

## Leadership and Policy Conference builds on our bargaining strengths and political action power

On June 4 and 5, Local 500 brought together executive members and activists from our units and affiliates for a two-day leadership and policy conference. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the emerging issues facing our local and the labour movement as a whole.

“It’s all about building on our bargaining strengths and political action power, so that when we walk into contract negotiations and participate in the upcoming civic elections, we have the power of our members with us,” said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. “There is no doubt we need to elect and support progressive candidates, who care as much as we do about our communities and the public services our members deliver.”

The two-day event was jam-packed with speakers and information sessions intended to provide the members with knowledge to help them at their workplaces and strengthen the union through membership engagement.

Speakers included Minister Kevin Chief, CUPE National President Paul Moist, Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) Representative Cindy Murdoch, Manitoba Federation of Labour (MFL) President Kevin Rebeck, CUPE Manitoba President Kelly Moist, CUPE Regional Director Bill Sumerlus and Klaus Lahr, President and CEO, RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre.



*Photo top right (L-R): Bill Sumerlus, CUPE Regional Director, Mike Davidson, Local 500 President, Gord Delbridge, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President. Bottom (L-R) Evangeline Leonen and Kelly Favel from Emterra.*



Conference participants also heard from Kristine Barr, CUPE Legal and Legislative Representative, who talked about addressing drug and alcohol issues in the workplace. Other highlights included a political action presentation by David Sauer, President of the Winnipeg Labour Council and Gord Delbridge, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President of the Local and Chair of the Local’s Political Action Committee.

Other conference topics included bargaining preparation and trends, grievance handling and an overview of the Unite for Fairness campaign.

The Local would like to thank the members, presenters, guest speakers and staff for making this conference a huge success!



*Members from St. Boniface Museum (L-R) Lise Bremault, Pierrette Boily, Georges Lavergne.*

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**SUMMER 2014**

# From the President Mike Davidson



## *"The city's decision to suspend the mandatory 3.5 days of unpaid leave was the right move"*

Welcome to the summer edition of the Communicator. Our newsletter is but one way we are able to provide you with important updates and information about the issues that affect our membership.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of our members for their hard work and dedication during this past, very harsh winter. From frozen pipes to water main breaks to answering thousands of calls for service, your efforts to keep our city up and running were greatly appreciated by the citizens of Winnipeg.

Secondly, I would like to welcome back our returning seasonal and student members as well as many new members to our Local. You will all be involved in providing vital public services over the summer that help to build a strong and healthy community.

As you may have heard by now, on May 27, City Council voted overwhelmingly to suspend the mandatory 3.5 days of unpaid leave scheduled for December 2014. The proposed forced leave was simply bad public policy on the city's part.

**Citizens deserve to have their services delivered when and where they need them.**

We are pleased that we will no longer have to pursue legal avenues to challenge the unpaid leave. Citizens shouldn't have to fight against the city for the services they deserve.

I would like to thank the membership for your support regarding this important labour relations issue.

Finally, this fall, we will have the opportunity to elect a more labour friendly council during the civic election. As we've always done, Local 500 will follow the lead of the Winnipeg Labour Council as to which candidates, including the mayor, the unions are going to endorse. More information and updates will follow in the months ahead.

On the bargaining front, the Local will be entering into negotiations later this year with the City of Winnipeg, St. Boniface Museum, Assiniboine Park Conservancy and Varsity View Community Centre. Please watch for bargaining updates regarding your respective collective agreement.

In closing, I want to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. Keep our union strong!

In solidarity,

Mike Davidson  
President

### Local 500 Table Officers

<i>President</i>	Mike Davidson
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i>	Gord Delbridge
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i>	Glenoria Molnar
<i>Treasurer</i>	Phil Dembicki
<i>Secretary</i>	Rebecca Scott
<i>Warden</i>	Walter Gretschman

## New safety ad reminds drivers to "slow down and stay alert in work zones"

Local 500 is airing a new radio ad promoting road safety in work zones. The ad serves as a reminder to all motorists to slow down and stay alert while driving through city work zones.

"With street maintenance and repair work heating up, we want to make sure our members make it home safely to their families after every shift," said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. "By simply slowing down and staying alert in a work zone, can mean another safe day on the job for a worker."

You can listen to the ad on the Local 500 website.

# Engaging our Local's next generation of leaders

Local 500 is seeing a wealth of enthusiasm among our young members and we are working to give them the tools and training necessary to help build a new generation of leaders and activists.

