



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019**

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

The VDLC acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and other First Nations people.

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

- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the December 11, 2018 meeting be adopted.

- 4. CREDENTIALS:**

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

BCTF – VSTA
Shelby Calman

FPSE Local 15 – VCC FA
Taryn Thomson

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

- 5. GUEST SPEAKER:**

Dr. John Calvert and Colleen Fuller, Community Health Centres

Community health centres (CHC) are an important aspect of primary health care and an aspect that is not well developed in BC; in fact there is only 1 CHC in BC. There is a long history of community health centres in other provinces (75 in Ontario), starting in Saskatchewan in the 1960's. There was an effort to start them in BC in the 1970's under the NDP government but the Socreds effectively stopped that effort when elected in 1976.

Community health centres more than just provide medical services, they have an organizational structure that allows the community to govern how services are provided and prioritized. This structure is fundamental. Centres take an interdisciplinary approach to medical care and make good use of all healthcare practitioners. All employees of community health centres are just that, there is no hierarchy or fee for services system.

CHCs advocate for improvements to general health of the community and not just treating people once they are sick. They are about public education, health promotion, and prevention. In other provinces, CHCs are active in issues of housing, social services, seniors' programs, and much more.

Before the current BC government was elected there was a commitment made, by the NDP, to establish 20 community health centres by 2020. However, physicians' organizations (not

doctors themselves, but their representative bodies) are not keen on the CHC model and there is a lot of push back against the government's plan for a progressive health agenda.

Dr. Calvert and Ms. Fuller want to encourage labour to have a bigger voice in the discussion of the future of healthcare in BC and the kind of reforms needed to provide access to services and comprehensive care.

More information on the VDLC website.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on VDLC activities since the December 2018 meeting.

Political Action

On December 12, I met with Lois Chan-Pedly (Green Party School Trustee) with Andrew Ledger, President of CUPE Local 1004, and Jody Polukoshko of VESTA. The meeting went well in terms of bringing Lois up to speed on some issues of concern, as well as opening the lines of communication and offering a better understanding of who the VDLC is and what we do. We will be scheduling a similar meeting with Michael Wiebe (Green Party City Councilor) later this month.

Our new Municipal Engagement Committee met for the first time on January 11. Ten participants from various unions were in attendance. We had a good discussion about the goals of the committee and priority issues/objectives in the coming year. We will be meeting again on February 15 at 10:00 am. If you are interested in joining the committee please let me know.

Labour Day

On January 9, we held the first planning meeting for Labour Day 2019. The meeting reviewed options for hosting Labour Day 2019 at the PNE or at a park. No agreement was reached about which location we would proceed with, or exactly how the event would look. We are meeting again on January 29 to conclude that initial discussion so that we can begin organizing the event.

VDLC Labour Education

Our 2019 program is ready! We had intended to have it out in December but lining up course dates with facilitators took a little longer than anticipated. All dates and facilitators are now confirmed. This year we are offering 20 courses, the most ever, some we have offered before and some are brand new or expanded.

The courses will run predominately in two mini-schools; one in May and one in November, but some are scattered throughout the year.

Please start thinking about which courses you might like to attend and about promoting the program to others.

Young Workers' Committee

The committee met on December 4. Currently, it is a small group of young workers who are trying to get together some more participants and begin functioning again as a formal

committee. This has been a rocky process, but I anticipate the committee will be fully up on its feet sometime this year. The committee plans to meet again later this month.

Pizza Educationals

The Executive is proposing that we try integrating the educational component into our regular meeting as a half-hour slot and begin the meeting half an hour earlier at 7:00 pm. The rationale for this is that we rarely have large turnouts to the pizza educationals. It is difficult for many people to get here in time for an early event before the meeting and it makes for a long night as well. At the same time, presenters have only a small crowd to speak to and end up requesting a guest speaker spot as well so as to get some time in front of the full delegation. It makes more sense to make the educational component accessible to all, and ensure a good crowd for presenters without having the duplication of asking them to do both a pizza educational and a guest speaker spot.

We will try this new model in February, which will likely be a report back on the solidarity tour which we sent to the Philippines in November.

Queen Alexandra Fundraiser

Ticket sales have been going slowly for this event, likely due to the holidays, but are picking up as the event approaches. Please buy your tickets if you haven't already and help promote the event during these last couple of days.

Vancouver Municipal Boards

There are municipal Boards that are currently open for applications:

- Development Permit Board Advisory Panel (seeking a design professional and representatives of the general public and development industry)
- Pacific National Exhibition Board of Directors
- Urban Design Panel (seeking a practicing professional artist)
- Vancouver Heritage Commission

Applications can be submitted at: <https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicEnterprise/e1e49cf2-91f7-4bb9-beb9-2194f0058543>. If you, or another labour representative or community activist with a record of supporting our values, is applying please let me know.

