



## VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017

1. **LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC

2. **CHAIRPERSON:** Terry Engler, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*MSC that the minutes of the December 13, 2016 meeting be adopted.*

4. **CREDENTIALS:** Nil

5. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Laurie McLean, BC Federation of Labour on the Provincial Election Campaign

The campaign brings affiliates together to talk about the issues that are important to them and bring those issues that resonate back to their memberships and the public to talk about why they need to get out and vote May 9. The campaign came about through the work being done on the Fight for \$15 campaign, the mobilization and its success reaching people. The umbrella campaign brings in issues of public education, healthcare, transit, childcare, family services, and more. The BC Fed has hired 10 organizers across the province working to train volunteers to go out and talk to people about the election and have them pledge to vote on May 9. Anyone interested in having someone come to meetings or events can go to the website – [www.togetherforbc.ca](http://www.togetherforbc.ca), or contact the BC Fed. Delegates were asked to bring the information on the campaign back to their locals.

*A moment of silence was held for 2 members of the labour community, both were delegates to the Vancouver and District Labour Council. Brother Michael Lanier and Sister Regina Brennan both recently passed away. They will be greatly missed.*

*Michael Lanier, President CUPE Local 1936 and Regional Vice President CUPE BC passed away suddenly, January 11. He was a proud delegate of the VDLC. A celebration of life will be held January 28, everyone welcome.*

*Regina Brennan, PSAC passed away after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Many people know her from her singing with Solidary Notes, the Re:Sisters, and the Left Coast Labour Chorus. Her advocacy for labour rights, women, and social justice will be remembered. A memorial service will be held January 29, everyone welcome.*

6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the December 13, 2016 meeting.

MVA Provincial Accountability Assembly

The Metro Vancouver Alliance will hold an assembly at the Italian Cultural Centre on April 4, 2017 and have invited Christy Clark, John Horgan, and Andrew Weaver to attend as

representatives of the major provincial parties. Any VDLC delegates wishing to assist with one of the planning teams is welcome: floor (ushers), logistics (room set up, AV etc.), turnout (getting commitments for the number of participants), publicity (communications), culture (music, dance). The VDLC will also need to sign up delegates to attend as a VDLC member group at the Assembly.

#### Political Engagement

The VDLC's expanded Political Action Committee meets on February 1 to further activities related to the labour council's participation in the upcoming provincial election. The budget includes an allocation of \$5000 (see notice of motion) for wage replacement to book off an activist for a key campaign, plus \$500 for campaign volunteer training.

#### Education Program

The 2017 program is now set and brochures are available on the web site, as is online registration. There are three new offerings this year. In addition, the VDLC Women's Committee is offering public speaking for women.

#### Labour Day 2017

The labour councils in the lower mainland will take over coordination of the lower mainland Labour Day event from the BC Fed. A working group is being established to coordinate the planning, and affiliates are welcome to assign someone to assist with logistics, program, set up, security, and other details.

#### April 28, 2017 Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job

The VDLC is looking into participating in the WCB event for 2017. This is the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the WCB in BC.

#### Summer Institute for Union Women

The dates for the 2017 school in Honolulu are now set for June 27 to July 1 and the cost, excluding travel and wage loss, will be approximately \$800.00 US per person for shared accommodation.

### **7. CORRESPONDENCE:**

See attached list

### **8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

a) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*

#### Subject: Spending Authorizations

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL authorize the following expenditures:

- PACE Society – Workshop fee to begin VDLC dialogue re: sex work – At a cost of \$200.00
- DOXA Film Festival – VDLC ¼ page ad in program – At a cost of \$190.00
- Political campaign training in collaboration with BC Fed – At a cost of \$500.00
- Metro Vancouver Alliance – January to June 2017 membership – At a cost of \$500.00
- Coop Radio – Donation of \$100.00
- Vancouver Women's March on Washington – Donation of \$150.00

b) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: 2017 VDLC Meeting Dates

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL hold its 2017 meetings starting at 7:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month, except August and December, as follows:

