

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
November 26, 2018**

CUPE / *Canadian Union
of Public Employees*
Local 500

TO: All Central Council Delegates

RE: PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings:

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

WINNIPEG MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARDS ELECTION

Winnipeg held its Municipal and School Boards Election for mayor, councillors and school trustees on October 24th. All but one labour endorsed councillor and school trustee were elected or re-elected.

Newly elected councillors include: Markus Chambers (St. Norbert – Seine River), Vivian Santos (Point Douglas), Sherri Rollins (Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry), Kevin Klein (Charleswood-Tuxedo), and Shawn Nason (Transcona).

Re-elected to city council were: Councillors Orlikow, Allard, Schreyer, Eadie, Mayes, Browaty, Lukes, Gilroy, Gillingham, Sharma and Brian Bowman for Mayor.

The Local faces many challenges ahead and we remain committed to working with City Council, in order to provide the very best front line services to the citizens of Winnipeg.

HONOURARY LIFE DINNER

Two Local 500 members were inducted into the Local 500 Honourary Life membership at a dinner held November 2nd. Honourary Life membership is awarded to outstanding CUPE members for their services given to the Local over an extended period of time.

This year, Sister Lorna Verschoore (Community Services Unit) and the Late Brother Tom Priestley (Community Services), were inducted. The Local was honoured to have Tom's mother Lorna and his brothers Robert and David join us at the dinner to accept the award. Tom was a long-time activist in our Local who served on the Local's and Unit executive, bargaining committee, and health and safety committee.

Our congratulations go out to Sister Verschoore. On behalf of the Local, I would like to thank her for her continued activism and dedication to our Union.

2019 OPERATING BUDGET – CITY OF WINNIPEG – COST SHARE CAMPAIGN

The Local is preparing for the release of the city's 2019 operating and capital budgets. To ensure we are well equipped to fight back against any possible service cuts, the Local has requested a cost-share with our National Union. We anticipate the City will table the budget sometime in the early New Year.

The Local remains concerned about the city's continued reliance on vacancy management in all civic departments. Balancing the books at the expense of a strong civic workforce is going to harm our city, and reduce our ability to deliver needed services.

As we've always done in the past, the Local will make presentations where necessary to the various standing committees and at city council. Please watch for further updates as more information becomes available.

CUPW STRIKE UPDATE

After almost a year of talks, Canada Post refuses to negotiate in good faith. On October 22, members of CUPW began rotating strikes to minimize disruption while still putting pressure on Canada Post to negotiate a fair collective agreement.

Now, the Trudeau Liberal government has introduced back-to-work legislation against our Sisters and Brothers of CUPW. In tabling this legislation, Trudeau has betrayed not just postal workers, but all working people in Canada.

CUPE stands in solidarity with all CUPW workers as they fight for a collective agreement that meets the needs of their members. Please watch for further updates and any action alerts as more information becomes available.

CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT THRONE SPEECH SILENT ON ITS VISION FOR MANITOBA

On November 20, Manitoba's Conservative Government delivered its fourth Throne Speech, which failed to deliver on pretty well any priorities.

After a turbulent year where this government has cut health care, laid the ground work for the privatization of hydro, demolished funding to the city of Winnipeg and other municipalities, and threatened a shakeup in education, the Throne Speech was largely silent on a vision for Manitoba. The City of Winnipeg wasn't even mentioned in the speech.

Of serious concern, the speech suggests the Pallister government is moving toward privatization of Manitoba's non-profit child care sector. Working families are in critical need of affordable, safe and accessible child care to help them get back to work or school – higher fees and private profits are not the answer to Manitoba's child care crisis.

One of the only positives in this speech is the increased support for victims of domestic violence. We hope that the increase in resources includes an awareness campaign to let Manitoba workers know that they have the right to take up to five days off from work with pay to get help when experiencing domestic violence.

SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Once again, the Local was pleased to provide some financial support to the Urban Forestry Branch and Streets Division for costumes and candies for the Santa Claus Parade on November 17.

I would like to thank the Local 500 members and their families who took part in this year's parade.

GOOD OF THE UNION

Local 500 is sad to announce the passing of Brother Rick Keep on November 13. Brother Keep was a long-time activist with our Local having served as a Table Officer, member of the Local's Executive, President of the Water and Waste Unit and on numerous committees. Brother Keep was inducted to the Honourary Life Membership in 2002. We offer our heartfelt condolences 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.

Gord Delbridge
President

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