



WORKING FOR YOU

building better communities

with quality public services we can count on



WORKING FOR YOU



CUPE LOCAL 503

As the second largest municipal union in Ontario, CUPE Local 503 is proud to provide the citizens of Ottawa with day-to-day services, year in year out.

CUPE 503 is a diverse group of people who share a common commitment to public service. They include frontline staff – working full and part-time – in libraries, city halls, municipal long-term care facilities, community care access centers, social housing projects, the Humane Society, as well as in parks and recreational facilities.

A core tenet of our mission is to advocate for the vital services that keep our families safe and make our community strong. Just as we strive for fairness in negotiations – we also strive for fairness in our community and in the halls of government. With a history dating back more than 50 years in the Capital area, CUPE 503 members provide the services that keep Ottawa up and running.

fact

“ROCK FOR PUBLIC SERVICES”
- AN ANNUAL FREE CONCERT SPONSORED BY CUPE - HAS FEATURED SEVERAL BIG-NAME CANADIAN MUSICAL ACTS INCLUDING TROOPER, KIM MITCHELL, BIG SUGAR, DAVID WILCOX, THE DOWNCHILD BLUES BAND AND SASS JORDAN AND HAS DONATED THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS TO LOCAL CHARITIES.

WORKING FOR YOU



because we live here too!

Communities are the building blocks of our country, and the bedrock of our daily lives. They are where we live, work and raise our families. A community flourishes when it has healthy finances and strong public services.

Ottawa, like many other municipalities, faces numerous fiscal, environmental and social challenges – but there are solutions.

As Ottawa's community union, CUPE Local 503 is committed to working with municipal leaders to find solutions to these challenges. Together we can build the city we want, with quality public services we can all take pride in.

fact

TODAY'S PARENT
MAGAZINE NAMED
OTTAWA ONE OF THE
FIVE MOST CHILD-FRIENDLY
PLACES TO LIVE IN CANADA
BASED ON HEALTH CARE
DOLLARS SPENT, SCHOOL
SYSTEMS, LOW CRIME
RATE AND CLEAN AIR.

WORKING FOR YOU



to provide stable, municipal financing

The gap between the services the municipality must deliver and the resources they have to do so is growing. An escalating infrastructure deficit and inadequate revenues are causing a crisis.

But CUPE Local 503 is doing its part.

- CUPE 503 was instrumental in setting up the Casual Labour Pool, an efficiency that represents \$250,000 in annual savings to Ottawa taxpayers.
- An initiative by CUPE 503 at Public Works solicited ideas from frontline workers to help improve services and cut costs. With their input, savings of over \$500,000 were achieved, and with more ideas and concepts to review, it is anticipated they will reach the \$1,000,000 mark this year.

To learn more about some of our other practical, cost-saving financial proposals and a better deal for all taxpayers visit www.cupe503.com

fact

AN ENTERPRISE BY THE TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS SHOP TO USE RF (RADIO FREQUENCY) SWITCHING TO SEND WIRELESS SIGNALS FROM FIRE HALLS TO TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS ELIMINATED THE NEED FOR EXPENSIVE UNDERGROUND DUCT WORK – SAVING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS.

WORKING FOR YOU



to deliver clean, safe and public water services

Ottawa's water and sewage systems are publicly run by the municipal government and public sector workers. They meet stringent safety and environmental standards and have continued to offer reliable and affordable services as the Capital region has expanded.

Unfortunately, federal and provincial underfunding poses a serious threat. As a result, many municipalities facing deteriorating infrastructures, unwieldy growth and reconstruction are considering privatizing financing, operations, management and even maintenance of this vital public service. What's more, new environmental regulations and international trade agreements are also putting pressure on municipalities to privatize water and wastewater services.

We at CUPE 503 think this is the wrong way to approach this problem. Let's work together to keep Ottawa's water and wastewater systems public.

fact

IN 2008, THE MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT RATED THE CITY OF OTTAWA'S DRINKING WATER AS ONE OF THE SAFEST IN THE WORLD.