- January 17
- February 21
- March 21
- April 18
- May 16
- June 20
- July 18
- (no August meeting)
- September 19
- October 17
- November 21
- December 12 (note a week earlier than normal and 7:00 pm start); and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL schedule a “pizza educational” from 6:00 to 7:00 pm prior to each meeting except December; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL executive meetings will be held at 12:30 pm on the Thursday afternoon prior to the Tuesday night meetings and will consider VDLC resolutions and recommendations at that time.

c) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: VDLC 2017 Annual Budget

BECAUSE the VDLC fiscal year is January 1 to December 31 each year; and

BECAUSE the annual budget is approved in January each year, based on year end actuals from the previous fiscal year; and

BECAUSE the VDLC anticipates some extraordinary expenditures in 2017, including funds to support the labour council’s work on the provincial election, and costs related to new furnishings previously approved by not yet expensed, and anticipated wage and benefit increases,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the proposed 2017 VDLC operating budget as circulated.

d) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Bill C-27

BECAUSE the Federal Government introduced Bill C-27, *An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985* without notice or consultation; and

BECAUSE Bill C-27 represents a dangerous attack on future and current retirees and Defined Benefit (DB) pension plans in the federal private sector and Crown corporations; and

BECAUSE if enacted, Bill C-27 will have negative implications for private and public-sector DB plans in every jurisdiction; and

BECAUSE Bill C-27 Supplement contradicts Justin Trudeau's July 2015 commitment to retirees, that "DBPs, which have already been paid for by employees and pensioners, should not retroactively be changed into TBPs [target-benefit pensions],"

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL:

- Oppose Bill C-27, *An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985* and call upon the Government and all Members of Parliament in the VDLC's jurisdiction to immediately withdraw it,
- Write letters to Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau and all Members of Parliament in the VDLC jurisdiction calling upon them not to support Bill C-27,
- Work with the CLC and affiliates to educate members about the dangers of Bill C-27
- Work with the CLC and affiliates to defeat Bill C-27, and
- Work in conjunction with the CLC and affiliates to organize lobbies, demonstrations, and other actions to oppose Bill C-27.

**9. REPORT OF UNIONS:** *(in order reported)*

- a) FPSE Local 5 Kwantlen University Faculty Association – Reported by Rob Scharff

The employer is now charging tuition in some access programs and the Local is working to mitigate the lay-off of seven faculty members in these areas and one faculty member in the public safety communications program.

The Local will be launching their "Open the Doors" contest soon. This will be a multimedia art contest to show the transformative power of education in the light of personal "stories" of growth and transformation. There will be a total of \$32,000 in cash prizes distributed among 22 different categories of contestants. Winners will be announced in late March 2017.

The following reports were made but not submitted for the minutes:

- a) BCGEU Local 503 – Reported by Keith Stone
- b) MoveUP – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
- c) ILWU Local 400 – Reported by Terry Engler

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

**10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:** *(in order reported)*

- a) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

BCGEU members at the Justice Institute store have issued 72 hour strike notice; effective Thursday, January 19 they will be in a legal strike position. They continue to work for a fair settlement, seeking parity with workers at similar educational institution stores. The committee will keep the council posted.

- b) Political Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski  
The committee will be meeting February 1 and discussing the provincial election and municipal politics; the BC Fed campaign and training volunteers; book off for working the provincial election by the VDLC; holding another wine and cheese with municipal politicians; and inviting someone from One City Vancouver to speak with the committee. Anyone interested in being a part of the Political Action Committee can speak with either Joey Hartman or Stephen.
- c) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan  
IWD Dinner poster is out for circulation. This year's theme is Women & Precarity: the gender imbalance of low-waged, part-time, temporary, and insecure work. Iglia Ivanova from the CCPA will be the guest speaker, with entertainment by the Re:Sisters.

Vancouver Women's March, January 21 at Jack Poole Plaza – everyone encouraged to come out. The march in Vancouver is being organized by diverse number of women with the support of the BC Federation of Labour; it will be one of hundreds happening the same day around the world. Tonight's 50/50 Draw will go towards the march.

