



## VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2017

- 1. LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC
- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** Terry Engler, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President
- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**  
*MSC that the minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting be adopted.*

**4. CREDENTIALS:**

The following credentials were received since the last VDLC meeting:

(\* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

BCGEU Local 2003

Jackie Pierre

BCTF – Burnaby

Frank Bonvino \*

Toni Grewal \*

Dave McPhee \*

James Sanyshyn \*

Leanne Sjodin \*

Daniel Tetrault

CUPE Local 389 (2 delegates over)

Amir Bagheri \*

Tyrone Brown (A)\*

Hermilia Gallaher

Joyce Griffiths \*

Dinesh Kapoor \*

Lawrence Magtoto \*

Kathy McMahan \*

Cindy McQueen \*

Carol Nordby \*

Dalton Taylor

Tony Volpe \*

CUPE Local 873

Bronwyn Barter (A)\*

Andrew Billing

Katryna Bowland-Kwok

Bob Parkinson \*

Sophia Parkinson \*

Meghan Valli

ILWU Local 500

Fabio Bartolomeo

Antonio Bonamin

Julian Demarco

Vanessa Nielsen

Joulene Parent

TSSU

Carl Mandy

TWU-USW Local 1944, Unit 63

Aaron Shields

Unifor Local 830 M

Tayna Luciani

**5. GUEST SPEAKER:**

Natasha Tony – Anti-Oppression Facilitator

Natasha is a member of IATSE Local 891; she facilitates conversations on equity and inclusion. When talking about eliminating racism, we talk about human rights and what they are, but it is important to understand and recognize what discrimination looks like. Dignity and worth of each person, climate of respect and understanding, and that we can all participate in society – equal rights and opportunities is fundamentally what is being talked

about when we talk about human rights. There are other kinds of discrimination and intersecting grounds, for example discrimination by association or perceived grounds. Discrimination does not have to be intentional to be against the law; unintentional discrimination still affects people. When the term intersectionality is used, it refers to overlapping grounds of discrimination. When we talk about oppression, it can be institutional, intrapersonal, or internalized; internal bias is influenced by our backgrounds and experiences. Micro-aggressions repeat and reinforce stereotypes about minorities and suddenly demean them. Tools for change – we talk about coalition building, working together. Power equalization is important and compassionate activism. When we talk about being compassionate activists, it's about lifting people up, not putting them down. It's all about process, it takes time and compassion to make that cultural shift that we are talking about.

- Work towards what we are for, not what we are against.
- Compassion is rooted in understanding the connection between all living beings.
- Act, don't react.
- The ends don't justify the means.
- Be a peace maker.

## **6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the February 21, 2017 meeting.

### Political Action

Three VDLC delegates applied for the expression of interest to be assigned to a key NDP campaign for about a month. Joey Hartman and Stephen Von Sychowski conducted interviews and selected Akeena Legall, CUPE Local 1004 member to work the NDP Vancouver-Langara riding campaign.

### MVA Provincial Accountability Assembly

There are still five seats available for the VDLC attendance at the Metro Vancouver Alliance provincial assembly at the Italian Cultural Centre on April 4, 2017. Both John Horgan (NDP) and Andrew Weaver (Green Party) have confirmed participation but Christy Clark (Liberals) has not. Over 80 people from 44 member organizations attended the MVA discernment meeting on February 18 where it was agreed that the four issues going forward are income equity, housing, healthcare, and transit.

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

Joey Hartman and Nina Hansen from the BC Federation of Labour met with the WCB to discuss the VDLC's participation in the WCB's Day of Mourning event. It will take place at Hastings Park on the morning of April 28. Affiliates are encouraged to attend.

### Week of Action – Poverty Reduction

The Poverty Reduction Coalition worked with the BC Federation of Labour to organize seven days of actions to match the seven pillars of the poverty reduction plan and to call on BC to adopt a poverty reduction strategy. BC is the only province or territory in Canada that does not have such a strategy with defined objectives and deadlines. Events around the province from February 26 to March 4 culminated with a march and rally at the Vancouver Public Library on Saturday, March 4. Trish Garner of the Poverty Coalition will be the guest speaker at the VDLC's April meeting.

May Day

The annual march and rally will take place Monday, May 1, gathering at 14<sup>th</sup> and Commercial between 5:00 and 5:30, then marching to Grandview Park for a rally around 6:00 pm. Banners and flags are encouraged to add union visibility to the march, which will be led by Carnival Band. Speakers and theme need to be determined.

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:

- CCPA Canada – 2017 membership renewal – At a cost of \$100.00
- COSCO – 2017 membership renewal – At a cost of \$25.00
- Council of Canadians – Donation of \$100.00
- Pacific Northwest Labour History Association – 2017 membership renewal – At a cost of \$150.00
- Pacific Northwest Labour History Association Conference - Donation of \$100.00
- Vancouver South African Film Festival – Donation of \$100.00

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

Subject: International Day for the Elimination of Racism

BECAUSE in 1966 the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 21<sup>st</sup> as the International Day for the Elimination of Racism; and

BECAUSE the date was chosen to commemorate the March 21, 1960 massacre in Sharpeville, South Africa when police opened fire and killed 69 people who were peacefully demonstrating against the apartheid pass laws; and

BECAUSE since the UN proclamation and the decades that have passed, the objective to end all forms of racial discrimination are far from being achieved, as illustrated by repeated and shocking events that expose both overt and systemic racism,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL recognize March 21 as the International Day for the Elimination of Racism and to consider how the strength of the labour movement is linked to building a strong movement to fight racism, Islamophobia and bigotry.

