



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016**

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

2. **CHAIRPERSON:** 2nd Vice President Stephen Von Sychowski

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the March 15, 2016 meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

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

CUPE Local 15

Sally Bankiner

Brendan Boylan

Brenda Coombs *

Elizabeth Dollaga * (A)

Alex Fowler

Gaye Fowler

Kamal Gautam

Gail Johnson *

Lorna Kao

Ravina Lal

Audrey Lavers

Ralph Mason

Jason Nijjar

Joy Tullos

Warren Williams *

CUPE Local 389

Amir Bagheri (A) *

Tyrone Brown (A)

Matt Byers

Joyce Griffiths *

Dinesh Kapoor (A) *

Laurence Magtoto *

Kathy McMahan *

Cindy McQueen *

Carol Nordby *

Tony Volpe *

Aaron Young *

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Left Coast Labour Chorus

Performed three songs to open the meeting. The Chorus announced their Spring Fling, April 29. The May 17 VDLC Pizza Educational will be a participatory workshop led by the Chorus. The workshop will help guide activists on how to infuse music, dance, and energy into events.

Peter Liang, Statistics Canada

May 2, census letters will start arriving at Lower Mainland residences with a secure access code to fill out the census online. They would prefer the census be filled out online, as it is more environmentally friendly and it is a more secure way of transmitting the information; 1 in 4 houses will be asked to fill out the long-form census. The long-form will include

questions on ethnicity, immigration, labour market activity, income, education, as well as consent for Statistics Canada to release the information in 92 years' time. If Census Canada hasn't heard from citizens online, they will mail out a hard copy of the census, after which if they still don't have a response an enumerator will come to the home. They are currently hiring enumerators. The job pays \$16 to \$20 per hour and requires a commitment of approximately 20 hours or more per week as well as evenings and weekends when people are actually home. For non-English or French speakers, the questionnaires are available in 11 languages and there is a helpline for assistance. Filling out the census is not only a civic duty and legal requirement, it's also a very important democratic tool. The last census, in 2011, resulted in the addition of 30 more seats being added to the House of Commons and boundary lines being redrawn due to population growth and shifts; it also affects the amount of transfer monies per region; accurate population and demographic statistics are important.

For anyone interested in working as a census numerator, go to census.gc.ca and follow the button links.

Mike Lombardi and Allan Wong, Vancouver School Board (VSB) Trustees

Mike Lombardi was a teacher for 35 years before becoming a trustee. In BC we have a government that does not value public education. BC has the 2nd lowest per pupil funding in Canada, less than \$1000 per student than anywhere else in Canada, as a result we have school boards, like Vancouver, facing serious funding shortfalls and ultimately cuts. Adding insult to injury we also have the worst child poverty rate.

Currently, 95% of board funding comes from the provincial government. The government is very effective at the misinformation game, stating that this is the highest funding yet; while they do increase funding every year, those increases are nowhere near the cost increases.

By law in BC, school boards must present a balanced budget by June 30 or they could be fired. In 1985 the Vancouver School Board didn't provide a balanced budget under Chair Pauline (Polly) Weinstein, and they were fired; this also happened in Cowichan, where they were replaced by an Administrator for 2 ½ years. The results were devastating. The VSB is consulting with the community and advocating for additional money; they met with Vancouver MLAs (NDP and Liberal) and laid out the facts and reality of the Vancouver school system; and they have appealed to the Minister to meet with them but have not received any response. It is the responsibility of the VSB Senior Management team to provide proposals to produce a balance budget.

Over 15 years of cuts, the VSB has lost over \$80 million in funding, the equivalent of 600 entry level teachers and \$50 million in supplies and services. The proposals being made now are devastating and will change the nature of Vancouver schools. Vancouver's world class public education system is at risk due to this chronic underfunding. The VSB is now going into the community with the proposals, the week of April 12, they had 5 evening meetings, 100 submissions, and over 400 emails and letters. Lombardi received over 350 emails all copied to the Minister and Premier.

