

# **CANADIAN UNION OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES LOCAL 500**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Central Council  
July 27, 2015**

***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:

**BARGAINING UPDATES:**

**City of Winnipeg new pay rates/retroactive payments**

The Local 500 office has received confirmation from the City on the targeted dates for implementation of the new pay rates and retroactive pay on the agreement that CUPE members voted to accept on June 2, 2015.

1. **Updated Rates of Pay:** The new rates of pay are scheduled to be reflected on Friday, July 24.
2. **Retroactive Pay:** Retroactive payments are estimated to be made on **Friday, August 7 or Friday, August 21.**

**New Supplementary Agreement for Aquatics**

The Community Services Aquatic Division members ratified their Supplementary Agreement last month. Sixty-six cent of our members voted in favour of the agreement that has been a void for many years. I would like to thank the committee for their hard work and for their commitment for ensuring our members' concerns and issues were represented and are reflected in this document.

**LOCAL 500 SNOW PLOWING CAMPAIGN/REVIEW OF CITY'S SNOW CLEARING SERVICES REPORT - UPDATE**

***City's Snow Clearing Review report gets extension to September 8***

On June 23, the City's Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works granted an extension of time to the September 8, 2015 meeting for the Winnipeg Public Service to report on the Snow Clearing Review.

During the Committee meeting, the Local presented a summary of the Local's Public Plowing Works report calling for contracted-out snow clearing to be brought back in-house.

CUPE 500's Snow Plowing Hotline resulted in hundreds of comments and concerns from across the city, The fact that so many Winnipeggers have offered their concerns and ideas on snow plowing indicates strong public interest in this core city service.

## **WESTERN MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE**

The CUPE Western Municipal Conference was held in Winnipeg from June 24 – 26 at the RBC Convention Centre. Attending the conference were members from 30 Locals from across BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

Keynote speakers included CUPE National President Paul Moist, National Secretary Charles Fleury, CUPE Senior Economist Toby Sanger, CUPE Researcher Jordana Feist and National Staff Representative Matt McLean. The conference also featured presentations and discussions on P3s, infrastructure, upcoming Federal Election and trends facing the municipal sector.

In addition, delegates had the opportunity to visit the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, which featured a discussion on labour rights and the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike.

Thank you to all local 500 members who participated.

## **LOCAL 500 SUPPORTS SHOAL LAKE #40**

Local 500 and CUPE Manitoba have joined others in calling for the building of an all-weather access road to Shoal Lake #40 First Nation.

It is unjust that the people who live in the community that sources our public water have been under a boil water advisory for 17 years and are often cut-off entirely from accessing clean water and public services, As the workers who deliver this water to Winnipeggers, we feel that clean, public water should also be available to those who source it.

On July 21, 2015, CUPE Local 500 and CUPE Manitoba officially endorsed the Shoal Lake #40 "Freedom Road" campaign by sending a letter to Chief Erwin Redsky indicating the support of Winnipeg's municipal workers, as well as a letter to Aboriginal Affairs Minister Bernard Valcourt urging him to act immediately to improve the living conditions of the people of Shoal Lake #40.

Local 500 will update the membership on this campaign as more information becomes available.

## **WINNIPEG'S ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Some city councillors are opposed to the city's \$334-million active transportation strategy plan and have aired radio advertisements that included the following:

"Your mayor and council are about to consider a controversial pedestrian and cycling strategy that proposed cuts to sidewalk snow removal. As taxpayers, we know we are a winter city and snow removal has long been a core municipal service, especially for seniors and the disabled," the ad states. "Let's get back to common sense. Let's maintain sidewalk snow removal."

The message of councillors Jeff Browaty (North Kildonan), Jason Schreyer (Elmwood-East Kildonan), Shawn Dobson (St. Charles), Ross Eadie (Mynarski) and Russ Wyatt (Transcona) then urges listeners to call Mayor Brian Bowman and city councillors to oppose the strategy.

## **STRIKES/LOCKOUTS**

Locals 227 and 1431 – Halifax Commission (Nova Scotia)

The employer continues to attack the DB plan, pleading that the plan is not sustainable. The members of this brave Local (both inside and outside workers) are refusing to allow this concession. Locals across the country are sending messages of solidarity and support for these workers.

Locals 101 and 1431 – City of London (Ontario)

The inside workers of this local were forced onto the picket line when the employer refused to remove concessions regarding hours of work, benefits and job evaluation. Their strike began May 25<sup>th</sup>, and is on-going.

## **CUPE MANITOBA SOLIDARITY SECTOR CONFERENCE**

CUPE Manitoba will be holding its 2<sup>nd</sup> Solidarity Sector Conference in Winnipeg from September 30 – October 3, 2015. This conference is essentially six conferences in one, with mini conferences being held in the various sectors (i.e. Long Term Care, Social Services/Child Care, Municipal, Education, Health Care, and Provincially Regulated/Post Secondary).

It is important that the sectors meet to discuss shared and common issues. Please consider sending members from your Unit to this important conference.

## **OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup> FEDERAL ELECTION**

For the first time in Canadian history three parties will compete for power and our party, the NDP under Tom Mulcair's leadership, have fashioned a very progressive platform which includes:

- \$15/day child care
- \$15/hour federal minimum wage
- OPP expansion, return of OAS eligibility to age 65
- Proper funding of Medicare and introduction of a National Pharmacare program.

I urge all members to get involved with your local NDP campaign. Together we can achieve the change we all want.

## **LOCAL 500 DONATES WATER BOTTLES TO SILOAM MISSION**

On July 22, Siloam Mission [Tweeted](#) a request for water bottles, among other much-needed items to help Winnipeg's homeless community beat the heat.

CUPE Local 500 responded immediately by delivering 200 reusable water bottles to the mission.

Water is a basic right that everybody should have access to. As the workers who deliver Winnipeg's public water, we are committed to helping every community gain access to this invaluable public resource.

Siloam Mission also needs donations of backpacks, underwear (men's & women's) and deodorant. Donations can be delivered to 300 Princess Street in Winnipeg, or by calling (204) 956-4344.



## **WINNIPEG GOLF SERVICES – NEW GOLF APP**

Winnipeg Golf Services has introduced a new golf app for the Kildonan Park and Windsor Park Golf Courses. The app is free to download and has many features that will enhance the playing experience for patrons at either of these two courses.

Winnipeg Golf Services has also made many improvements regarding existing infrastructure such as drainage, new patio, path ways and welcoming tournament “use” for organizations and the public.

The city should always have a number of publicly owned and operated golf courses that are affordable and available for everyone to use and enjoy.

### **CONCLUSION**

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

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Mike Davidson

MD/ng  
cope 342

cc: L. McLeod