

# Communicator

Canadian Union of Public Employees – Local 500

Winter 2015

## Labour Day march, picnic celebrate Winnipeg's labour movement

It was the first time in well over a decade that labour and political leaders, union activists, and workers marched around Winnipeg on Labour Day to celebrate the contributions of working people and the labour movement.

The march started at the Manitoba Legislature and ended at Vimy Ridge Park for the annual Labour Day family picnic. The picnic featured live entertainment, hot dogs and many activities for all to enjoy.

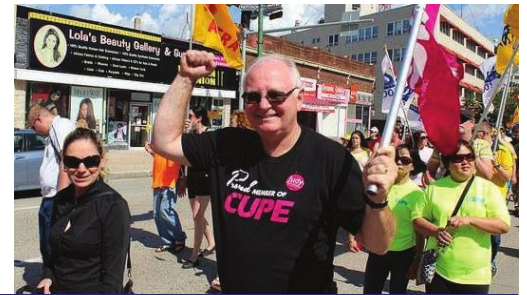
“This is a very important event for the labour movement and our community,” said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. “It’s a day to celebrate and recognize all of the things that the labour movement has fought for over the years that affect all workers, not just union workers.”

Labour Day became a national holiday on July 23rd, 1894 and the concept of celebrating workers in Canada is just as relevant today. The first Labour Day parade in Winnipeg in 1894 was two miles long.

CUPE Local 500 would like to thank our members from the City’s Streets Maintenance and Traffic Services Division for once again, bringing out their equipment to the event.

“The chance for children to explore the city equipment is one of the biggest attractions at the picnic,” said Davidson. “I was happy to see our members participate again this year.”

It is estimated that close to 800 people were in attendance at this year’s picnic.



### 2014 Labour Day march and picnic



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# From the President Mike Davidson



**We must now begin to work with the new mayor and council to find solutions to the many challenges that face our city.**

It's been a busy and exciting fall for our Local on a number of fronts.

The recently concluded civic and school board elections saw our Local work proudly alongside the Winnipeg Labour Council to help elect labour-endorsed candidates to city council.

While we didn't see all of the end results we had hoped for, we are pleased to welcome new City Councillors Matt Allard, Jason Shreyer and Shawn Dobson, who we believe will bring some much-needed balance to city hall.

We must now begin to work with the new mayor and council to find solutions to the many challenges that face our city.

On the bargaining front, we are busy preparing for negotiations with the City of Winnipeg, St. Boniface Museum, Kirkfield-Westwood Community Centre and Varsity View Community Centre.

We can also report that the Provincial Health Care Council agreed to participate in an Interest Arbitration process to rule on the outstanding bargaining issues. At the time of writing, the formal arbitration hearings were concluded and the parties are awaiting the arbitrator's decision.

The Local will continue to provide bargaining updates as more information becomes available.

Other priorities for our Local include participation in the city's 2015 operating budget debate. Our bargaining unit has faced many years of vacancy management and ongoing cuts to civic departments. The Local will be making presentations when necessary at city hall to defend the services our members provide on a daily basis.

These are but some of the important issues facing our Local and I would encourage you to watch your bulletin board for further updates. You can also visit the Local's website for the latest news or sign up for email updates.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family an enjoyable and safe holiday season.

In solidarity,

Mike Davidson, President

## Local 500 Table Officers – 2015

<i>President</i>	Mike Davidson
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i>	Gord Delbridge
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i>	Barb Verschoore
<i>Treasurer</i>	Phil Dembicki
<i>Secretary</i>	Rebecca Scott
<i>Warden</i>	Walter Gretschan



## New shop stewards ready for the road ahead

On October 17 and 18, nine new shop stewards completed the introduction to stewarding workshop and are ready to help out in the workplace.

“Shop stewards are the backbone of our union and we thank them for stepping forward to help protect our members' rights in the workplace,” said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson.

If you have a workplace problem, contact your shop steward. If you're not sure who your steward is, call the Local 500 office at 204-942-1001.



# Local 500 Scholarship and Bursaries Awarded

Every year, Local 500 provides scholarship and bursary awards to students entering or enrolled in full-time programs of study at a recognized college or university. These awards are funded by the Local 500 Les Butterworth Scholarship and Bursary Program, and are presented to the successful recipients at the annual awards dinner.

