

CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Central Council
August 25, 2025

CUPE / *Canadian Union*
of Public Employees
Local 500

BARGAINING UPDATE- CITY OF WINNIPEG

The Local 500 Bargaining Committee met with the employer on Tuesday, August 5th. We have resumed negotiations based on proposals submitted by both the Union and the employer.

We have proposed a list of available dates to continue bargaining, we are just waiting for confirmation from the employer.

We have reiterated to the employer that we will not accept any concessions, nor do we 2-tier bargain. CUPE's mandate is to bargain forward, not backward.

Discussions around the Essential Services Agreement (ESA) are ongoing. As required by the new legislation, an ESA must be negotiated before a new collective agreement can be ratified.

Thank you for your continued support and solidarity.

AIR CANADA CUPE FLIGHT ATTENDANT STRIKE

After nine months of bargaining, Air Canada flight attendants were forced to the picket lines — and they stood strong. Just 12 hours into strike action, the Liberal government attempted to invoke Section 107 to force binding arbitration and strip away our constitutional right to strike.

CUPE's leadership and our flight attendants refused to back down. They defended their rights and kept the pressure on, and through an intense night of bargaining, CUPE and Air Canada reached a tentative agreement at the table — where it belongs.

This victory was achieved through relentless pressure, strong collective action, and the unwavering resolve of CUPE members. We showed the company — and the country — that CUPE will not compromise when it comes to protecting fair wages, safe working conditions, and respect on the job.

This strike is a powerful reminder, when we stand together, we win together.

MEET AND GREET BBQ AT KILDONAN PARK

CUPE Manitoba hosted a Meet and Greet at Kildonan Park on August 19th. While we were looking forward to welcoming CUPE National President Mark Hancock, he was unfortunately unable to attend due to the Air Canada strike.

Despite his absence, the event was a success. Members heard from CUPE Manitoba President Gina McKay, myself, CUPE National President Emeritus Paul Moist, and special guest Carmen Prefontaine, labour endorsed candidate for East Kildonan–Elmwood.

The gathering brought together many different CUPE locals from across Manitoba, giving members an opportunity to connect, share experiences, and discuss the issues affecting their workplaces.

To close the day, several dedicated members volunteered their time to drop flyers and canvass in support of Carmen Prefontaine's campaign in the East Kildonan–Elmwood ward — a strong show of solidarity and activism within our CUPE family.

EAST KILDONAN- ELMWOOD BY-ELECTION

Campaigning is in full swing in the East Kildonan–Elmwood ward for labour-endorsed candidate Carmen Prefontaine.

CUPE 500 will be organizing Rally Days in the coming weeks, where groups of union activists will head out into the community to drop flyers, talk to residents, and put up campaign signs.

This is an important opportunity to stand together and help elect a labour-friendly voice to City Council — someone who will fight for working people and the public services we all rely on.

Stay tuned for upcoming Rally Day dates and details on how you can get involved!

LIBRARIES

It is with deep sadness that we acknowledge the tragic incident that occurred at the Millennium Library on the evening of August 6th, which resulted in the death of a member of the public.

Immediately following the incident, I contacted the Manager of Labour Relations to ensure that all affected members received access to crisis support and were granted time off with no loss of compensation.

We also sent letters to the Mayor, City Councillors, and City Administration demanding urgent action to address health and safety concerns in our libraries. To date, we have only received responses from Councillors Sherri Rollins and Cindy Gilroy.

The Local is currently consulting with legal counsel to determine next steps to ensure the health and safety of our members remain a top priority.

Additionally, on Friday, we sent out a health and safety survey to all members working in libraries to gather feedback and better understand the challenges you are facing in the workplace. Your voices are essential in helping us advocate for stronger protections and safer working conditions.

GOOD OF THE UNION:

Monday, September 1st is Labour Day. Labour Day is a time to celebrate the contributions of workers and the labour movement's ongoing fight for fair wages, safe workplaces, and respect on the job. It's also a reminder of the power of solidarity and what we can achieve when we stand together. CUPE 500 is proud to continue advocating for our members and for strong public services that support our communities.

Winnipeg Labour Council is hosting Labour Day celebrations on September 1st from 3-5:00 pm in Memorial Park. Come out to celebrate you!

Dates to remember:

September 1- Labour Day (office closed)

CONCLUSION:

Have a safe Labour Day long weekend!

Please share this document with your co-workers.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gord Delbridge', written in a cursive style.

Gord Delbridge, President

GD/ng cope 342