WORKING FOR YOU



to create a clean, green capital

Municipal solid waste services are fundamental to the quality of life in our community - as well as our health, environmental future and the overall appearance of our beautiful city.

Since CUPE 503 members took over garbage collection in the Centertown core they saved the taxpayers of Ottawa \$4.8 million dollars. In their previous zone, they saved taxpayers \$2.4 million. An Ernst Young audit also noted that beside the enormous savings, there were fewer complaints than with the competing private contractors.

Let's keep solid waste services in public hands for a leaner, greener Ottawa!

fact

OTTAWA COMMUNITY HOUSING IS THE SECOND LARGEST SOCIAL HOUSING PROVIDER IN ONTARIO. OCH PROVIDES 14,783 HOMES FOR ABOUT 32,000 SENIORS, PARENTS, CHILDREN, SINGLES AND PERSONS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

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now and in the future

Whether it's caring for seniors, children or even the family pet, public services support Ottawa families day in and day out. Included in CUPE 503's ranks are thousands of proud citizens who work at the Humane Society, in day cares, at municipal long-term care facilities, community care access centers and social housing projects.

Yet, public investment has not come close to meeting the challenges of a growing population, diverse social needs and new environmental standards.

Better funding is critical not only to help Ottawa meet the basic needs of its citizens but also to promote economic growth, support innovation, create jobs and raise our quality of life.

fact

THE CHAMPLAIN COMMUNITY CARE ACCESS CENTRE (CCAC) IS PART OF A PROVINCE-WIDE NETWORK SET UP TO HELP GUIDE PEOPLE THROUGH THE COMPLEXITIES OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

WORKING FOR YOU



to protect the public services we depend upon

The citizens of Ottawa enjoy an excellent quality of life. They know that they can trust their public services to be accountable, dependable, locally-controlled and a wise investment of their tax dollars.

Privatization undermines these community values. Outsourcing and public-private partnerships are risky and expensive. Costs rise, quality suffers and local control is weakened. Services are less accessible and projects are delayed. Public funds are diverted from core services to corporate profits.

There is a better way. When services are public and well-funded they deliver a solid, reliable foundation Ottawans can count on.

fact

OTTAWA HUMANE SOCIETY VOLUNTEERS TAKE DOGS AND CATS TO VARIOUS HOSPITALS, RETIREMENT HOMES AND REHABILITATION CENTERS SO THE RESIDENTS CAN BENEFIT FROM ANIMAL CONTACT. THIS PROGRAM IS CALLED BRIGHTENING LIVES.

WORKING FOR YOU



to keep Canada's capital a showplace

When Ottawa was recently voted the best city to live in Canada and one of the top ten cities in all of North America, locals were hardly surprised. We know we live in one of the most vibrant and dynamic cities in the world.

CUPE 503 members work tirelessly to keep our community clean, our roadways safe, our scenic parks and recreational areas beautiful and our heritage alive by maintaining the Capital's many historical sites and landmarks.

CUPE 503 – for over half a century, we've been working for you to make this city a place we can all be proud to call home.

fact

OTTAWA HOSTS MORE THAN 35 MAJOR FESTIVALS PER YEAR – INCLUDING THE TULIP FESTIVAL, BLUESFEST, OTTAWA CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL, INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL AND WINTERLUDE.

WORKING FOR YOU



to construct a solid foundation

Public services are the very foundation of our great Capital. Social services, child care, housing, libraries and recreation are great equalizers that help lift families out of poverty. Public services also create employment and are crucial to the ongoing economic recovery.

In spite of fiscal pressure, any municipality that cuts jobs and services does so at their peril. This creates a false economy. With each public sector job lost, four other jobs can disappear, as spending in the local economy drops. Municipal revenues shrink and demand for services grow.

Together we can support and strengthen public services.

fact

CANADA'S NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION WELCOMES OVER 7.3 MILLION VISITORS PER YEAR, WHO BRING IN OVER \$1.18 BILLION TO OUR LOCAL ECONOMY.



WORKING FOR YOU

to build a better Ottawa

Let's build the community we want with the quality public services we can count on.

Visit www.cupe503.com to learn more about the solutions discussed in this booklet.

