

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
February 26, 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:

**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES PILOT PROJECT FOR IN-HOUSE MULTI-FAMILY GARBAGE BIN COLLECTION**

On February 22, Winnipeg City Council approved a motion to initiate a pilot project to have Local 500 members collect solid waste from one of the upcoming multi-family garbage collection contracts.

The pilot project would begin on February 1, 2020 and last two years.

In 2016, Winnipeg City Council approved a recommendation to bring bulky waste collection back in-house. However, the Union and the City have agreed to put that initiative on hold until completion of the multi-family pilot project.

Local 500 has long advocated to bring contracted out services back in-house and we view this as a positive step forward in bringing other contracted out services back in-house. At the end of the day, we know that in-house delivery will mean higher quality service for Winnipeggers, safer worker conditions and better value for taxpayers.

The city's administrative report calls for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back to Council at the end of the two year pilot with a comparison of cost and service reliability of outsourcing or insourcing garbage collection services for multi-family dwellings.

The Local will update the membership as more information becomes available.

## **7,000 MANITOBA HEALTH CARE WORKERS MERGE INTO NEW UNION LOCAL: CUPE 204**

Health care workers from 20 CUPE health care facilities that service Winnipeg and Manitoba have joined together to form a new union local to challenge the provincial government's attacks on health care and to create one strong voice for health care workers: CUPE Local 204.

### ***Stop the Health Care Cuts Campaign***

In response to the government's cuts to the health care system, including the closing of ERs, Urgent Care Centres and other health care services, privatization, the chaotic restructuring imposed on frontline workers, CUPE 204 has launched a "Stop the Health Care Cuts" campaign.

The campaign is offering free Stop the Health Care Cuts lawn or window signs to anyone in the community who also wishes to express opposition to the Pallister government's attacks on health care.

Please support this campaign by ordering a sign at [204.cupe.ca](http://204.cupe.ca), and CUPE activists will deliver the signs and set them up, all free of charge.

We are all in this fight together.

## **UPDATE: UNIFOR'S DISAFFILIATION FROM THE CLC**

This is currently bringing some significant unrest to the Canadian labour movement, provincial federations and labour councils. CUPE National Executive has unanimously taken the position opposed to UNIFOR'S raiding tactics and that the members no longer have delegate status to central labour bodies.

President of the CLC, Hassan Yussuff came from UNIFOR and in order to remain president, PSAC has given him a token membership. CUPE is opposed to this token membership. In Manitoba UNIFOR has many great labour activists that didn't have a say in these decisions.

Labour is always stronger when united, and I will continue to work with our colleagues in the labour movement to build that unity.

## **ELECTION PLANNING MEETING**

On February 3, CUPE Local 500 in conjunction with the CUPE Manitoba Political Action Committee held a political action information meeting/training session.

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 the next Political Action Committee meeting to be held in April. Please watch for further announcements about this important meeting.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

Every year, the month of February presents a time to celebrate black history and honour the significant contributions people of African heritage have made to Canada and our union movement. Through their activism and leadership, Black trade unionists in Canada have organized to pass laws and win collective agreement language that fights racism and promotes equality in our workplaces and communities.

Black History month also serves as a reminder of both the struggles and achievements of black people both past and present. Equally important, it is important to know and understand how issues of racism and inequality are rooted in our history.

While we have made significant strides forward, we have far to go in the fight against anti-Black racism.

Across Canada, many community groups and CUPE locals are organized events to learn more about and celebrate Black history month.

## **PINK SHIRT DAY IS FEBRUARY 28**

Bullying is a major problem in our schools, workplaces, homes, and online. Pink Shirt Day is an annual campaign to raise awareness of the negative impacts of bullying.

The Day began in 2007 as an act of solidarity with a Nova Scotia high school boy who was bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. Two of his classmates urged everyone to come to school in pink shirts the following day. Since then, schools and communities throughout Canada and beyond mark the occasion on the last Wednesday of February every year.

The focus of this year's campaign is on cyberbullying.

In today's digital world, it can be impossible to escape online bullying, whether it takes the shape of harassment, spreading rumours, sharing embarrassing information or threats.

This year, Pink Shirt Day is encouraging others to combat cyberbullying by thinking twice before posting something negative, and instead using the internet to spread kindness.

On February 28, 2018, we encourage everyone to practice kindness and wear pink to symbolize that you do not tolerate bullying.

## **GOOD OF THE UNION**

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Honourary Life member Gordon Arnold on January 21. Brother Arnold worked at the Winnipeg Hydro Steam Plant for 34 years retiring in 1984. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

## **CONCLUSION:**

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gord Delbridge". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

GORD DELBRIDGE  
President

KB/ng  
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