



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2014**

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 December 10, 2013 meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

The following credentials were received since the last meeting: (* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

BCTF – VSTA

Tobey Steeves

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the December 11, 2012 meeting.

Political Action

Affiliates are beginning to appoint representatives to the VDLCs multi-union candidate vetting committee in preparation for the November 2014 municipal elections. The committee will begin work in late February or early March.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

Plans are well underway for the founding assembly of MVA on March 19th. The hope is to have about 600 people in attendance, including delegations from the 35 founding organizations, as well as a sizable number of political and community leaders. VDLC delegates are encouraged to sign up and attend as part of the VDLC contingent.

Labour Law Classes and other VDLC Education

About 15 labour side lawyers have offered to volunteer to teach labour law classes in 2014 and the schedule is being worked on. In addition, Mark Leier has offered to teach a labour history class (probably over 3 or 4 weeknights) and we will put on a public speaking course that is open to all (vs. women only).

Fundraising Dinner April 11 with Kent Wong

Plans are underway for the annual fundraising dinner (formerly Robbie Burns Dinner) to support Queen Alexandra School. Thanks to Tim Cheung and the National office of Unifor for agreeing to cover the airfare and hotel costs for our keynote speaker, Kent Wong who is the director of the labour program from UCLA in return for a special meeting with Kent.

Website

Significant headway was made on providing content to the designer in late December when the office was quiet.

125th Anniversary

The VDLC's 125th anniversary is November 21, 2014. Following agreement in December by the executive, we will include a reconciliation aspect to acknowledge the labour council's role in racist activities in our early year, including 1907 Anti-Asiatic League race riots through Chinatown and Japantown.

May Day 2014

We need a small planning committee to coordinate activities for May Day, which falls on Thursday May 1, 2014. Delegates are invited to assist in the planning.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

See attached list

7. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Spending Approvals

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

- COSCO – 2014 membership renewal - \$25.00
- BC Health Coalition – 2014 membership renewal - \$75.00
- CoDevelopment Canada – 2014 membership renewal - \$250.00
- Pacific Northwest Labour History Association – 2014 membership renewal - \$150.00
- CLC Union Label Trades and Services – 2014 per capita - \$30.00

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

Subject: Save Canada Post – Stop the Cuts

BECAUSE Canada Post and the Conservatives are taking an axe to long-treasured postal services – killing good jobs, eliminating door-to-door delivery, closing post offices and drastically increasing postage rates; and

BECAUSE 6,000 to 8,000 postal jobs will be destroyed and five million households will lose door-to-door delivery over the next five years; and

BECAUSE these cuts will hurt seniors and people with disabilities in particular; and

BECAUSE Canada Post barely held any consultations, effectively eliminating any opportunity for input from the people who will be most affected; and

BECAUSE Canada Post offers a public service that needs to be protected,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL oppose Canada Post's plan to eliminate door-to-door service, to close public postal counters, to drastically increase postage rates and to eliminate good jobs. These are all part of Canada Post's

recently announced 5 point plan; and

FURTHER, THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write a letter to the Minister responsible for Canada Post that calls on the government to reverse the changes to services announced by Canada Post, and to look instead for ways to increase service and revenues in areas such as postal banking; and

FURTHER, THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to all municipalities within its jurisdiction and ask them to inform the Minister that they want to keep and expand door-to-door delivery, and to request that the government consult with Canadians about what kind of postal service they need before allowing Canada Post to make major changes to public postal service; and

FURTHER, THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support CUPW in their efforts to stop Canada Post's five point plan and to instead expand services; and

FURTHER, THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL encourage all of its affiliates to do likewise; and

FINALLY, THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL submit an edited version of this resolution to the May 2014 Canadian Labour Congress convention.

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

Subject: CLC Convention Resolutions

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council is entitled to submit resolutions to the Canadian Labour Congress 2014 convention, to be held May 5th to 9th in Montreal; and

BECAUSE the VDLC had approved a number of resolutions since the 2011 CLC convention that have national significance,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the submission of the resolutions on the following issues, as approved by the VDLC since May 2011, for submission to the 2014 Canadian Labour Congress Convention, as edited for length and appropriateness for the CLC:

1. International Day Against Homophobia
2. Federal Government Interference in Free Collective Bargaining
3. Canada- EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)
4. Grant's Law
5. Public Delivery of Publicly Funded Health Care
6. Temporary Foreign Workers
7. Idle No More
8. Canadian Mining Companies Operating Abroad
9. Quebec Charter of Values
10. Federal Changes to Employment Insurance

11. Tragedy in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec
12. Save Canada Post – Stop the Cuts

- d) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted and forwarded to the CLC Convention*

Subject: Canadian Council Representation

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

“3 Vice presidents representing small, medium and large labour councils who are elected at Labour Council caucus the Sunday before convention.”

BECAUSE Labour Councils should have a voice and vote on decisions that affect the labour movement and Labour Councils provide a unique perspective on challenges and successes of running campaigns in our communities.

