

**CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
LOCAL 500**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Central Council
February 25, 2019**

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:

2019 OPERATING BUDGET – CITY OF WINNIPEG

The City of Winnipeg will be releasing it's operating and capital budgets at a special meeting of the city's Executive Policy Committee on March 1st.

Once released, we will be reviewing the budget closely to identify any and all service reductions and will be raising these at the various standing committees and with City Council, as necessary. 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.

The following is the schedule of public meetings to hear delegations and consider the preliminary 2019 Operating and Capital budgets:

March 7 – Water and Waste Committee & Infrastructure & Public Works

March 8 – Protection, Community Services and Parks

March 11 – Innovation

March 13 – EPC to hear public delegations

March 19 – EPC to pass budget

March 20 – City Council to pass budget

Please watch for further updates on the budget process in the coming weeks.

You will find copies of the Local's presentations on our website.

ELIMINATION OF CUSTODIAL SERVICE – ASSINIBOINE PARK CONSERVANCY (APC)

On January 25, 2019 Local 500 was advised of a decision by APC to eliminate its custodial services effective March 4, affecting 14 bargaining unit positions. In response to this decision, the Local advised APC that they had not provided the appropriate notice period and opportunity for discussions, as outlined in the collective agreement. APC has disagreed with our position and advised they would be proceeding with the layoff of custodial employees.

The Local filed a grievance at Step 2, which was subsequently denied. The grievance is now at Step 3 of the grievance process. The two parties are also far apart on the bumping process and the union has filed a Step 3 grievance in this regard as well.

The Local is very disappointed at APC's stance on this matter. We have stated numerous times that we want to work with them to resolve this issue. However, they are not willing to do so as per the collective agreement.

Should APC not change their position, the next step would be to proceed to arbitration. The Local is also contemplating the filing of an unfair labour practice with the Manitoba Labour Board.

We will keep the membership updated on this important issue as more information becomes available.

UPDATE ON PILOT PROJECT FOR IN-HOUSE MULTI-FAMILY AND SMALL COMMERCIAL GARBAGE COLLECTION

On Feb. 22, 2018 Winnipeg City Council approved a motion to initiate a pilot project to have Local 500 members perform automated frontload garbage bin collection for one of the upcoming multi-family garbage collection contracts.

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

A number of committees with representatives from the City and CUPE have been meeting to discuss the implementation process. These discussions include the purchase of fleet, storage facilities, staffing requirements, operator training, hours of work and scheduling of shifts, etc.

Local 500 has long advocated to bring contracted out services back in-house, and as always, we are willing to collaborate on initiatives to improve efficiencies and lower costs. 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.

Please watch for more updates on this important initiative as more information becomes available.

HEALTH CARE UPDATE – SHARED HEALTH TRANSITION PROCESS

On February 11, information was released regarding the Shared Health Transition process that will affect our members working at Riverview Health Centre and the WRHA. The main change is that the name of the employer will change from WRHA to Shared Health. Please note that employees affected will not see a difference in management, work location or their collective agreement.

The WRHA and Shared Health plan to implement the changes no earlier than April 5, 2019.

Please see the attached Health Care Bulletin Update of February 11, 2019 for more information.

GOOD OF THE UNION

Cathy Williams-Stewart – The Local would like to congratulate Cathy Williams-Stewart on her retirement from Riverview Health Centre. Cathy has been a long-serving activist within our Local and the broader labour movement. We have no doubt that Cathy's work has positively affected the lives of countless CUPE members, and for this we offer her our sincere thanks.

Calendar of Events – March 2019

The following is a list of international days we will be observing in March. Please watch for more information or about upcoming events to mark these special dates.

March 8 - International Women's Day

March 21 - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

March 22 – World Water Day

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 fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

GORD DELBRIDGE
President

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