This isn't a Vancouver problem, it is all over the province; this was reiterated by the BC School Trustees' Association who has proposed eliminating funding to private schools and transfer it back into public education; and the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils

has demanded adequate, stable funding. People made emotional testimonials to the need to protect public education.

On March 27, VSB's shortfall was \$27 million, after some advocacy for increased funding, the Liberal government increased the total BC education budget by \$28 million, of this Vancouver will receive \$2.6 million bringing its shortfall to \$24 million.

On April 28 there will be a public school board meeting with one item on the agenda – the Vancouver School Board has to vote on the proposed budget. That meeting will either pass or not pass the budget – if it doesn't pass, it is likely the Board will be fired and an administrator placed in control. Mike expressed the pride he has in the students, teachers, support staff, and unions for standing up for our kids and public education – not just in Vancouver but all over BC.

Allan Wong is the Chair of Planning and Facilities at the VSB and before that a long-time member of the TWU. Allan, stated his pride in the stakeholder unions that have come out with strong presentations about why these cuts should not be happening. In 2012, it was promised by the BC government that all schools would be seismically upgraded by 2020, despite urging by the VSB, the government did not come forward with funding to meet that 2020 goal. The province has stated that the large districts must have their schools filled to 95% capacity and until that capacity requirement is met, or at least a plan is in place to meet that goal, all their funds are frozen. Schools sit at an average of 86% capacity as there are spaces left open within the schools for multipurpose use outside of the classroom. If the 95% capacity is a requirement, they are looking at 20 schools facing closure. Natural attrition resulting in closures is one thing, but forcing closure and dispersing students is concerning – it rips communities apart.

To add to capacity issues, there is need for new schools downtown and in the South Fraser lands, where students in the area are now traveling great distance and crossing dangerous intersections to attend school.

The long range facilities plan, will be submitted to the government at the end of June; it dictates the direction of the school board from now until 2030, when all schools should be supposedly seismically updated.

The VSB owns 3 non-school properties in Vancouver. Funds from the sale or closure of any properties (school or other) cannot go to operations (ie. the funding of schools), it must go to facilities – so suggestions of selling off school or other properties and putting that money into operations is a fallacy. Even if they could use the money from closures, the amount would be grossly inadequate. May 8 at Creekside will be the final consultation.

Public consultation dates and details on VSB website as well as online consultation surveys www.vsb.bc.ca/vsbengagement.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the March 15, 2016 meeting.

VDLC Strategic Planning

On April 13, the VDLC executive met with 12 affiliate leaders to get input regarding their needs of labour council and how well the VDLC meets those needs. A number of suggestions came forward that will be considered at the April executive meeting. In addition, the executive reviewed CLC priorities for the next 12 months, discussed the VDLC calendar and made decisions about various VDLC committees.

VDLC Executive Elections

Gary Jarvis (CUPE 391) has withdrawn as a member-at-large, so there are 6 vacancies on the VDLC executive. The vacancies will be part of the agenda until all positions are filled. It should also be noted that the Constitution was amended a few years ago to allow election of candidates who fell short of eligibility if no eligible candidates accepted nomination.

Political Engagement

As part of the CLC MP lobby on retirement security and improving the CPP, the VDLC is requesting meetings with Liberal MPs in our region. Times have been set to meet with Joe Peschisolido (Steveston - Richmond East), and Hedy Fry (Vancouver Centre). Meetings have been requested with Jody Wilson-Raybould (Vancouver, Granville), Joyce Murray (Vancouver Quadra), Pamela Goldsmith-Jones (West Vancouver -Sunshine Coast – Sea to Sky), Harjit Sajjan (Vancouver South), and Jonathan Wilkinson (North Vancouver) but we've yet to set dates.

In each case, VDLC delegates who live in the respective constituencies are invited to participate.

Education

Affiliates are encouraged to register members for the labour law and other offerings. Ideally registrations should be submitted at least a week in advance of the program to assist with planning.