*MSC to adopt the reports of committees.*

**OTHER REPORTS:**

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman  
Guest speaker MLA David Eby spoke to BC FORUM on housing and transportation. FORUM's special election issue of the Advocate will be coming out soon.

*MSC to receive the other reports.*

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL**

**12. NOMINATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

1<sup>st</sup> Call for nominations to the VDLC Executive, nominations presided over by Terry Engler, 1<sup>st</sup> President.

In order to be eligible for nomination delegates must have been a delegate for a minimum of 1 year and have attended 5 of 10 meetings from March 2016 to February 2017. Support of your local is important as the Executive meets during the day on the Thursday prior to the VDLC Regular meeting, this may require book off for some.

The following were nominated (in order of nomination and position):

President

Joey Hartman	468W
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1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Terry Engler	ILWU 400
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2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Stephen Von Sychowski	MoveUP
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Recording Secretary

Nil

Treasurer

Tim Cheung	Unifor Local 2002
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Members-at-Large (12 positions)

1. Karen McVeigh	HEU Dogwood Lodge Local
2. Graham O'Neill	HEU North Shore Community Local
3. Nathan Fralick	CUPW Vancouver
4. Stefan Nielsen	UFCW Local 1518
5. Russell St. Eloi	UA Plumbers Local 170
6. Keith Stone	BCGEU Local 503

\*\* Please note that the second and final call for nominations will take place at the February 21, 2017 meeting and will be immediately followed by elections. \*\*

**13. NEW BUSINESS:** Nil

**14. TABLE TALK:**

In preparation for the Metro Vancouver Alliance Provincial Assembly on April 4, what previously identified issues, if any, are still relevant and are there any issues, not previously identified, that should be considered?

**15. NOTICE OF MOTION:**

*The following motion will be brought to the February meeting for vote:*

Subject: Provincial Election Campaign Wage Replacement

BECAUSE it is very important for the VDLC to participate in the campaign leading to the May 9, 2017 British Columbia provincial election; and

BECAUSE the VDLC's expanded Political Action Committee recommends that the VDLC, through an expression of interest process, select an activist to work in a key NDP campaign within the labour council's regional jurisdiction; and

BECAUSE the intent is to have a VDLC activist who will contribute to the success of a campaign, gain skills and experience, and coordinate VDLC participation in activities for additional campaign; and

BECAUSE the committee further recommended that the 2017 VDLC budget include \$5,000.00 to fund the book-off for the selected campaign worker to released from their regular work for approximately one month; and

BECAUSE the VDLC Constitution & By-Laws, Article 9, Section 5, requires that any expenditure in excess of \$500.00 must have at least two weeks' notice,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL, at its February 2017 meeting, approve up to \$5,000.00 to cover the wages and associate benefit costs for one

person to be assigned as the VDLC campaign worker for a selected NDP campaign for the 2017 BC provincial election. The intent is that the individual will be booked off from their regular employment for approximately one month and will dedicate the time, as needed, to fulfill the responsibilities of the assignment.

**16. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- *MSC to allow Connie Hubbs, Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE), to address the meeting.*  
COPE, AGM, Sunday, February 19, 12 noon at the Russian Hall – meeting will have a panel on Policy on Green Jobs. Suggestions for panellists and policies are welcomed.
- WeCan BC (We Can End Violence Against Women) advocate Pat Klein recently passed away. She was very actively involved in WeCan and dedicated to eradicating violence against women. Services will be January 28.
- 50/50 Draw to benefit the Vancouver Women's March, specifically, ASL interpreters for the event.

**17. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *MSC to adjourn at 8:56 pm.*

**18. NEXT MEETING:**     **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017**, 7:30 pm,  
Maritime Labour Centre.

**Pizza Educational**  
**Tuesday, February 21, 2017**  
**6:00 pm**

For copies of posters for these events, please visit website – [www.vdlc.ca](http://www.vdlc.ca)

**For lists of happenings please see our website events page.**