This year, **one scholarship of \$1,250 and three bursaries of \$750 were awarded.**

## *Scholarship Winner:*

The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic achievement. This year's scholarship recipient is **Karen Thiessen**. Karen is a Local 500 member working at the Millennium Library in the Community Services Department. She is enrolled in the Library and Information Technology Program at Red River College.

## *Bursary Winners:*

The bursaries are awarded on the basis of good academic standing with consideration of financial need.

Here are the bursary award winners for 2014:

**Quentin Robb** is enrolled in the Faculty of Science at the University of Manitoba. He is a Local 500 member working in the Community Services Department – Aquatics Division.

**Marisa Thompson** is enrolled in the Faculty of Kinesiology at the University of Manitoba. Her father Randy is a Local 500 member working in the Water and Wastewater Services at the City of Winnipeg.

**Kelsey Solarchuk** is enrolled in the Faculty of Education at the University of Winnipeg. She is a Local 500 member working at the City of Winnipeg in the Recreation Services Division.

The Local would like to acknowledge and thank American Income Life (AIL) for their continued generous donation to the fund.

Congratulations to the 2014 winners!



*(Left to Right) Leo Van Den Bussche, American Income Life, Quentin Robb, Marisa Thompson, Kelsey Solarchuk, Karen Thiessen, Mike Davidson, President, CUPE Local 500*

*2015 Les Butterworth Scholarship and Bursary Awards Apply in April, 2015. Watch for more details or contact the Local 500 office at 204-942-1001.*

## Two activists receive life member honour

Honourary life membership is proudly awarded to outstanding CUPE Local 500 members for their dedication and service to the Local over an extended period of time.

Honourary life membership may also be awarded for meritorious service to the Local. Life membership can be awarded when the person is within five years of retirement or after retirement or termination of their employment.

This year, two activists were welcomed into the Local 500 honorary life membership at a dinner held November 7, 2014. Also attending the dinner were current honorary life members who received their award in previous years.

The members added were: Val Sobiak, Riverview Health Centre and David Penner, Civic Services Unit/Varsity View Community Centre.

Honourary life membership allows you to continue to attend Local 500 meetings with voice, but no vote.

Congratulations to Val and David on their honorary life membership.



*(Left to Right) Val Sobiak, Mike Davidson, David Penner*

# Celebrating the important role of health care support workers

During the week of October 13 – 17, Local 500 members working at Riverview Health Centre and Winnipeg Regional Health Authority celebrated the important contributions they make to the health of Manitobans, during Health Care Support Workers' Week.

Each year, CUPE Manitoba sends a request to the provincial government, asking for a week to be proclaimed that is dedicated to health care support workers in Manitoba.

"Health care support staff work tirelessly each and every day to care for our loved ones," said Local 500 President, Mike Davidson. "I'm pleased to see that their contributions and commitment to patient care are being recognized, and I commend our members for their dedicated efforts day in and day out."

Local 500 members provide a wide range of services such as housekeeping, sterilizing and maintaining equipment, serving meals, laundry, clerical, and activity workers' among others.

A number of informal and formal events such as displays, coffee parties and presentations were held throughout the province to celebrate their work.



*Amanda Schmall (left) distributes cookies to CUPE members at Riverview Health Centre during health care support workers' week.*

## Stay Connected!

Sign up for email updates and receive the latest news and bargaining information by visiting

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



## SEASON'S GREETINGS

### CUPE OFFICE HOURS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The CUPE LOCAL 500 OFFICE will be closed Wednesday, December 24, 2014 and will open again on Monday, January 5, 2015.

If you need to reach someone from the Local 500 office, please call 204-942-1001 and leave a message. We will be checking for messages regularly.

## Planning for retirement?

Find out how much your pension could be.



## New online Pension Estimator tool is now available!

The Winnipeg Civic Employees' Benefits Program (WCEBP) has developed an online pension estimator that will estimate your retirement pension using the information from your most recent Annual Statement of Benefits.

To use the estimator, you **must** be a member of The Winnipeg Civic Employees' Pension Plan and have service on or before Dec 31, 2013.

You can give the estimator a try by visiting the Winnipeg Civic Employees' Benefits Program website at [wcebp.ca](http://wcebp.ca).