“It’s vitally important that we engage our young members in our union and give them the tools to become the leaders of tomorrow,” said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. “At the same time, we’ll be learning about what our union must do to respond to the needs of younger workers and then change what we do to address their needs.”

Helping to pioneer this effort is the Local’s Young Members Committee, a group of members, ages 35 and under, who come together to discuss and advance the issues of young workers at the Local and Provincial level.

Danielle Carriere, Chair of the Local’s Young Members Committee, says she is excited that more young workers are getting involved and active in the union.

“Young members are both wanted and needed at all levels of our Local, whether it’s participating on a committee or running for a position on a unit executive,” said Carriere.

If you are interested in joining the Young Members Committee, or any other committee, please contact the Local 500 office at 204-942-1001 or email us at [union@cupe500.mb.ca](mailto:union@cupe500.mb.ca).



**Danielle Carriere**  
**Chair, Young Members Committee**

Danielle Carriere was elected Chair of the Local 500 Young Members Committee in December 2013.

Danielle works in the Community By-Law Enforcement Services Division at the City of Winnipeg. She is an active shop steward and has been taking a number of the steward learning series workshops. This fall, Danielle has been sponsored by the Local to attend Humber College in Toronto, to participate in the Certificate in Employee Benefits (CEB) Program.

Outside of work and union activities, you’ll find Danielle knitting, reading or planning her next trip!



*Twelve young members gather together during the Local 500 Leadership and Policy Conference held on June 4-5 at the RBC Winnipeg Convention Centre.*

## Two Local 500 young members elected at CUPE Manitoba Convention



*Brendan Hellrung speaks to a resolution at convention.*

Two Local 500 young members were elected to CUPE Manitoba during the 51<sup>st</sup> annual convention held in Brandon, March 17 – 19.

Mike Smoljanovic of the Public Works Unit was elected to the CUPE Manitoba Executive as the Young Member Representative. Brendan Hellrung, of the Water and Waste Unit, was elected as a Three-Year Trustee.

The Local would like to congratulate both members on their election victory.



*Mike Smoljanovic (center) with Kenny Ens and Rebecca Scott at convention.*

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Joint Health and Safety Day at Riverview highlights right to refuse unsafe work

A fun and informative joint health and safety day was held on May 21 at Riverview Health Centre. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event, which featured quiz games, a putting contest and information displays. This year's theme focused on the "Right to Refuse Unsafe Work".

"You have the legal right to a healthy and safe workplace," said Amanda Schmall, CUPE Co-Chair of the Riverview Joint Health and Safety Committee. "In Manitoba, the Workplace, Safety and Health Act gives a worker the right to refuse work that he or she believes is unsafe to himself/herself or another worker. The act also sets out specific procedures that must be followed in any work refusal."

Thank you to all our members who participated and for your continued commitment to workplace safety and the well-being of your co-workers.



Members of the Riverview Joint Health and Safety Committee with Oden, search and rescue dog trainee.

## Clark Rempel is new pension trustee

Local 500 President Mike Davidson, is pleased to announce that Clark Rempel is the new Union Member Trustee for the WCEBP – Pension Fund.

Clark works as a branch head in the Library Services Division of the Community Services Department.

This fall, Clark will be heading to Humber College in Toronto, to participate in the Certificate in Employee Benefits (CEB) Program.



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[cupe500.mb.ca](http://cupe500.mb.ca)

STAY INFORMED

Sign up for **email updates** on the Local 500 website and receive the latest news!

Voice your improvement ideas and changes!

Fill out the bargaining survey at:

[www.cupe500.mb.ca](http://www.cupe500.mb.ca)



## CUPE Local 500/City of Winnipeg Bargaining Preparations Underway

The collective agreement for all CUPE members working at the City of Winnipeg expires **December 27, 2014**. Local 500 has already started preparing for bargaining.

An important part of the preparation is to identify what the members want added or improved. Your input will help guide the committee as they prepare the proposals for bargaining.

In order to obtain this information, the Local has created an online survey. It's quick and easy to fill out. All you need is your employee ID number. Please use your home computer. If you do not have web access, please contact the Local 500 office and request a hard copy be mailed to you. You can access the survey by visiting our website at [cupe500.mb.ca](http://cupe500.mb.ca).

**Survey closes at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, August 4, 2014**