

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES  
LOCAL 500**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
October 25, 2010**

**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:

**1. Positively Public Campaign**

The Local launched a new TV ad that started airing on September 27 on Citytv and will run up until the beginning of November. A similar thirty second radio ad has been airing daily on CJOB. These two ads remind Winnipeggers about the important services delivered by public employees. In addition, eight billboards and fifteen transit shelter ads can be seen in various locations throughout the city. The Local has also partnered with CJOB to name the hardest working player of the game during their broadcasts of all Winnipeg Blue Bombers home and away games.

Our advertising campaign is aimed at putting a face to the many public services delivered by our members. These are the members who help make our city a better place to live, whether it's keeping our water pure and safe, removing snow from the streets or grooming our parks - they are on the job for us, everyday.

**2. Winnipeg Residents Reject Secret Sewage Contract - Poll**

A Probe Research survey shows that 78% of Winnipeg residents believe that the details of the 30-year contract the City entered into with the private contractor Veolia Canada, should be made public before the October 27 municipal election.

Meanwhile, the poll - commissioned by the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) – shows that overall opposition to the Veolia deal is also strong as 61% of Winnipeggers oppose it, and 39% are in support.

Clearly Winnipeggers have serious concerns with the Mayor and Council's decision to enter into a 30-year deal with a private company to maintain and operate Winnipeg's water and wastewater treatment plants. For the past two years, concerned citizens have called for the City to be open and transparent about contracting out our water and wastewater treatment plants.

**3. Virtual Town Hall Meeting – October 21 RE: Veolia Contract**

The Winnipeg Citizens' Coalition, Water Watch, the Council of Canadians and CUPE hosted Winnipeg's first ever virtual town hall to discuss the secret multi-year contract with Veolia that the Mayor and Council voted to enter into this past May.

On Thursday, October 21 at 7:00 PM, tens of thousands of Winnipeg households received a phone call about the plans to enter into an agreement with Veolia Canada.

The virtual town hall was moderated by Vicki Burns, the former Executive Director of the Winnipeg Humane Society and Dr. Mary Le Maitre of Water Watch. The discussion began with an overview of what transpired here in Winnipeg and was followed by two guests, Jason Meyer, a resident of Richmond, California and Clarke Kahlo, an environmental advocate from Indianapolis who challenged Indianapolis' decision to enter into a contract with Veolia years ago. Both guests shared their experiences with Veolia in their communities.

The Local has been calling for the City to disclose the full implication of the Veolia contract and has been campaigning steadily to keep the city's water and sewage treatment systems publicly owned, managed and operated since the City first proposed the creation of a municipal corporate utility model in November, 2008.

**4. October 4-8, 2010 Manitoba Health Care Support Workers' Week**

The Government of Manitoba proclaimed the week of October 4 – 8 as “Healthcare Support Workers’ Week” in our province. This is the tenth year that the Province has dedicated a week to celebrate and acknowledge their contribution and dedication to the health of Manitobans.

On October 6<sup>th</sup>, I attended, along with Local 500 Staff and CUPE National Staff Representatives, a coffee and cake event at Riverview Health Centre to honor and celebrate the important services they provide day in and day out.

**5. Streets Foremen Apprenticeship Program**

The City recently held their new “Foremen Apprenticeship Program” training earlier this month. The course includes both a classroom and a job shadowing component over a one week time frame. This education helps provide the necessary tools to help prepare Streets spare foremen for future work.

Congratulations go out to all the following people for their involvement and participation in the new Streets Foreman Apprenticeship Program:

Trent Doyle  
Marc Jaeger  
Cheryl Anderson  
Ron Ireland  
Keith Selkirk  
Rob Sigurdson  
Minette Ponce  
Dennis Drobot

Brian Graham  
Abe Wiebe  
Cathy Penner  
Marvin Retzlaff  
Robert Klemchuk  
Dan Palson  
Kay Fung  
Wayne Epp

## **6. Local 500 Committees - Update**

On October 20, the Local's Health and Safety Committee met at the Union Centre to outline a plan and next steps to ensure that all Local 500 members are knowledgeable about health and safety issues in the workplace. The Health and Safety Committees plays a key role in creating and maintaining a safe and healthy working environment within Local 500 workplaces.

Thank you to all the Local 500 members who take an active role and give up personal time to make these committees successful.

## **7. Bargaining Update – City of Winnipeg**

The Local's bargaining committee is continuing its preparation for upcoming negotiations with the City of Winnipeg.

On September 28 and 29, the Local completed 2 days of bargaining preparation training to ensure each member of the Union's committee is well prepared for their involvement in the negotiation process.

The Collective Agreement between CUPE Local 500 and the City of Winnipeg is set to expire on December 31, 2010.

Once bargaining begins, we'll be issuing regular bulletins to keep you up to date. You can also visit the Local 500 website for more information and sign up for email updates.

**Conclusion:**

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

In solidarity,

*MD Davidson*

Mike Davidson

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