Climate Justice

May 5 is the date of our evening forum "*Jobs, Justice and Climate: What do we mean by a just transition?*" The forum will bring labour and climate activists together to consider how workers and their unions can be involved in ensuring their needs are factored in as we transition to a sustainable economy. (Note: Event now postponed until further notice)

May Day

The BC Federation of Labour is co-sponsoring the event again this year. The theme is "*Jobs yes, but with dignity*" and the focus is on the most vulnerable workers in BC – migrant and temporary workers. 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 at Grandview Park with Irene Lanzinger, Erie Maestro (Migrante), Raul Gatica or another speaker from the Migrant Workers with Dignity Association, and music from the Left Coast Labour Chorus.

Queen Alexandra School Fundraiser

June 8 is confirmed with NDP MLA Melanie Mark as the keynote speaker with an emphasis on affordable housing and security for children. Affiliates are encouraged to purchase tables and donate tickets if unable to fill with their own members. Silent auction donations are also needed.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Circulated at meeting

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:

- Camp Jubilee - Donation of \$100.00
- Labour Day contribution – Pay to BC Federation of Labour – Contribution of \$500.00
- Miner’s Memorial Weekend – Donation of \$100.00
- LabourStart Canada – Donation of \$100.00
- People’s Voice – May Day Ad – Cost of \$90.00

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

Subject: Ban Blood Plasma Sales

BECAUSE the BC Health Coalition is calling on BC to follow Ontario and Quebec's lead and ban the sale of blood and plasma following news that the private company Canadian Plasma Resources (CPR) wants to open up shop in the province; and

BECAUSE the VDLC has consistently opposed for-profit enterprise in health care and that paying donors for plasma would conflict with the recommendations of the four-year inquiry into the tainted blood tragedy that infected over 30,000 Canadians with HIV and Hepatitis C; and

BECAUSE the Krever inquiry into the 1980's tainted blood scandal recommended that in order to prevent another tainted blood tragedy, Canada should not allow donors to be paid for plasma and should ensure that the core functions of the national blood system be performed by a single operator and not contracted out to others,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon the Minister of Health in BC to enact legislation based on the Ontario and Quebec models to ban all sales of blood and plasma.

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

Subject: Successorship in Health Care

BECAUSE the Wexford Creek senior’s care home in Nanaimo has laid off 155 HEU members as of September 30; and

BECAUSE this is the second time this same facility has laid off its staff in order to reduce costs through contract flipping, resulting in displaced workers and instability for long term care residents; and

BECAUSE such contract flipping is a direct result of the BC Liberal government's stripping health care workers of successorship rights in 2002,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL will call upon the Minister of Labour to return successorship rights for health care workers; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon the Minister of Health to investigate the circumstances at the Wexford Creek senior's care home and take remedial steps to reverse the lay-offs, and the Vancouver Island Health Authority be encouraged to take over control of this facility.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

- a) Unifor Local 111 – Reported by Krista Lee Munro
Collective bargaining has recently broken down between the joint bargaining committee (Unifor Locals 111 and 2200) and the employer with the key issue being the employer's refusal to move away from a concessionary contract. The union has called a strike vote for Thursday, April 28.
- b) HEU North Shore Community Local – Reported by Graham O'Neill
HEU members at Wexford Creek have been given lay-off notices effective September 30, after the current employer "Good Samaritan Society" claims to be under funded by the Vancouver Island Health Authority and also claims to have sold the centre to a yet to be named new employer. These members joined HEU after the last owner sold Wexford to "Good Samaritan Society" and now face job loss again. Thank you to delegates for passing the resolution and encourages everyone to support a change to Bill 29, to reinstate successorship rights to healthcare workers.
- c) CUPW Vancouver – Reported by Fruma Sloan
They are in negotiations and the stakes are enormous. Canada Post wants massive rollbacks:
 - Future pension contributions to be part of a defined contribution pension plan instead of the current, far superior, defined pension benefit plan,
 - Eliminate the half-hour paid lunch break that inside workers achieved in 1980,
 - Rollbacks in vacation leave and pre-retirement leave, and
 - To freeze pay for temporary workers and shamefully cut cost-of-living increases for people on disability.Negotiations are intensive, stay tuned. Things have dramatically changed since their last meeting, vis-à-vis CUPW negotiations with Canada Post.

