



To: CUPE 15 Members – City of Vancouver, Park Board, Britannia & Ray-Cam

From: Paul Faoro, President

Date: December 21, 2009

Re: City Council Decision – 2010 Operating Budget

You now have probably heard this past Friday City Council by way of an 8-2 vote approved the 2010 Operating Budget. To say we are disappointed is an understatement. The approved budget contains significant cuts across the organization in all departments and Boards which will affect employees within our jurisdiction as well as CUPE 1004, CUPE 391, IAFF L18 and exempt staff.

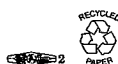
To date our union has not received any specific details from the employer on impacted positions. This is not for lack of trying. Over the last several months we have attempted on numerous occasions to get this information but the employer has refused to provide it. As a result our union filed a complaint at the B.C. Labour Relations Board under Section 53/54 called a joint consultation and adjustment plan, in order to force the employer to come to the table and provide us with full details on exactly where these cuts are happening and who is impacted. We are also hopeful that if we are successful we can mitigate some of the pending layoffs.

This lack of transparency has added enormous stress to many employees which is troubling. This is at a time when city management is asking staff to do more than ever on top of existing unmanageable workloads and Olympic Game preparations. No gold medals for this. We expect better from the new City Manager and City Council.

This year's budget process has been problematic from the start predominantly due to shortened timelines, local economy and 2010 Olympics. Over the last few months CUPE 15 made two presentations to the Park Board and one to City Council. In addition we attended all nine public information meetings.

As well we ran ads in the Courier, 24 and Metro and called 3000 CUPE 15 members to raise public awareness of the budget process and potential impact to public services in Vancouver.

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At the end of the day City Council voted for a minimal 2.26% property tax increase resulting in \$18 million having to be cut from the budget impacting programs and services. City Council chose to ignore all of the citizens and organizations, including civic unions they heard from during their consultation. Sixty-five out of 66 speakers were opposed to the proposed budget and cuts.

In the coming weeks we should know the true impact. CUPE 15 will be ready to assist all members who may be impacted by the operating budget and Vancouver Shared Service Review. You have our commitment that anyone who is affected by this, we are going to ensure has full union representation throughout this process.

Please let us know what's happening at your worksite, if you learn of anything that might be able to help us.

Thank you, and please try to have a good holiday break. We will be in the office to help in the meantime, and will be again, in the New Year.