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

Subject: CLC Priorities

BECAUSE the Canadian Labour Congress has identified priority areas for its campaigns over the next period; and

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council is one of 111 CLC labour councils across Canada that carry out the Congress campaigns at the regional level,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL include the CLC priorities in its work and lobbying efforts, with specific focus on:

- a) Persuading the federal government to abandon Bill C-27, An Act to amend the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985, which represents a dangerous and immediate attack on future and current retirees and Defined Benefit (DB) pension plans in the federal private sector and Crown corporations.
- b) Expanding Canadian Medicare to include a National Pharmacare program
- c) Achieving concrete steps toward pay-equity.

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

a) ILWU Local 400 – Reported by Jason Woods

February 23 Action was well attended. Next Action is planned for March 28, Brother Woods will update the labour council at the next meeting. ILWU Local 502 has a new certification at the Labour Board, GCT Ship Planners. ILWU is still collecting signatures for the “Protect Canadian Cabotage”.

b) Unifor Local 114 – Reported by Maurice Mills

The Local is participating in BC Election Canvasses held every Saturday in targeted NDP ridings throughout the Lower Mainland.

The bargaining committee for Brinks has had one bargaining session with the company. The union had already been given notice that the company wants to reduce crew sizes and change pension to defined contribution plan.

c) MoveUP – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

The following collective agreements have now been ratified: BCNU 7 year agreement, Bonny’s Taxi, CCIS, Ecojustice, and Fortis BC-CSC. CUPE Local 454 has reached a tentative agreement and is awaiting ratification. MoveUP maintained the certification at DA Townley and bargaining is set to begin. Vantage One held a strike vote, with 84% in favour; parties are returning to mediation. Victoria Shipyards’ tentative agreement was rejected. Work being done by Accenture, which was contracted out of BC Hydro, has been repatriated.

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

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

a) Women’s – Reported by Fruma Sloan

Thank you to all the volunteers and the sell-out crowd of over 400 people. The 6 MCs did a terrific job. The committee is meeting March 27 at the VDLC office, all women welcome.

b) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

Staff at the Justice Institute bookstore have settled the dispute; thank you to everyone who went down in support.

*MSC to adopt the reports of committees.*

**OTHER REPORTS:**

a) CLC - Reported by Ron Stipp

The CLC Convention is coming up, but coincides with the BC Provincial election. This is an election year at the CLC. Federal budget comes down March 22. There is a handout outlining the top items that labour is looking for in the budget; a few of which were promised at election last year, like infrastructure funding which we have yet to see. The CLC's analysis of the budget will come out as soon as possible.

The provincial election is the most prevalent right now in BC. The VDLC will be placing a staff person in the Vancouver Langara campaign. The BC Fed is coordinating activities; labour canvasses where labour leaders canvass door-to-door with members of their unions are very effective and will be taking place every Saturday, starting April 8. Through the labour council dates, locations, and times will be posted. It is very important for labour to work this campaign and change that government.

b) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman

FORUM held their AGM March 21, there was much planning around their activities for the election. FORUM and COSCO will be attending the Metro Vancouver Alliance Assembly on April 4 as observers.

c) Disability Alliance – Reported by Sheryl Burns

The VDLC purchased a ticket to the Alliance's "Swing into Spring" event, however, it has been postponed until October 4 and will now be a "Fall Fling"

*MSC to receive the other reports.*

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Nil

**12. NOMINATION TO VDLC EXECUTIVE:**

There are 3 openings for Executive Member-at-Large. Nominations were presided over by CLC Representative Ron Stipp.

The following nomination was accepted:

Nominee Name	Union Local
Joy Tullos	CUPE Local 15

Joy Tullos was acclaimed as member-at-large of the VDLC Executive and sworn in.

**13. NEW BUSINESS:** Nil

**14. TABLE TALK:**

Delegates were asked to address racism in their workplace and union and how to deal with it.

**15. NOTICE OF MOTION:** Nil

**16. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- Maurice Mills, Unifor Local 114, attended the Save Our Coasts rally on February 23. The rally was specifically against changing the cabotage laws and privatization of Canadian ports. It was well attended and a lot of fun.

- Just Film Festival – March 30 to April 1 at Vancity Theatre – [www.justfilm.ca](http://www.justfilm.ca)
- Left Film Night – March 26 at 7 pm
- Labour History Association conference – Echoes of the Russian Revolution – looking into the relationship between labour and early communism
- Moment of silence for Margaret Mitchell. Margaret was a pioneer and role model for many women; as Member of Parliament she was the first to raise the issue of domestic violence in the House
- The BC Liberals want to turn the Riverview land into housing, please stay abreast of this situation, don't let them slide this under the radar
- Vancouver School Board is planning their summer hiring – any union, red seal, workers may want to look into postings.
- April 28 Day of Mourning – Russ St. Eloi, UA Plumbers Local 170, encouraged as many young workers to be there as possible – unfortunately, it is young workers primarily that are hurt or killed on the job.
- May 9 is not only Election Day, it is also the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Westray mining disaster, 26 miners were killed, 11 were never recovered – remember them.

**17. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *MSC to adjourn at 9:00 pm.*

**18. NEXT MEETING:** [TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017](#), 7:30 pm,  
Maritime Labour Centre.

**Pizza Educational**  
**Tuesday, April 18, 2017**  
**6:00 pm**

**Hell's History: the fight to end workplace deaths and injuries**  
with Tom Sandborn

*Tom Sandborn will discuss his book, [Hell's History](#), which tells the story of some of these unnecessary deaths and of a quarter century of campaigning by the United Steelworkers Union and the Canadian labour movement to change and enforce the criminal code.*

*Participants are encouraged to the VDLC in attending the April 28, Day of Mourning for Workers Killed and Injured on the Job, 10:30 am at Hastings Park behind the skateboard area off Renfrew.*

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