

June 7, 2012

## **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**RE: WINNIPEG FREE PRESS JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2012 ARTICLE  
“WINNIPEGGER’S HATE-ON FOR CITY SERVICES POLLED”**

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The article speaks to a recent poll of residents in Canada’s 30 largest cities regarding their satisfaction level of municipal services. In particular, the data shows that only 37% of Winnipeggers are happy with their current residential garbage pickup service. According to the poll, the national average of satisfaction is 46%. Clearly, we fall below the national average for this “contracted out” service.

For many years, CUPE Local 500 members provided a dependable and quality garbage pickup service for the residents of our city. Our presence in garbage pickup helped keep the industry in check. Maybe it’s time to bring this service back in-house just like many other Canadian cities have recently done.

The results also show that other Winnipeg City services such as road maintenance, community centres and parks also fall below the national satisfaction levels. In fact, the total level of satisfaction for City services rated by Winnipeggers was only 15%!

Perhaps the 13 years of property tax freezes and reductions in the business tax have taken their toll on the City’s operating budget. These actions have certainly hampered the City’s ability to deliver the quality public services the citizens deserve.

Maybe now council will agree to have an outside audit performed on residential garbage pickup to truly see if there is a cost saving to our citizens.

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