



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016**

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

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

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC to amend the January 19, 2016 minutes - under Good and Welfare, correct the spelling of the name of Sister Grace Tickson.

MSC that the minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting be adopted as amended.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

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

Bakery Workers Local 468

James Martindale

FPSE Local 15 (VCC FA)

Frank Cosco *

John Demeulemeester

Ingrid Kolsteren *

Karen Shortt

ILWU Local 500

Al Keely (A)

Frank Leonardo

Angela Talic (A)

TSSU

Reagan Belan

Matthew Greaves *

Maddie Knickerbocker

Emma Mulligan

Melissa Roth

Unifor Local 468W

Jonathan Chapnick

Joey Hartman *

Linda Schulz *

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

a) Sarah Buehler, rabble.ca BC Development Manager

Rabble.ca is Canada's most popular source for independent news and views. Independent media is the oxygen of democracy. Rabble was founded in 2001 through the efforts of several social justice and equity movements with a mission to build a strong independent news organization in Canada and, for the most part, they've achieved that goal. For example, to help in the fight to defeat Harper they produced their largest ever federal election coverage. They engaged 1 million Canadian readers in the campaign which included 200,000 from BC – that's 20% of their readership. Post-election analysis revealed where rabble.ca needed to go, and that was west. With recent NDP by-election wins, one can bet that wealthy supporters of the BC Liberals are stocking up the Liberal war chests. Most of that money will be spent in the media and on social media ads.

Supporting rabble.ca means pushing back against that communications onslaught. Rabble.ca is funded by organizations like national unions: CUPE, PSAC, NUPGE, CLC, and the United Steel Workers who have been supporting rabble.ca since the beginning; BCTF who is a founding donor. It is important for independent media to get labour's message out to the people – clearly, consistently, and often; especially when people like right wing columnist Tom Fletcher brags that they're bringing pro-government messages to over 800,000 people a week via Black Press's 77 community papers in BC – that's pro-corporate, pro-government, anti-worker messages being delivered to the doors of 800,000 British Columbians weekly. Progressive values are desperately needed to change the terms of the public debate almost entirely controlled by pro-Christy Clark coverage.

Rabble.ca is ready to expand. Over the next 2 months, they need over \$75,000 to ramp up coverage of BC. Their team of writers and reporters work to cover the issues ignored by corporate papers. Sister Sarah Buehler asked delegates to go back to their locals and ask for their support and to consider being individual supporters themselves. Donations big and small are welcome, every dollar counts. Delegates and affiliates were asked to consider becoming monthly supporters as well.

b) Tom Sandborn, Witness to Innocence

Witness to Innocence is an organization working to abolish the death penalty in the United States and worldwide. In order to be a full member of Witness to Innocence, you must have been on death row and been exonerated due to DNA evidence, re-trial, etc.; these are the people who know and understand first-hand what is wrong with the system. Those on death row are also primarily people of colour and working class people. Magdaleno Rose-Avila, Executive Director of Witness to Innocence will be speaking at a VDLC International Affairs Luncheon, March 22, 12:00 pm at the Martime Labour Centre as well as at St. James Community Square, 3214 W. 10th Avenue, March 24 at 7:30 pm. He will be in town March 21 to 26. Although courts in Canada don't sentence people to death, the same racism, sexism, and classism that put people on death row in the United States are the same that we as trade unionists and social activists fight here. It is entirely possible for a Canadian to fall victim to the death penalty somewhere else in the world; there is currently at least 1 Canadian sitting on death row in Montana. Delegates were encouraged to let people know about the events and should any locals like to set up a meeting with Magdaleno, contact Brother Sandborn.

MSC that the regular agenda be amended to conduct the nominations and elections to the 2016 VDLC Executive Board following the President's Report.

12. NOMINATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Nominations presided over by BCTF VESTA delegate Heather Allison. Sister Allison outlined the procedures.

The following were nominated at the January 19, 2016 regular meeting:

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	MoveUP
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Louise (Fruma) Sloan	CUPW Vancouver Local
<i>Treasurer</i>	Tim Cheung	Unifor Local 2002
<i>Members at Large (12 positions)</i>	1. Graham O'Neill	HEU North Shore Community Local
	2. Gary Jarvis	CUPE Local 391
	3. Neil Munro	Heat & Frost Insulators Local 118
	4. Keith Stone	BCGEU Local 503
	5. Krista Lee Munro	Unifor Local 111 – INELIGIBLE
	6. Carol Nordby	CUPE Local 389
	7. Russ St. Eloi	UA Plumbers Local 170

Note: Sister Krista Lee Munro is not eligible to run for the Executive at this time as she does not meet the requirements as set out in the Constitution & By-laws.

