

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
January 22, 2018**

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

TO: All Central Council Delegates

**RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

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Greetings:

The following is my monthly report of the activities and issues facing the Local since our last Central Council meeting:

**BARGAINING UPDATES:**

On January 14, 2018, Local 500 members working at the Emterra Recycling Plant voted to accept a new five-year agreement. The new contract calls for targeted salary increases in the first year, and 9% wage increases over the remaining four years. Other highlights include: payment of shift premium (\$1 for work performed between 10 pm and 5 am), improvements to annual vacation time off, general holiday pay and new language around harassment and discipline.

In other areas of the Local, negotiations are currently underway for our members at the RM of East St. Paul. The current collective agreement expired on December 31, 2017.

Please watch for more bargaining updates as information becomes available.

**UNIFOR DISAFFILIATES FROM THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS (CLC)**

On January 17, 2018, Unifor, Canada's largest private sector Union, announced it was disaffiliating from the CLC effective immediately. This decision taken by their National Executive Board will only serve to divide the Canadian Labour movement.

It is CUPE's view that whatever difficulties led to Unifor leaving the CLC should not be insurmountable ones, and are encouraging Unifor's leadership to sit down with representatives of the CLC and try to work out those differences, for the good of the labour movement.

As the impacts of this decision become fully known, the Local will continue to update the membership as more information becomes available.

### **POLITICAL ACTION INFORMATION MEETING/TRAINING SESSION – FEBRUARY 3, 2018**

CUPE Local 500 in conjunction with the CUPE Manitoba Political Action Committee will be holding a political action information meeting/training session on Saturday, February 3, 2018.

With Winnipeg's Civic election just around the corner, the people we elect to lead our City can greatly affect us as working people. That's why our participation in this election is vital – we cannot achieve positive change without it. I would encourage our members and activists to attend this important meeting and bring along a co-worker, friend or family member.

**When:** Saturday, February 3, 2018  
Noon – 2:00 pm – PIZZA LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

**Where:** Union Centre Auditorium (Room 2C – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), 275 Broadway

For more information and to register, please visit the Local's website or contact our office.

### **SPRING 2018 EDUCATION CALENDAR – MANITOBA REGION**

The spring 2018 CUPE education course calendar for the Manitoba Region has been released. Copies are available on the information table or on the Local 500 website. I encourage our activists to attend CUPE education courses as they provide the essential learning tools you need to carry out your work in representing our members.

### **CUPE ORGANIZING PLAN UNDERWAY**

A plan of action by CUPE to continue to build our union through increased organizing efforts is now underway. This plan entitled "***Growing stronger: A***

***plan to build our union***” is a comprehensive document that outlines the steps CUPE will take to strengthen our union through membership growth.

When CUPE was formed in 1963, our membership was only 57,000. Today, we are over 650,000 members strong. We are far and away the largest union in Canada.

Local 500 has a proud history of following our work in areas where it has been contracted out or privatized. We’ve organized arenas, garbage collection and recycling, and campaigned to bring snow clearing services back in-house.

Member organizing goes to the very heart and purpose of our union. Membership growth not only builds our strength as a union, it is crucial to improving our power and influence – in our workplaces and in society.

If you know of any unorganized workers that would benefit from being represented by our union, please let us know and we will pass that information along to the organizing staff.

You can read CUPE’s organizing plan document at [cupe.ca](http://cupe.ca) or contact the Local 500 office and we will send or email you a copy.

### **GOOD OF THE UNION:**

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Brother Tom Priestley on January 12. Brother Priestley worked in the Community Services Department and has served as Unit President, member of the Local’s executive and on the Health and Safety Committee. Our condolences go out to his family, friends and co-workers.

### **CONCLUSION:**

Please share this current issues document with your co-workers.

In solidarity,



GORD DELBRIDGE  
President

KB/kb LSU