



VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2017

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

2. **CHAIRPERSON:** Terry Engler, 1st Vice President

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the January 17, 2017 meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

BCTF – North Vancouver

Tara Alexis

HEU North Shore Community Local

Ruth Kirk

IBEW Local 213

Emelia Colman-Shepherd

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the January 17, 2017 meeting.

Outgoing Executive - AGM Elections in February

Many thanks to the VDLC executive members who are not seeking re-election at the February 21 AGM: Carol Nordby, Sylvia Metzner, Fruma Sloan, and Hugh Callinan.

Political Action

The 2017 budget approved in January includes \$5000.00 for a book-off for one person to be assigned to a key NDP campaign in the VDLC's jurisdiction. Notice of Motion was served to approve the actual expenditure. An additional \$500.00 was approved for costs to sponsor campaign volunteer programs to be conducted by the BC Fed.

The Expanded Political Action Committee met on February 1 and approved an expression of interest form for the book-off opportunity. The application deadline is March 6 at 5:00 pm. It was agreed that the specific campaign preference will be influenced by the choice of individual, in conversation with the CLC and NDP.

The committee also discussed the October wine and cheese and suggested that the next one focus more on discussion by deleting the presentation on regional issues. The meeting also included a presentation from representatives of One City Vancouver who are organizing to run candidates in the 2018 civic election.

MVA Provincial Accountability Assembly

Plans are proceeding for the Metro Vancouver Alliance provincial assembly at the Italian Cultural Centre on April 4, 2017. VDLC delegates are encouraged to sign up to attend April 4 and also for a planning team.

Education Program

Duty to Accommodate with Connie Kilfoil (January 24, 25 & 26) and Charter Rights in the Workplace with Leo McGrady and Jamie Baugh (February 4) were both fully subscribed.

Labour Day 2017

Volunteers are invited to join a working group to plan Labour Day and will be invited to a meeting in March, date to be determined.

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

Joey Hartman will meet with WCB to discuss the VDLC's involvement in their Day of Mourning ceremony at Jack Poole Plaza. This is the 100th Anniversary of WCB in BC.

Harrison Winter School

Sister Hartman was an instructor for Collective Bargaining I again this year. She also attended Labour Council Officer Development, along with Neil Munro who attended with sponsorship from his union.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

See attached list

7. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Spending Authorizations

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

- Camp Jubilee – Donation of \$100.00
- Disability Alliance BC – purchase one ticket to April 6 fundraiser - At a cost of \$95.00
- Rabble.ca – Donation of \$100.00
- West Coast Domestic Workers' Association – Donation of \$100.00
- Burundian Community Association – seeking donation to assist with costs of February 11 grand opening – Donation of \$100.00
- People's Voice Newspaper – May Day Issue ad – At a cost of \$90.00

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

Subject: CLC Convention Resolution

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the following resolutions, previously approved by the VDLC, for submission to the CLC 2017 Convention (see attached):

- Coasting Trade Act of Canada (Cabotage)
- Iraq War Resisters
- Canada Post

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

Subject: CLC Convention Resolution – Pay Equity Wage Increases

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the following resolution on Pay Equity Wage Increases for submission to the 2017 CLC Convention:

THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS WILL encourage all affiliates to pursue “dollar-across-the-board” wage increases as an alternative to percentage wage increases when negotiating collective agreements and in other ways prefer compensation methods that either maintain or reduce wage differentials within the bargaining unit,

BECAUSE the CLC has identified pay equity as a priority issue for Canadian unions; and

BECAUSE unions have direct control over how monetary demands are developed and presented to employers through collective agreement negotiations; and

BECAUSE percentage based increases applied to all classifications and wage rates the wage widens income disparity and unequally benefits the higher wage earners.

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

Subject: CLC Convention Resolution – Canadian Council Representation

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the following resolution on Canadian Council Representation for submission to the 2017 CLC Convention:

THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS WILL amend Article 20 Section 3 of the CLC constitution with the following addition:

“m. 3 Vice presidents representing labour councils who are elected at Labour Council caucus the Sunday before convention, one from Western Canada, one from Atlantic Canada and one from Ontario, at least one of whom shall be a woman; and one selected by the FTQ to represent Quebec.”

BECAUSE labour councils are the local bodies charged with building labour power in local communities across the country; and

BECAUSE labour councils provide a unique perspective on challenges and successes of running national campaigns in our communities.

- e) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted*

(Notice of Motion served January 12, 2017):

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 be 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 fulfil the responsibilities of the assignment.

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

a) Unifor Local 114 – Reported by Maurice Mills

Local 114 participated in a training session January 27 and 28 to train activists for the BC election campaign.

The bargaining committee for Brinks has been elected and are presently preparing to bargain with the company.

b) ILWU Local 400 – Reported by Jason Woods

On December 22, Local 400, BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union, and community groups went out in gale force winds for a solidarity action in support of sailors aboard the Hanjin Scarlet, bringing them over a ton of provisions. CBC interviewed the participants. All workers have since been repatriated with wages paid.

January 12 was a National Day of Action with actions held from Newfoundland to Victoria. Rallies were well attended and targeted the Minister and MPs.

On February 23, Action in Support of SIUC and Canadian Cabotage: there will be a march from Georgia and Howe to Transport Canada at Burrard and Robson in Vancouver. Speakers will be Paddy Crumlin of the Australian Maritime Union and BC Federation of Labour's Irene Lanzinger.

ITF Canada has reclaimed over \$1,000,000 USD in stolen wages and helped repatriate sailors.

Brother Woods thanked the VDLC and affiliates for their support in the fight to protect Canadian cabotage.

