

CUPE's 50th Anniversary Convention Highlights

More than 2,100 delegates from across the country gathered in Quebec City at CUPE's 50th Anniversary National Convention held October 21 – 25. It was a time to celebrate CUPE's achievements in making life better for our members and all Canadians.

“We believe the services we provide make Canada a great place to live, and we vow to defend those services,” said Paul Moist, National President of CUPE, in his convention report.

In his report to the delegates, National Secretary Treasurer Charles Fleury echoed the call for CUPE members to unite in protecting the services they provide every day.

“A strong team must include all our members. That's why we need to stay in touch with our membership. With the Fairness project, launched in conjunction with the CLC, we will have an even stronger team to meet the challenges ahead. Together, we have the power to make change,” concluded Fleury.



Photo top right: CUPE National President Paul Moist (right) and CUPE National Secretary Charles Fleury; Bottom right: PSI Secretary-General Rosa Pavanelli



Other guest speakers included Thomas Mulclair, Leader of the Official Opposition and NDP, Public Service International Secretary-General, Rosa Pavanelli and Canadian Labour Congress President, Ken Georgetti.

Throughout the convention delegates were treated to a series of videos on CUPE's 50 year history, spotlighting the accomplishments of our union's rise to be Canada's largest.

A key resolution passed provides for an increase to strike pay to \$60 per day to begin on the 10th day on the picket line, up to a maximum of \$300 per week.

Other convention highlights included the presentation of a number of National Awards in the categories of Literacy, Health and Safety, Communications, Grace Hartman and Disability Rights Activism.

The convention closed with the passing of CUPE's strategic directions, charting CUPE's priorities and work for the next two years.

For full convention news, photos and videos visit cupe50.ca.

Source: CUPE Counterpoint

Two big wins for Local 500 at CUPE National Communication Awards

Local 500 is thrilled to be recognized for two communication awards at the 2013 National Convention. The Local's website won the award for best English website with more than 1,000 members and was the winner of the photo submission. You can view a list of all the communication award winners at cupe50.ca.

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From the President Mike Davidson



Bargaining, servicing and civic elections keep us busy this year

I would like to start off by wishing everyone all the best in 2014. I hope this year brings you and your family good health and happiness.

In addition to the day-to-day labour relations issues, the Local has been busy on a number of fronts.

In December, the Local took part in the City of Winnipeg operating and capital budget debate process. Once again, the city tabled both budgets on the same date and provided very little time to review the documents. In the end, a budget was adopted that continues to underfund the city's infrastructure and many civic departments. Other highlights of the budget that are of great concern to the Local, include \$14.1 million in vacancy management, \$2.4 million in savings through the alternate service delivery process and 3.5 days of unpaid leave for city employees next Christmas.

We have been crystal clear in our presentations to the city that we will defend our members' rights under the terms and conditions of our collective agreement. These reductions in staffing levels and service cuts will, without a doubt, compromise front line services being delivered to the citizens of Winnipeg.

On the bargaining front, the Local will soon begin preparations for bargaining with the City of Winnipeg. Our current collective agreement expires on December 27, 2014. At this time, we ask that you watch for further updates in the coming months.

Later this year, the city will be holding its civic elections. As we have always done in the past, the Local will respect the Winnipeg Labour Council's endorsement process for mayor and city councillors. The Local does not make individual endorsements of candidates – we work with and through the Winnipeg Labour Council.

Finally, over the past couple of months, many of our members have been working in some very harsh weather conditions to help keep our city up and running. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and commitment to the citizens of Winnipeg.

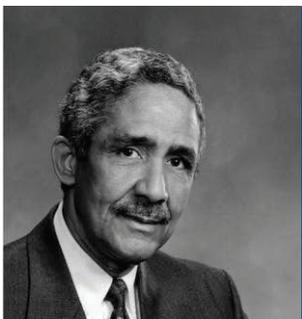
In closing, please consider making 2014 the year to get involved in your union. Our strength comes from your involvement. Keep our union strong!

In solidarity,

Mike Davidson
President

Local 500 Table Officers 2014

<i>President</i>	Mike Davidson
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Gord Delbridge
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Glenoria Molnar
<i>Treasurer</i>	Phil Dembicki
<i>Secretary</i>	Rebecca Scott
<i>Warden</i>	Walter Gretschan



First-ever CUPE Worker of Colour Award named after former Local 500 President Ed Blackman

Local 500 is proud to announce the establishment of CUPE's first-ever Worker of Colour Award named in honour of Ed Blackman. Brother Blackman, a former Local 500 President, also served as a General Vice-President of our National Union and was a founding member of CUPE's Rainbow Committee. The Ed Blackman Worker of Colour Award will be presented at the next national convention in 2015.