Pharmacare Lobby

We have now met with Terry Beach (Burnaby North-Seymour), Joe Peschisolido (Steveston-Richmond East), and Hedy Fry (Vancouver Centre). A meeting is scheduled with Jonathan Wilkinson (North Vancouver) on January 24.

I attended a meeting with NWDLC and Dan Ruimy (Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge) as a constituent. NWDLC President, Janet Andrews, is a constituent of Jody Wilson-Raybould (Vancouver-Granville) and will attend that meeting with me, which is currently being scheduled.

We have not received any responses from Joyce Murray (Vancouver-Quadra), despite multiple follow ups and being told the request is in front of the MP and would be followed up on. We are still waiting, but will follow up again.

We have been told by the office of Harjit Sajjan (Vancouver South) that because he is a Minister he has a long wait list. We have been assured we are on the list and told there is nothing they can do to expedite a meeting.

May Day

The May Day Organizing Committee will hold its first meeting on January 22 at 2:00 pm. Anyone interested in participating in this please let me know. We are considering an event format similar to last year.

Events Attended

December 12 – Meeting with Lois Chan-Pedley
December 12 – Union Protein Project meeting
January 8 – Meeting with Marc Perez of Bayan Philippines
January 9 – Labour Day Planning Committee meeting
January 10 – VDLC Executive Board meeting
January 11 – Municipal Engagement Committee meeting
January 15 – VDLC Pizza Educational
January 15 – VDLC Regular Meeting

On vacation during the weeks of December 17 and 24, and on December 31.

7. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated at the meeting

MSC that the correspondence be received and filed for the information of the delegates.

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:

- BC Health Coalition – Renew membership at a cost of \$75.00.

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

Subject: Constitution and By-Laws Review

BECAUSE the current Constitution and By-Laws of the Vancouver and District Labour Council were written in 1956; and

BECAUSE the Constitution and By-Laws have not undergone a comprehensive review since that time, but have seen a patchwork of amendments over the years; and

BECAUSE there have been significant changes in the way the labour council functions, and in the language we use, over those years; and

BECAUSE the labour council has the ability to amend its Constitution and By-Laws in accordance with Article 12 of the Constitution,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL establish a temporary Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee with the express purpose of

conducting a thorough review with consideration to feedback from affiliates, input from staff and elected officers, and our Canadian Labour Congress representative. The committee will be composed of the President and four members of the Executive Board, and shall begin its work following the February regular meeting. It shall be mandated to return no later than September 2019, with recommendations to the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall bring its recommendations to the delegates for consideration by the end of the calendar year.

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

Subject: Attacks on Workers and Peasants in the Philippines

BECAUSE six people (Jesus “Dondon” Isugan, Delia Isugan, Dominador Isugan, Reneboy Fat, Jaime Revilla, and Demetrio Fat) were killed by members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and military on the island of Negros on December 27, 2018; and

BECAUSE an additional sixteen were arrested arbitrarily and are facing trumped-up charges; and

BECAUSE this new wave of repression comes on the heels of the massacre of the Sagay 9 and represents a continuation of efforts by government and landlords to crush farm worker and peasant movements in the region; and

BECAUSE at the same time in recent weeks the PNP has been pressing education officials for lists of members of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT), in order to profile, harass and intimidate those fighting for better teaching and learning conditions; and

BECAUSE this effort to single out ACT members and extract their person information for dubious purposes is a clear violation of the right to organize, freedom of expression and assembly, and the right to privacy,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL once again call for an end to the repression of workers and peoples movements in the Philippines and will condemn the murders and arrests, call for the release of imprisoned workers and peasant activists, and for an end to the attacks on the rights of ACT and its members; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER write to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Duterte calling for the same.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) UFCW Local 1518 – Reported by Stefan Nielsen

On December 19, 2018 Vince Ready delivered his final decision on the Safeway reopener dispute that had referred to Section 106 of the Labour Code. The decision, in effect until December 2021, is as follows:

- i) For “profitable” Safeway stores there is no change to the agreement (currently, only 13 stores across BC)
- ii) For “unprofitable” stores, accumulated time-off benefits for full-time Grade A members are suspended; part-time Grade A members have a pay cut. The employer

has reduced contributions to the Health & Welfare plan and vendor stocking is allowed.

The decision also imposes a contract for FreshCo. While the FreshCo agreement is not good, the union is pleased that Ready has agreed to the need for one province-wide certification rather than single store bargaining units and an expiry in 2023 that roughly coincides with the Safeway Master Agreement. Meetings are being held with the company to deal with the many issues of interpretation and implementation of the decision as it has been written. If there are aspects that can be appealed, the union will do so.