- e) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted and forwarded to the CLC Convention*

Subject: Task Force

THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS WILL bring new focus to supporting the work of Labour Councils across the country; by ensuring that all affiliate union staff and officers are educated about the role of Labour Councils, requesting that affiliate staff be assigned to assist in local Labour Council campaigns in their community, and encouraging full affiliation to Labour Councils in each union constitution,

BECAUSE Labour Councils are the basic expression of labour solidarity in our communities, uniting activists across sectors in common efforts to strengthen public services, defend our schools, promote decent jobs and fight for a better quality of life for all working people; and

BECAUSE too many unions allow their locals to opt in or out of affiliation, and few unions ensure that their staff support the efforts of Labour Councils, resulting in fewer resources being available to undertake key campaigns for our movement.

- f) *MSC that the following recommendation be forwarded to the CLC Convention*

Subject: Seed/Administrative Money

THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRES WILL provide annually \$2000.00 seed/administrative money to small, northern, isolated or new labour councils,

BECAUSE union membership is shrinking in many small, northern and isolated communities; and

BECAUSE labour councils are often the only face and voice of organized labour in many of these communities; and

BECAUSE labour councils need resources to carry out municipal, provincial and federal election campaigns and CLC campaigns.

8. REPORT OF UNIONS: (in order reported)

- a) HEU Dogwood Lodge – Reported by Karen McVeigh
The HEU Facilities Bargaining Association is in its second week of bargaining. Both the union and the employer have tabled offers.

- b) CUPE Local 389 – Reported by Joyce Griffiths
A big thank you to the VDLC for the support received throughout the lock-out at the North Shore Winter Club (NSWC). On December 24, 2013, the CUPE members at NSWC ratified an agreement achieved on December 23 ending their 236 day lock-out. The union was able to obtain a retirement package and a severance package for the members not returning due to the restructuring of the club's work areas. Also, the union was able to negotiate a 5 ½ % wage increase as well as a \$300 signing bonus. Sister Griffiths thanked everyone who took the time to visit the line, encourage their members, and provide support during this long, hard fought battle. It demonstrated to their handful of members that the labour movement is there for them. Local 389 would like to extend a special thank you to their retired VDLC Sister Susan Stout for her special visits.

- c) HEU North Shore Community – Reported by Graham O'Neill
Local portion of the Community Health Bargaining Association is holding its ratification vote. Based on discussions on the comprehensive report, it is apparent that the first wage increase does not occur until April 1, 2015 and other improvements don't happen until 2016 or later. The five year agreement is a cause of concern for many of their members. From the tone of discussions, the vote outcome could very well be a "No" from their local. Results will be announced for the whole multi-union association on February 3, 2014.

- d) ETEA Local 1
ETEA won another certification vote on January 10 at Pacific Gateway International College; they won 22 votes to 2. Notable, however, is the fact that the Labour Relations Board held up the ballot count for five months. This is one reason that the union will be lobbying the Minister of Labour in Victoria in mid-February for changes to the Code. The union has decided that a secret vote is fine, but it must be held within 3 days of filing, without any intervention by the employer, and the vote must be counted expeditiously. Finally the local is lobbying the Minister of Higher Education to include private ESL teachers in the process determining which schools in BC are accredited. Local 1 is in negotiations, the employer is demanding significant rollbacks.

The following written report was submitted but not presented orally:

- a) Unifor Local 111 – Report submitted by guest Nathan Woods
The transit referendum is the greatest obstacle before the local. Translink is seen as the regional target and as a result Metro Vancouver Transit operators are concerned about not only their future, but that of the region. The Liberal government has created chaos with regional mayors, none of whom are offering any hope of success to the future of transit. The union is busy working on an action plan which includes talking directly with their drivers and riders, as well as meeting directly with regional politicians (mayors and MLAs); in an effort to try and influence discussion of the threat to the economy, environment and more. Brother Woods encouraged everyone to get engaged in the issue.

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

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

a) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan

Sister Sloan was elected as the committee's new chair. The committee remains active in Women Transforming Cities, the last café was held out at UBC and the topic was 'Sexual Assault; Safety in Transit'. Over 60 people attended, likely due to the increase in assaults in recent months. February 19, 7 pm at the OR Gallery at 555 Hamilton in Vancouver; free event on the story of the Women's Monument, organized by ROSE (Remembering our Sisters Everywhere) and Women Transforming Cities. VDLC's Celebrating Women IWD dinner is March 7 at the Fraserview Hall. Speakers this year are Sheelah McLean and Janice Makokis of Idle No More and music by the No Shit Shirleys. Tickets are now available, contact Keziah at the VDLC office.

b) Young Workers' – Reported by George Christou

Committee elections are being held next month. 2014 will not be year of fundraising but rather focussing on getting young workers involved in their unions and in the labour council and focussing on education. The committee has one in the works; basically, how **not** to get arrested on the picket line.

Sister Hartman added that approximately 20 young people went to the World Festival of Youth and Students in Quito, Ecuador. They've returned with a new outlook of the world and commitment to activism. Thank you to everyone who supported their fundraising efforts.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS: NIL

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The VDLC Executive served notice of motion in December 2013.

MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:

Subject: Constitutional Amendments

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL adopt the following amends to the VDLC Constitution & By-laws, subject to approval by the Canadian Labour Congress:

- 1. Election of Officers** – amend Article 6, Section 2 from “..... and have attended at least fifty percent (50%) of the Labour council meetings in the previous twelve (12) months prior to nomination” to “..... and have attended at least fifty percent (50%) of the Labour council meetings in *the twelve (12) months up to and including the meeting where the election will be conducted.*

Reason: This amendment incorporates current practice to allow the period to include the meeting where the election takes place.

2. **Election of Officers** – amend Article 6, Section 6 from “*Nominees allowing their names to go forward for the offices of President, 1st (First) Vice-President, 2nd (Second) Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Board Members, shall upon acceptance of nomination, come forward and clearly and audibly speak the following lines to the assembled delegates: (followed by the oath)” to “*All elected Officers shall, at the first opportunity following their election, take the following oath: followed by the oath*”. Further, divide the current Section 6 into two sections with the oath being one section and the text regarding candidate absences in another, and renumber accordingly.*

Reason: It makes more sense to take the oath once elected than before. Also simplifies the language.

3. **Executive Board** – amend Article 8 to add a new Section 4 to read “*Executive members who are absent for 3 consecutive executive meetings shall be deemed to have vacated their position, unless (1) a reasonable explanation is provided and accepted by a vote of the executive, and (2) ongoing regular attendance is expected for the remainder of their term.*” The remainder of Article 8 shall be renumbered.

Reason: The current constitution is silent on the matter of executive board members’ attendance at executive meetings. This proposal sets expectations and provides a mechanism to address excessive absences.

THE AMENDED ARTICLES WILL READ AS FOLLOWS:

Article 6 - Election of Officers, Section 2

Each Officer shall be a member in good standing of an affiliated organization. No delegate shall be eligible for election to office unless they have at least twelve (12) months’ previous experience as a delegate, and have attended at least fifty percent (50%) of the Labour council meetings in the previous twelve (12) months prior to nomination” to “..... and have attended at least fifty percent (50%) of the Labour council meetings in the twelve (12) months up to and including the meeting where the election will be conducted. However, if a candidate did not attend fifty percent (50%) of the meetings during the previous twelve (12) months because they have been absent due to a prohibited ground for discrimination in the BC Human Rights Code, their eligibility will be determined by the period one year prior.

Article 6 - Election of Officers, Section 6

All elected Officers shall, at the first opportunity following their election, take the following oath: (followed by the oath).

Article 6 – Election of Officers, New Section 7 (no change except to put in its own section and renumber)

A potential candidate for office who finds she or he shall be absent from the nominating and selection meeting due to sickness, accident, work or absence from the city must: (existing process (a) and (b)).

Existing Article 6, Sections 7, 8 and 9 renumbered to become 8, 9 and 10)

Article 8 - Executive Board, New Section 4

Executive members who are absent for 3 consecutive executive meetings shall be deemed to have vacated their position, unless (1) a reasonable explanation is provided and accepted by a vote of the executive, and (2) ongoing regular attendance is expected for the remainder of their term.”

Existing Article 8, Sections 4, 5 and 6 renumbered to become 5, 6 and 7)

11. NOMINATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

1st Call for nominations to the VDLC Executive, nominations presided over by Terry Engler, 1st Vice President and Chair of the VDLC, delegate for ILWU Local 400.

In order to eligible for nomination delegates must have been a delegate for a minimum of 1 year and have attended 5 of 10 meetings from March 2013 to February 2014.

The following persons were nominated (in order of nomination):

Executive Position	Nominee Name	Union Represented
<i>President</i>	Joey Hartman	Unifor Local 468 W
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Terry Engler	ILWU Local 400
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Stephen Von Sychowski	COPE Local 378
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Georgi Bates	USWA Local 2009
<i>Treasurer</i>	Paul Sihota	IAFF Local 18
Members at Large (12 positions)	Fruma Sloan	CUPW
	Carol Nordby	CUPE Local 389
	Agnes Jackman	HSA
	Russ St. Eloi	UA Plumbers Local 170
	Sylvia Metzner	BCTF - VSTA
	Matt Damario	BCGEU Local 1203
	Graham O’Neill	HEU North Shore Community Local

** Please note that the second and final call for nominations will take place at the February 18, 2014 meeting and will be immediately followed by elections. **

12. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Moment of Silence for Brothers Al Pederson, Don Jantzen and Tim Jones
- 50/50 Proceeds to benefit May Day events
- Rachel Tutte, BC Health Coalition: The court case brought forward by Dr. Day to break the laws of medicare will be before the courts September of this year. This is a constitutional challenge and it is suspected that this will go before Canada’s Supreme

Court. Lawyers are being thorough in ensuring that all evidence is submitted at the provincial level so that the case here in BC isn't lost like the one in Quebec due to relevant evidence not being filed at the provincial level. This is going to be a costly fight but a very important one, please encourage locals and nationals to donate and join as members.

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 8:45 pm.*

16. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014**, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

kmr
cope378

Pizza Educational
Tuesday, February 18, 2014
6:00 pm

ICBC: Why is it good for all?
Presented by representative from COPE Local 378