- c) FSPE Local 5 – Kwantlen Polytechnic University – Reported by Rob Scharff
Efforts by the Local have led to the rescinding of the 6 lay-offs of English language instructors, reported at the January meeting.

Local 5 is supporting the “Open the Doors” campaign created by the Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC by launching a multimedia art contest; open to all students, alumni, and employees. Contestants will create a piece of art communicating the transformative power of education and tell their own stories of how they were transformed.

The following reports were made but not submitted for the minutes

- a) CUPE Local 389 – Reported by Kathy McMahon
b) BCGEU Local 503 – Reported by Keith Stone

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

9. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

- a) Women’s – Reported by Fruma Sloan
Black History Month, CUPW poster is available. If anyone has not yet purchased their tickets for the Annual IWD Dinner, March 8, do so.
- b) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
The committee will be meeting soon with a representative from BCGEU in order to see how best to support members on strike at the Justice Institute.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp
Very successful Senate and House of Commons lobby was held in Ottawa. Over 300 lobbyists from across the country participated.

Bill C 4, eliminating Bills C 377 and 525, is making its way to the Senate. It was debated on Valentine’s Day. This Bill will pass, it’s just a matter of time.

Bill C 27, effecting pensions, has not moved since October 2016 when it was introduced.

National Pharmacare program, will be a two or three year campaign. Provinces are onside, they want a federal program. Lobbies will be a big part of that. The campaign should launch in the fall.

Pay equity – the government says they will implement a comprehensive pay equity legislation in 2018. The CLC says this is too late and there is no reason to delay. Lobbies may begin late spring.

Federal domestic violence legislation is expected as is Labour Code language dealing with harassment. The government is expected to sign onto ILO Convention 98, right to collective bargaining; this will be the last ILO Convention for Canada to sign onto.

Provincial election work is underway. The CLC is working with affiliates and the NDP to ensure book-offs for campaign work across the province. The BC Fed and labour councils will be conducting labour canvasses.

New Westminster and Fraser Valley labour councils have new leadership. Joey Hartman has already reached out to them.

CLC Convention in May, VDLC is entitled to 2 delegates. It falls on the same week as the BC provincial election.

- b) **BC FORUM** – Reported by Agnes Jackman
The BCGEU’s campaign, Seniors Deserve Better, goes after the government to fund home support. Home support is the most cost effective way to care for seniors and people with physical disabilities, allowing them to live longer, happier, and healthier lives. There is an online petition, please sign on.

MSC to receive the other reports.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

11. NOMINATIONS & ELECTION TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

The following were nominated at the January 17, 2017 Regular Meeting:

- *Joey Hartman, 468W* - *for President*
- *Terry Engler, ILWU Local 400* - *for 1st Vice President*
- *Stephen Von Sychowski, MoveUP* - *for 2nd Vice President*
- *Tim Cheung, Unifor Local 2002* - *for Treasurer*
- *Karen McVeigh, HEU Dogwood Lodge* - *for Member-at-Large (12 seats)*
- *Graham O’Neill, HEU North Shore Community* - *for Member-at-Large (12 seats)*
- *Nathan Fralick, CUPW Vancouver* - *for Member-at-Large (12 seats)*
- *Stefan Nielsen, UFCW Local 1518* - *for Member-at-Large (12 seats)*
- *Russell St. Eloi, UA Plumbers Local 170* - *for Member-at-Large (12 seats)*
- *Keith Stone, BCGEU Local 503* - *for Member-at-Large (12 seats)*

Second round of nominations for all executive positions was opened. Nominations presided over by CLC Representative Ron Stipp.

Delegates were reminded that support of their 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 nominations were received:

Recording Secretary

Nominee Name	Union Local
Krista Lee Munro	Unifor Local 111

Members-at-Large

Nominee Name	Union Local
1. Neil Munro	Heat & Frost Insulators Local 118
2. Frank Warwick	CUPE Local 1004
3. Amir Bagheri	CUPE Local 389

ELECTION:

All Nominees were acclaimed to the 2017 VDLC Executive. CLC Representative swore the new Executive in.

President	Joey Hartman
1 st Vice President	Terry Engler
2 nd Vice President	Stephen Von Sychowski\
Treasurer	Tim Cheung
Recording Secretary	Krista Lee Munro
Members-at-Large: (12 positions *)	Nathan Fralick Karen McVeigh Neil Munro Stefan Nielsen Graham O'Neill Russell St. Eloi Keith Stone Amir Bagheri Frank Warwick

* There are still 3 vacancies for Member-at-Large.

12. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

13. TABLE TALK:

BC Teachers' Federation postcards, Fund Our Schools, were made available. Delegates and guests were asked to fill out the cards to be mailed to MPs.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Rally for members of Unite Here Local 40 - SFU Cafeteria Workers Friday, February 25
- Rally "Save Our Coasts", Thursday, February 23 – against changing the cabotage laws and the privatization of Canadian ports
- A moment of silence was held for Bob White, past head of the CLC and CAW. Brother White was an icon on the trade union movement.

16. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 8:51 pm.*

19. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017](#), 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

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

**Effective Lobbying
with Libby Davies, former MP for Vancouver East**

As JS Woodsworth said, “What we desire for ourselves, we wish for all.”

Many of the changes we desire require a political response, so it is important to know how to meet and be heard by the elected representatives at all levels of government.

Libby Davies spent decades in elected roles, both as a City of Vancouver Councillor and as an NDP Member of Parliament in Ottawa. She will share her experience around effective lobbying with anecdotes and tips for what works and what should be avoided.

For copies of posters for these events, please visit website – www.vdlc.ca

[For lists of happenings please see our website events page.](#)