The following nomination was made and accepted at the current meeting:

Executive Position	Nominee Name	Union Represented
<i>Members-at-Large</i>	1. Sylvia Metzner	BCTF – VSTA

The following delegates were acclaimed as the 2016 VDLC Executive:

Executive Position	Nominee Name	Union Represented
<i>President</i>	Joey Hartman	Unifor Local 468W
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Terry Engler	ILWU Local 400
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Stephen Von Sychowski	MoveUP
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Louise (Fruma) Sloan	CUPW Vancouver
<i>Treasurer</i>	Tim Cheung	Unifor Local 2002
<i>Members-at-Large (12 positions)</i>	1. Gary Jarvis	CUPE Local 391
	2. Sylvia Metzner	BCTF – VSTA
	3. Neil Munro	Heat & Frost Insulators Local 118
	4. Carol Nordby	CUPE Local 389
	5. Graham O'Neill	HEU North Shore Community Local
	6. Russ St. Eloi	UA Plumbers Local 170
	7. Keith Stone	BCGEU Local 503
	8. Vacant	
	9. Vacant	
	10. Vacant	
	11. Vacant	
	12. Vacant	

Newly acclaimed executive sworn in.

As per the Constitution and By-laws, the Executive reserves the right to fill the vacancies by appointment. Any appointees must meet eligibility requirements.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the January 19, 2016 meeting.

Political Engagement

The election of both NDP candidates in the provincial by-elections for Coquitlam-Burke Mountain and Vancouver-Mt. Pleasant was a great victory. The VDLC assisted with several canvasses for Melanie Mark in Vancouver Mt. Pleasant, who promises to be a very effective MLA in our region.

Northwest Labour Leader Initiative

Sister Hartman was part of the facilitation team at the first week of this leadership initiative, held February 9 to 12 in Vancouver Washington. There were nine BC labour and community leaders in the program, along with another 13 from Washington and Oregon States.

Harrison Winter School

The VDLC had a strong presence this year. Joey Hartman co-facilitated Collective Bargaining; Stephen Von Sychowski and Fruma Sloan attended Labour Council Leadership; and Caitlin Davidson-King attended BC Labour Law on the first VDLC scholarship for Harrison.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

The MVA's February 8, Affordable Housing Assembly for the North Shore was a great success with a packed room to hear powerful testimonials by four women who have experienced homelessness or struggled to pay rent. The three North Shore mayors and a newly elected Liberal MP all committed to working with MVA to address the affordable housing crisis.

Climate Justice

A second meeting of climate justice and labour activists was held at the VDLC in February. It was agreed to organize an evening panel presentation in April.

May Day

Carnival Band is confirmed to lead the march down Commercial Drive, leaving Clark Park at about 1:30 pm on Sunday, May 1 followed by a rally in Grandview Park.

Queen Alexandra School Fundraiser

June 8 has been identified as a possible date, subject to agreement by the school and keynote speaker.

Summer Institute for Union Women

The institute will be held at UCLA in Los Angeles the week of August 9 to 13, 2016.

Syrian Refugees

The CLC has developed a toolkit for unions and labour councils with practical information about how to support refugees across Canada and also how to respond to Islamophobia and racism.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

See attached list

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Spending Approvals

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

- CoDevelopment Canada – Ad in 2016 JustFilm Festival program at a cost of \$175.00
- CCPA April 6 Gala Fundraising Dinner – up to 5 tickets at a cost of \$95.00 each
- Migrante BC – purchase 2 tickets for March 18 fundraiser event at a cost of \$120.00

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

Subject: Outgoing Executive

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL expresses gratitude to the outgoing members of the VDLC Executive, with thanks for their commitment and work to strengthen the labour movement and build ties with the community in our region. Thank you Paul Sihota (2007), Heather Allison (2014), Laura Cipolato (2015), and Jason Singh (2015).

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

Subject: Asbestos

BECAUSE it is estimated that more than 2,000 Canadians and 100,000 people globally die each year from diseases caused by asbestos exposure, including mesothelioma and lung cancer; and

BECAUSE asbestos-related diseases are on the rise; in 1992 there were 276 recorded cases of mesothelioma whereas twenty years later in 2012 that number had doubled to 560; and

BECAUSE imports of asbestos-related items into Canada rose from \$4.9 million in 2014 to \$6 million in 2015; and

BECAUSE Canada is importing replacement brake pads and linings that contain asbestos, despite the fact that Canada manufactures non-asbestos alternatives; and

BECAUSE many countries, including Sweden, Iceland, Denmark, Singapore, New Zealand, Japan, Australia, and South Africa have already banned asbestos; and

BECAUSE the BC Federation of Labour and the BC Insulators Union have called for criminal charges and jail time for the owners of the asbestos-removal company Seattle Environmental Consulting Ltd. for repeatedly and knowingly exposing its workers to the deadly construction material,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL join the Canadian Labour Congress in its call for the federal government to implement a comprehensive ban

on all use, imports, and exports of asbestos, and for a registry of both contaminated buildings and people with diseases caused by asbestos.

