



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017**

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

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

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*MSC that the minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting be adopted.*

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

The following credentials were received since the last VDLC meeting:

(\* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

**CUPW Vancouver**

Caroline Amor

Heather Andrews \*

Maria Arico-Pucovsky \*

Nick Aubichon

Adrian Chow

Mary Ann Dominato

Nathan Fralick \*

Maria Jackman (A)

Marion Pollack (A)\*

Jennifer Savage (A)\*

Maria Tee

John Tweed \*

*MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).*

5. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

**Imtiaz Popat, Coalition Against Bigotry**

Imtiaz is a filmmaker and was involved in the Anti-Nazi League in the 1980's and 90's. The Coalition started up in December 2017 when the Ku Klux Klan started leafletting in the Fraser Valley and now we are seeing those leaflets in the Lower Mainland, specifically Richmond. The Coalition started as a way to monitor the movement of bigotry. On January 15, the Coalition held a rally in Surrey in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr., and on March 21, the Coalition held a rally for the International Day Against Racism in concert with a number of other organizations including Black Lives Matter and Pride organizations. White supremacists have been holding rallies across Canada and police don't do anything, as it is "freedom of speech". Harper's Conservatives gutted the Human Rights Act muddying the water as to what is considered a hate crime. There is good work being done in other cities. Imtiaz Popat asks the VDLC to join with the Coalition to put together an action plan to begin lobbying politicians to put an end to the rise of these white supremacist movements.

## 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

### Political Action

The Fair Wage Commission has now been appointed and will make their interim report to the provincial Minister of Labour by year end regarding the implementation of the \$15 minimum wage.

The Vancouver by-election was held on October 14 with a voter turnout of 10.99%. The VDLC had endorsed Judy Graves (One City) for city council and School Board candidates Erica Jaaf and Carrie Bercic (OneCity), Theodora Lamb, Ken Clement, Joy Alexander, Mike Lombardi, and Allan Wong (Vision).

Unfortunately, the progressive vote was split which resulted in the election of the NPA candidate for council, Hector Bremner. The results for the 5 top candidates are below.

BREMNER, Hector	NPA	13372
SWANSON, Jean		10263
FRY, Pete	Green Party	9759
GRAVES, Judy	OneCity	6327
CARDONA, Diego	Vision Vancouver	5411

The new school board trustees are:

FRASER, Janet	Green Party	27360
ZAICHKOWSKY, Judy	Green Party	23383
GONZALEZ, Estrellita	Green Party	20307
ALEXANDER, Joy	Vision Vancouver	19709
WONG, Allan	Vision Vancouver	18678
DOMINATO, Lisa	NPA	18258
BALLANTYNE, Fraser	NPA	18048
BERCIC, Carrie	OneCity	17822
CLEMENT, Ken	Vision Vancouver	17583

### Labour Day

While John Hendry (Trout Lake) Park has been tentatively booked for Labour Day 2018, the VDLC is also considering the possibility of a Labour Day parade ending at the entrance to the PNE, with entry for participants. This would be similar to the longstanding tradition in Toronto that draws about 5,000 participants each year. Sister Hartman also wrote to Janet Andrews (New Westminster & District Labour Council) to suggest that the location rotate between the two labour councils each year, but that the coordination be collaborative every year.

### VDLC Education Program

The invitation to facilitate in the 2018 education program has resulted in offers to teach at least 14 courses. Coordinating these into a schedule of offerings is underway.

SFU Education - The SFU Labour Studies Program has been approved to offer a major program and Bachelor Degree as of September 2018. This will be built up to a Master's Degree.

### Protein for People

The September 21 forum at Queen Alexandra was very successful, helped by perfect weather. The BBQ hot dogs were complemented by fresh vegetables, oranges, and juice. The popcorn maker was very popular, as were the bouncy obstacle course, Korki the Clown and her balloons, Tracy the face painter, DJ music, a Vancouver firetruck and IAFF Local 18 members, and tabling by BCGEU, the Aboriginal Friendship Centre, ILWU Local 500, and CUPE. VDLC pencils, balloons, temporary tattoos, and flashing reflectors for bikes or backpacks were also given out. All costs are covered by Protein for People but the VDLC also received donations.

### Just Transition

A working committee has now been established and is holding conference calls every two weeks to coordinate a public event and high-level roundtable in February or March 2018 around how to ensure workers' needs are at the centre of planning to adjust to climate change.

### Cascade Region Labour Leader Initiative

Sister Hartman is on the facilitation team for this leadership program for union and community leaders from BC, Washington, and Oregon. The first week of three was held at Harrison Hot Springs and was a very strong start to the program.