Effective January 8, 2019, the Executive Board elected Secretary Treasurer Kim Novak as President of UFCW Local 1518 to replace Ivan Limpright who retired late in 2018 after 34 years with the local, including 13 years as president. Patrick Johnson, Executive Assistant to the Secretary Treasurer, was elected as Secretary Treasurer.

b) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis

CUPE Local 391 President Aliza Nevarie has stepped down after serving in the position for 3 years, prior to which she served as Vice President. The local will elect a new president at their general meeting on January 16. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for members to thank Aliza for her leadership and activism. Aliza has served the local through 3 rounds of bargaining. Aliza now begins a new chapter with FPSE, making her a member of CUPE Local 1004. There is quite a buzz in the local leading up to the election and they look forward to updating the VDLC in February.

c) HEU Dogwood Lodge – Reported by Karen McVeigh

HEU members are voting on the tentative agreement for the Facilities Bargaining and all locals are conducting their executive elections.

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

a) CUPW Local 846 – Reported by Cristina MacLennan

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

a) Women's – Reported by Emelia Colman-Shepherd

The next meeting will be February 11, 6:00 pm at the VDLC office. IWD Dinner, March 8 at the Maritime Labour Centre – mark your calendars!

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman

The board met and discussed the non-payment of federal employees due to the Phoenix mess, the expected increase of SCBC fees, paid parking at hospitals, the Deprescribing Conference, May 17 (co-hosted by COSCO and the Deprescribing Network), the VDLC IWD Dinner, and more. Decreasing membership is a growing concern; for the past 2 years, there has been a lapse of 400 members per year. Delegates, 50 years and older are encouraged to sign up.

MSC to receive the other reports.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

12. NOMINATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

1st Call for nominations to the VDLC Executive, nominations presided over by Stephen von Sychowski and Terry Engler.

In order to be eligible for nomination delegates must have been a delegate for a minimum of 1 year and have attended 6 of 11 meetings from March 2018 to February 2019. 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 delegates were nominated (in order of nomination and position):

President

<i>Stephen von Sychowski</i>	<i>MoveUP</i>
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1st Vice President

<i>Terry Engler</i>	<i>ILWU Local 400</i>
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2nd Vice President

<i>Graham O'Neill</i>	<i>HEU North Shore Community Local</i>
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Recording Secretary

<i>Bal Sandhu</i>	<i>HEU PHSA</i>
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Treasurer

<i>Nil</i>	
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Members-at-Large (12 positions)

<i>a. Neil Munro</i>	<i>Heat & Frost Insulators Local 118</i>
<i>b. Keith Stone</i>	<i>BCGEU Local 503</i>
<i>c. Betty Bi</i>	<i>UFCW Local 1518</i>
<i>d. Emelia Colman-Shepherd</i>	<i>IBEW Local 213</i>
<i>e. Russ St. Eloi</i>	<i>UA Plumbers Local 170</i>
<i>f. Stefan Nielsen</i>	<i>UFCW Local 1518</i>
<i>g. Shane Pollack</i>	<i>PSAC Local 20045</i>
<i>h. Frank Warwick</i>	<i>CUPE Local 1004</i>
<i>i. Karen McVeigh</i>	<i>HEU Dogwood Lodge</i>
<i>j. Crystyna Sawyer</i>	<i>HEU PHSA</i>
<i>k. Jody Polukoshko</i>	<i>BCTF - VESTA</i>
<i>l. Cristina MacLennan</i>	<i>CUPW Local 846</i>

** Please note that the second and final call for nominations will take place at the February 19, 2019 meeting and will be immediately followed by elections. **

13. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 Draw to benefit Queen Alexandra Elementary School's Wishing Tree free store.
- Dogwood Lodge care home has had a Norwalk virus outbreak. Anyone visiting any care facilities, please do not go if you have any sign of cold or flu; wash hands going in and when leaving; and if you haven't had a flu shot, it is recommended that a mask is worn.

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

17. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019**, 7:00 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

No Pizza Educational

The VDLC will not be holding regular pizza educationals, but instead will include an educational component to the meeting. Guests are always welcome to attend VDLC Regular meetings to observe.

Please visit website for event listings and more – www.vdlc.ca



2019 VDLC WOMEN'S COMMITTEE'S
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DINNER
WOMEN FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE: TAKING ON POVERTY
MARCH 8, 2019 - FRIDAY
5:15 PM - DOORS
6:00 PM - WELCOME
6:30 PM - DINNER
MARITIME LABOUR CENTRE
1880 TRIUMPH STREET
PARKING BEHIND BUILDING OFF PANDORA ST.
EVERYONE WELCOME
ASL Interpretation
Childcare assistance available, contact the VDLC

GUEST SPEAKERS
BC Poverty Reduction Coalition
Veronica Ellis & Pupillo Joseph
WITH THE CALLER
ENTERTAINMENT
Jacky Arrah Yenga
African rhythms and joyful sounds
TICKETS
\$50 / \$30 low-waged
Tables of 8 to 10
Tickets available through Eventbrite (search VDLC)
For more information contact Keziah at the VDLC - 604.254.0703 / office@vdlc.ca

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