9.

MSC to allow guest Tom Sandborn speak to the resolution.

R

REPORT OF UNIONS:

- a) CUPW – Vancouver – Reported by Jeannette McConnell
Changes to Canada Post have been hard on the workers; varied start times break communication between workers, postal workers working late into the night with headlamps and 12 hour days have become common. CUPW has started negotiating contract demands, only exchanged out demands. The employer is trying very hard to remove the paid lunch break and increase the ever-widening gap within the two-tiered wage system.

At Christmas, in one depot, seven term (temporary) workers broke down on the work floor; two of those workers were so stressed out they sought medical attention.

Management acts the way they have for a long time, with heavy handed discipline and a refusal to work with the union for a better functioning system.

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

- a) BCGEU Local 503 – Reported by Keith Stone
b) BCTF, VESTA – Reported by Heather Allison
c) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis
d) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Michael Lanier
e) CUPE Local 2950 – Reported by Karen Ranaletta

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

- a) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
At the January meeting, Brother Von Sychowski announced a rally for UNITE HERE Local 40 at the Metrotown Hilton to help them achieve a collective agreement; the turnout was good and the support was appreciated. Unfortunately, there is need for another rally for the same cause, February 23, 4:30 pm at the Metrotown Hilton.
- b) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan
The IWD Dinner is fast approaching, March 8. If you haven't bought tickets yet please do. This year's theme is Women in Trades with 3 great speakers: electricians Ticha Albino and Rebecca Delmage and carpenter Judy Doll. Women still only make up 3% of trades workers.
- c) Education – Reported by Joey Hartman
The 2016 education program is set. Brochures are available, the yellow/orange are the Anita Yan Memorial Labour Law Series and the blue are non-law courses. Course registration is open to all.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) Harrison Winter School – Reported by Fruma Sloan
Sister Fruma Sloan, CUPW and Brother Stephen Von Sychowski, MoveUP attended the CLC Winter School for labour council officers on behalf of the VDLC. Labour councils from around BC discussed affiliate outreach, political action, education, and community outreach. The labour councils were well represented. They worked together on a number of things including planning objectives for the coming year. Most of the labour councils are on a volunteer basis.
- b) Harrison Winter School – Reported by Caitlin Davidson-King
Sister Davidson-King attended CLC Winter School on the VDLC scholarship, attending Provincial Labour Law. They ran a mock Labour Relations Board trial with investigators and the Vice-Chair of the Labour Relations Board in attendance to help run the trial. Throughout the week she had the opportunity to meet some great union activists whom she feels will remain friends. The exciting sense of solidarity at Winter School is something special. She gained a lot of skills and knowledge from the course and from the students she met as they were able to tell stories about their workplaces and how they had resolved conflicts. While many people that she met have had the opportunity to attend many times, she knows that there are locals, like her own, that do not send anyone, so thank you to the VDLC for providing her with the opportunity. It is Caitlin's hope that this scholarship continues as it provides activists that may not otherwise have the opportunity to attend this invaluable experience.

MSC to receive the other reports.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

12. NEW BUSINESS:

Much of the work we do at the VDLC is relationship building and yet at meetings it is often presented primarily from the front of the room. Building relationships within the room are just as important. Delegates and guests were asked to sit and talk to those at their tables about their work as a waged workers, or jobs they've had as waged workers. Everyone was asked to take 10 minutes.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Left Coast Labour Chorus is hosting a Cabaret on Saturday, April 23 at the WISE Hall
- Migrante BC is committed to the rights and welfare of all temporary foreign workers in BC. Thank you to the VDLC for purchasing tickets to their upcoming fundraiser – for info on the event, see thumbnail of poster below and visit VDLC website – events page
- CUPE Metro, IWD Luncheon, March 8, 12 to 2 pm at the Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre. It is a free lunch for women, both clients and staff who work at organizations that serve vulnerable and/or marginalized women in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. If anyone knows of anyone who should attend, please contact Brenda Coombs at CUPE Local 15.
- 2016 Census is gearing up – materials are coming out. Labour should help promote the Census as a really good thing for Canadians. There are job openings for census workers.

- Memorial for Clay Perry who passed away in September 2015. Clay was an activist in the Woodworkers' Union and the labour movement at large.