### United Way Pension Plan

The UW board voted to defer any decisions on the pension plan and recommendation to change from a defined benefit plan to a target benefit plan until no later than June 30, 2018. This allows time for full consultation with the affected unions and also to encourage the BC government to amend the regulations that require the elimination of solvency deficits. The BCGEU has subsequently written to the Minister of Finance Carole James requesting this regulatory change.

### VDLC Scholarships

The deadline for both the general (Education Fund) and Women's Committee scholarships to the CLC 2018 Winter School at Harrison was 10:00 am on October 3. Only one delegate applied; she applied for both and was deemed eligible for both. Accordingly, Emelia Colman-Shepherd has been awarded the scholarships.

### Affiliate Steward Training

Sister Hartman developed a one-day training program for the Marine Workers Local 1 stewards at the Vancouver Dry dock. The course covered grievances, contract interpretation, advocacy, interviewing and investigation skills, and discussion on an effective steward structure. This course could easily be adapted for other affiliates.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Correspondence list circulated at meeting  
*MSC to accept the correspondence as circulated.*

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:

- Canadian Cuban Friendship request for support for those affected by Hurricane Irma – Donation of \$100.00
- Disaster Relief to Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricanes Maria and Irma via a progressive organization – Donation of \$100.00
- Downtown Eastside Women's Centre HerStory in Focus fundraiser on November 2, tickets are \$50.00 each – Purchase 2 tickets at a cost of \$100.00
- Workers' Rights are Human Rights: End Labour Exploitation & Labour Trafficking Dinner November 16, tickets \$50.00 each – Purchase 2 tickets at a cost of \$100.00
- Metro Vancouver Alliance 2017 membership renewal – At a cost of \$1,000.00
- North Vancouver Legion Remembrance Day Ceremony – Purchase a wreath at a cost of \$80.00

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

- a) UFCW Local 1518 – Reported by Stefan Nielsen and Abby Leung

Local 1518 is gearing up for bargaining with both Sobey's and Save On Foods, their largest employers. As expected Sobey's has already sent notice to bargain, October 6. Save On Foods will probably follow sooner rather than later. UFCW Local 1518 has begun taking proposals from members; rather than the paper proposals they have used in the past, they are using software employed by the Bernie Sanders campaign to reach out to and engage with members on a wider scale than ever before. This will be followed by a bargaining conference of members in November to sort through the proposals and determine the union's position going into talks with the employer. The union expects bargaining to begin early next year with both employers.

Local 1518 has 19 Subway stores up for quarterly review to re-open the collective agreement. Sister Leung encouraged everyone to talk with Local 1518 members at Subways on how stores can improve. The union needs input for the UFCW Local 1518 Fight Back campaign and for proposals.

- b) PSAC UVAE Local 20045 – Reported by Shane Polak  
Multi-union lunch time rally regarding the Phoenix Day system, Wednesday, October 18 12:15 to 12:45 pm at the plaza adjacent to 401 Burrard Street, Downtown Vancouver. Confirmed speakers are Garth Mullins, President of CAPE Local 301; Debi Daviau, President of PIPSC; Karen Hall, President of PIPSC Vancouver Branch; and Todd Smith, Regional Vice-President, PSAC BC. Rallies are also planned in Chilliwack, Nanaimo, Prince Rupert, and Victoria. Can be followed on social media via - #burntbyphoenix, #fixphoenix.
- c) ILWU Local 500 – Reported by Joulene Parent  
ILWU Young Workers' Conference had 140 delegates in attendance with speakers, education, and training from all over. ITF, from London, England, was very successful. There is a YouTube Docker podcast that talks with delegates from the 2017 ILWU Canada Young Workers' Committee.

Local 500 Pensioner's banquet on October 5 was held at the Maritime Labour Centre, was well attended and the catering was amazing.

ILWU Local 500's election for officers and executive will begin in November.

ILWU Canada caucus will be held at the Maritime Labour Centre from November 8 to 10.

- d) USW Local 1944, TWU Unit 63  
TWU/USW recently concluded bargaining two collective agreements. The first one with Freedom Mobile; although the bargaining committee recommended rejection of the company's latest offer, members of Unit 505 accepted it by a narrow margin on Thursday, September 21. This is their first agreement and the union promised to work closely with the members in the unit to make continuous improvements to their working conditions and to provide union education and orientation. The second agreement ratified is for Shaw Abbotsford, Unit 60 members with Shaw Cable systems. It was ratified Thursday, October 12 with 82.25% of Shaw Abbotsford members voting in favour of ratification. The new agreement includes: \$1000.00 signing bonus, lump sum payment of 2.5% in 2017; lump sum payment of 2.5% in 2018; and a 1.75% wage increase in 2019. It's a 3 year agreement.

