happy to announce that Local 500 will remain the bargaining agent for the CSO positions.

## **CONCLUSION:**

I want to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Enjoy some time with your loved ones.

Thank you to those members that will be working hard on the frontlines to keep our city and their workplaces safe and operational.

Please share this document with your co-workers.

In solidarity,



Gord Delbridge  
President