Local 500 honours life member Betty-Ann Blair

Local 500 member and activist Betty-Ann Blair, was welcomed into the Local 500 honorary life membership at a dinner held October 11. Also attending the dinner were current honorary life members who received their award in previous years.

Honorary life membership is awarded to outstanding CUPE members for their services given to the Local over an extended period of time. It may also be awarded for meritorious service to the Local.

Life membership can be awarded when the person is within five years of retirement, after retirement or termination of their employment.

Our congratulations and thanks go out to Betty-Ann Blair for her dedication and commitment to our Local over the years.

Top photo: Betty-Ann Blair, inducted to honorary life membership;

Bottom photo: Current honorary life members gather for photo at dinner held on October 11 at the Winnipeg Convention Centre.



Bargaining Updates

Commissionaires (RCMP "D" Division) ratify new agreement

The Commissionaires (RCMP "D" Division) have accepted a three-year contract that includes wage increases of 2.6 per cent in the first year, 1.9 per cent in the second year and 2.1 per cent in the third year. Other highlights include improvements to meal allowance, vacation and a new provision for footwear allowance.

Emterra recycling facility members ratify first agreement

A first agreement has been reached between CUPE Local 500 and Emterra for the members working at the recycling facility. The new five-year deal includes wage improvements over the term of the contract.

First agreement reached for members at Southdale Community Centre

Members working at Southdale Community Centre have ratified their first contract. The new four-year deal includes both wage and vacation improvements.

Bargaining updates on website

Keep in-the-know on bargaining! Our bargaining updates are posted on the website. The homepage on our website is the place to go to find the latest news or links to bargaining updates. You can visit our website at cupe500.mb.ca

Attention: Riverview Health Centre and WRHA Members

Healthcare bargaining updates are available to you!

Your union wants to make sure you have the most recent CUPE Provincial Healthcare Council (PHCC) bargaining updates.

- You can sign up to receive email updates by visiting the Local 500 website at cupe500.mb.ca or
- You can also view the bargaining updates on the PHCC website at phcc.cupe.ca.

If none of these options work for you, please give us a call at the Local 500 office at 204-942-1001 to discuss how we can best communicate with you.

Join a Local 500 committee

Local 500 has twelve standing committees related to a wide variety of union activities. The following is a list of the committees and the chairperson. A detailed description of each committee can be found on our website at cupe500.mb.ca.

Aboriginal Council - Corey Ducharme

Constitution Committee – Joan McMahon

Education, Shop Stewards and Rapid Communication Committee – Rebecca Scott

Equality & Human Rights Committee - Cathy Williams-Stewart

Health & Safety Committee – Walter Gretschan

Honourary Life Committee – Margaret Feliksiak

Political Action Committee – Gord Delbridge

Protective Clothing Committee – Walter Gretschan

Reclassification Committee – Ted Yorke

Resolutions Committee – Rebecca Scott

Social/Sports Committee – Margaret Feliksiak

Young Members Committee – Danielle Carriere

Care to serve on a committee and make a difference? Contact us by email: union@cupe500.mb.ca or call the Local 500 office at 204 942-1001.

Steward Education



Seventeen Local 500 members completed the Introduction to Stewarding Course held at the Union Centre on January 24 and 25. If you are interested in becoming a shop steward, contact a member of your unit executive or the Local 500 office at 204-942-1001.

UPDATE YOUR INFO AT
cupe500.mb.ca

STAY INFORMED

Sign up for **email updates** on the Local 500 website and receive the latest news!

Union Member Trustee Vacancy:

Winnipeg Civic Employees' Benefits Program (WCEBP) - Pension Fund

CUPE Local 500 is seeking a candidate from the membership who may be interested in serving as a **Union Member Trustee for the WCEBP – Pension Fund**. The Board is made up of seven Employer Trustees and seven Union Member Trustees who are responsible for ensuring the Program is administered in accordance with the Trust Agreement, Program Texts, and applicable legislation.

Trustees spend upwards of 12 days per year at meetings plus additional time to review meeting materials. Trustees are also expected to participate in additional educational activities as required.

Interested members should have some skills and knowledge in order to effectively participate. These include an ability to work with others and provide leadership, to solve problems, exercise sound judgment, and communicate effectively. Trustees must be able to respect confidentiality and maintain a high standard of personal values and ethics.

Applications will be accepted at the CUPE Local 500 office until 4:30pm, February 21, 2014. Members applying should include a resume and cover letter.

If you need further clarification, contact Bob Ripley, Special Assignments Officer, at 204-942-1001 or by email to bripley@cupe500.mb.ca.



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CALL US: 204 942 1001

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.CUPE500.MB.CA