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

- a) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis  
b) MoveUP – Reported by Annette Toth

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

## **10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: Nil**

### **OTHER REPORTS:**

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman  
National Pensioners' Forum was held in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia from October 3 to 5. Sister Jackman was one of 14 delegates from BC. Bankruptcy legislation, in place since

the depression, allows corporations to pay their creditors, but leaves their pensioners behind unprotected. There is work now to update this legislation. Bill 27, to replace Defined Benefits with Target Benefits for federal workers, was introduced by the Conservatives; it was thought that it would die with the election of the Liberals, but this has not been the case. Pharmacare was big topic of conversation; affordable medication is a very real concern for seniors.

b) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

The formal launch of the Pharmacare campaign is November 6. There may be a call on the VDLC to lobby Members of Parliament this fall. There has been a lot of good press on the National Pharmacare policy.

The CLC Canadian Council meets in November. New NDP Leader Jagpreet Singh will be addressing the Council, many delegates are looking forward to that opportunity.

Municipal elections are about a year away. The Municipal Working Group are beginning to meet. There was some talk about what happened in Vancouver during the by-election. The NPA (the City's right wing party) only received 28% of the vote, this demonstrates that Vancouver is a progressive city: the left can win council, school, and parks board.

Harrison Winter School is already filling up. Some of the basic courses fill up early, so they've added some extra weeks. There are also new courses being offered. Register now.

A very important NAFTA rally is being held at Liberal MP Sukh Dhaliwal's office. Hassan Yussuff has been sitting on an advisory committee about NAFTA renegotiations. It's worth following the news on this. Labour needs to keep the pressure on our government to stand firm for Canada.

c) Metro Vancouver Alliance – Reported by Benny Chou

Delegates of the Vancouver and District Labour Council are allowed to attend MVA training sessions for free, as delegates of a member organization. Brother Chou attended on October 6 and 7. The session taught how to work with organizations that have a common interest towards a common goal. An example of that was the bringing together of over 800 people to question provincial candidates prior to the last election. An important point to take away when working in a coalition, is to focus on ideologies in common, not those that divide; and as an activist, how does one find other members of our unions who share the same activism. Benny Chou strongly recommended the workshops.

*MSC to receive the other reports.*

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Nil

**12. NEW BUSINESS:** Nil

**13. NOTICE OF MOTION:** Nil

#### 14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Rally Saturday from 2 to 4 pm at Vancouver Art Gallery – Workers Have No Rights Under the Iranian Regime – everyone is invited to come out in support of jailed labour activists in Iran. Please bring the message back to your locals, messages of solidarity, and labour presence is appreciated.
- Moment of silence was held for three arena workers who lost their lives on the job at an arena in Fernie, due to an ammonia leak.
- Vancouver City Council is advised by advisory councils on many issues. There are currently a number of vacancies on these boards. If anyone is interested, deadline for application is October 30. This is a great way to participate and have input into our city.
- October 29, the Squamish Nation is holding a veterans' powwow and are looking for sponsors for different categories.
- November 8 is National Aboriginal Veterans' Day, there will be a march from Carnegie to the Vancouver Friendship Centre.
- 50/50 Draw to benefit the Solidarity in Action committee

*MSC to allow guest Imtiaz Popat to address the Council*

- LGBT community in Egypt is under attack. October 19, a solidarity vigil is being held at 6 pm at the Vancouver Public Library at Georgia and Howe.

**15. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *MSC to adjourn at 8:20 pm.*

**16. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2017**, 7:30 pm,  
Maritime Labour Centre.

**Next Pizza Educational  
Tuesday, November 21, 2017  
6:00 pm**

**Strong Labour Relations + Strong Member Engagement = Stronger Unions**

Why is member engagement important? What is engagement? How is the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) Faculty and Staff Association doing member engagement? We will explore engagement work, draw out examples, and share tools for increased effectiveness. This session will include knowledge sharing, participation, and highlighting best practices. Join us to share your knowledge and learn from others.

Presenter Kyla Epstein is the Member Engagement Officer with the BCIT Faculty and Staff Association. She works to decrease isolation and foster community through relationships built on trust, connection, accountability, and shared values. Kyla believes organizations are at their best when they seek opportunities for dialogue over debate, are inclusive, and use process to advance, not hinder, work. Kyla is also the Chair of the Vancouver Public Library and a director of the BC Library Trustees Association, where she is proud to contribute to a public system that addresses inequality through equitable access and lifelong learning.

**For lists of happenings please see our website events page – [www.vdvc.ca/events/](http://www.vdvc.ca/events/)**