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

16. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016**, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

Pizza Educational

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

6:00 pm

Demystifying Meetings: Rules of Order and Speaking (Introductory)

with Joey Hartman

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

Vancouver & District Labour Council
Women's Committee invites you to

**CELEBRATING WOMEN:
WOMEN IN TRADES**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2016

Tuesday, March 8

5:15 pm - Doors Open
6:00 - Welcoming
6:30 pm - Dinner

Fraserview Hall
8240 Fraser Street
south of Marine Drive

Speakers:



Ticha Adams
Sarah O'Leary
Judy Hoff
Vanessa Richards

Entertainment:



Vanessa Richards

Tickets \$45/ \$30 low income (tables seat 8)
Primarily a women's event but open to all
ASL interpretation provided

For tickets or childcare assistance contact Keilah at the VDLC office
604-264-0703 or office@vdvc.ca

Vancouver & District Labour Council
2016 Labour Education
Anita Yan Memorial Law Series

Mark your calendars and watch for details about the labour law courses being offered by the VDLC this year.

Courses	Instructors	Dates
Stress in the Workplace (All levels)	Michael Prochuk * McGrady & Co.	March 12 Saturday
WCB Appeals and Advocacy (All levels)	Sarah O'Leary & Hilary Healy * Ruth-Care Giesinger	April 2 Saturday
Organizing (All levels)	Leo McGrady, John Rogers, & Organizer * McGrady & Co. with SFU Labour Studies	April 16 & 17 Saturday & Sunday
Duty to Accommodate in the Workplace - UPDATED (Intermediate - Advanced)	Conni Kilfoil * Consultant	April 15, 20, & 21 Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
Bullying & Harassment (All levels)	Conni Kilfoil * Consultant	May 14 & 15 Saturday & Sunday
Pension Law (Advanced - for administrators, trustees, & negotiators)	Susan Philpott & Simon Archer * Koska Minsky LLP - Toronto	May 25 Wednesday
Promotions: How to Negotiate Language and Win Non-Selected Invoices (All levels)	Suzanna Allevato & Rachel H. Roy * Allevato, Quill, & Worth	June 18 Saturday
BC Labour Code (All levels)	Jonathan Harwell & Jennifer Gloggie * Bonster & Co.	September 17 Saturday
Effective Grievances (Introductory)	Jennifer Arnold * BC OLU	December 3 Saturday

To register, please contact Vancouver & District Labour Council
604-264-0703 or office@vdvc.ca or phone 604-264-0703

Vancouver & District Labour Council
2016 Labour Education

Mark your calendars and watch for details about courses being offered by the VDLC this year.

Courses	Instructors	Dates
Book Study "They're Bunking Up!" And 20 other myths about unions" - Bill Fischer Jr. (All Levels)	Joey Hartman * VDLC	April 26, May 3, & May 10 Tuesdays - 3 consecutive evenings
Media Training (Intermediate)	Nancy Knickerbocker & Rich Overgaard * BC Teachers' Federation	May 7 Saturday
Domestic Violence as a Workplace Issue (All levels)	Canadian Labour Congress held in collaboration with New Westminister & District Labour Council	October 1 Saturday (tentative - date may change)
Parliamentary Procedure and Effective Meetings (Introductory)	Joey Hartman * VDLC	October 15 Saturday



All New

To register, please contact Vancouver & District Labour Council
604-264-0703 or office@vdvc.ca or phone 604-264-0703



Migrante Gala Fundraiser for Migrant Workers with Fay Faraday

Moving Forward Together! Building Migrant Worker Security

Friday, March 18, 2016
6 to 10 pm
Holiday Inn
711 W. Broadway, Vancouver

Tickets at \$60 each (with dinner); Table of 8 at \$450

For tickets, contact 604.872.5850/migrantebc@gmail.com
For cheque payments, please make out to "Migrante BC" and can be mailed to 4794 Fraser St. Vancouver V5Y 0E1, Attn: Anne Orellana

Keynote speaker Fay Faraday
Noted social justice lawyer, strategic adviser and policy consultant on human rights, labour, and constitutional law. litigator for unions, community organizations and conditions for constitutional and human rights cases before the Supreme Court of Canada. Pushing back at the normalization of worker precarities globally and domestically, Faraday's keynote will issue a call to action and solidarity to map a vision for reform that holds security for all migrant workers.



All proceeds will go towards our volunteer-run and non-profit organization, Migrante BC.

Join us at our Gala Evening and consider becoming a sponsor with its value packages.

Sponsorship Information:
Gold Sponsor \$1000 and comes with name recognition during the event, FP advertisement in the seminar program, 4 tickets to the Gala Fundraiser and invitation to private pre-Gala cocktail reception with Fay Faraday.
Silver Sponsor \$500 and comes with name recognition during the event, FP advertisement in the seminar program, 2 tickets to the Gala Fundraiser and invitation to private pre-Gala cocktail reception with Fay Faraday.
Bronze \$250 and comes with name recognition during the event, FP advertisement in the seminar program, 1 ticket to the Gala Fundraiser and invitation to private pre-Gala cocktail reception with Fay Faraday.

For lists of happenings please see our website events page.