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

- a) Unifor Local 2002 – Reported by Tim Cheung
- b) ETEA Local 1 – Reported by Charles Boylan
- c) CUPE Local 15 – Reported by Sally Bankiner

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

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

- a) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan
The Committee is meeting Wednesday, April 20; meetings are open to all women. Anyone interested can see Fruma.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman
The spring issue of the Advocate is available online and will be printed soon. Their AGM is coming up June 22, any members whose memberships may have lapsed should bring them up-to-date. Their next Board meeting is May 10.
- b) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp
MP Lobbies are underway. Delegates who live in a Liberal federal riding are encouraged to attend as it has more impact with a constituent present. The Ottawa lobby is done and we'll see the results of that soon. Lists will soon be available as to which MPs were present at that lobby. CLC TV ads on the CPP campaign will be running during the hockey play-offs.

New TPP video is on the CLC website. Take a look and share it.

Day of Mourning, April 28 will kick off the CLC's no asbestos campaign.

Rise Up Conference and the National Young Workers' Conference are being held in Ottawa in October. Affiliates are being encouraged to send young workers. Info will be coming out soon.

Harrison Winter School – preliminary lists for the 2017 year will be available, likely by June.

MSC to receive the other reports.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

12. NOMINATION TO VDLC EXECUTIVE:

There are 6 openings for Executive Member-at-Large. Nominations presided over by Ron Stipp.

Nominee Name	Union Local
Krista Lee Munro	Unifor Local 111 - <i>acclaimed</i>

Sister Munro was sworn in as a Member-at-Large of the VDLC Executive.

13. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

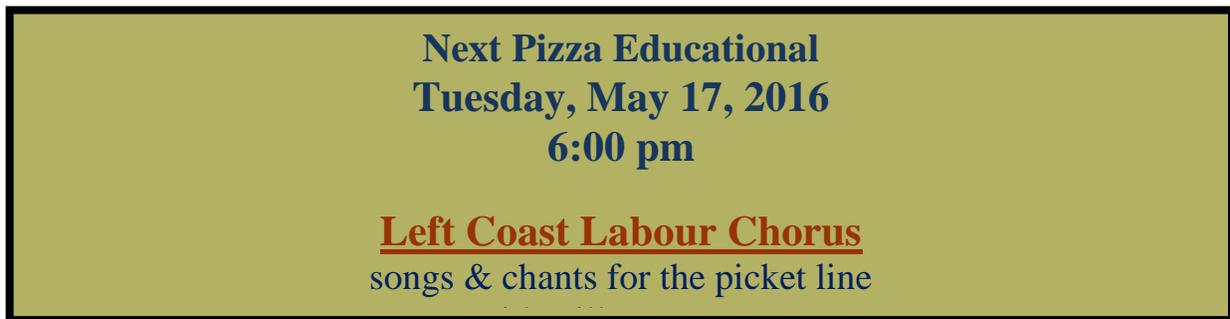
14. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 Draw to benefit the fund for the family of Jody Taylor, CUPE Local 1004 member killed on the job.
- CoDevelopment Canada Annual Fundraising Dinner – June 4 at the Maritime Labour Centre – tickets are \$65. The event supports international solidarity in Latin America. Anyone interested can see Marion Pollack
- May 28 students have arranged a rally in solidarity with teachers against the budget cuts – Vancouver Art Gallery
- Petition made available to sign to enact legislation protecting armoured car drivers against violence – there is currently no provincial or federal legislation protecting armoured car guards
- Public forum on the Trans Pacific Partnership 7 pm, April 20 at the Centre for Socialist Education
- CUPE BC having their convention in Victoria, April 20 through 23

16. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:21 pm.*

17. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016](#), 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.



Next Pizza Educational
Tuesday, May 17, 2016
6:00 pm

Left Coast Labour Chorus
songs & chants for the picket line

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

For lists of happenings please see our website events page.

Vancouver & District Labour Council
23rd Annual Fundraiser for
Queen Alexandra Elementary School

Wednesday, June 8

5:30 pm Doors

6:30 pm Dinner

Maritime Labour Centre

1880 Triumph Street

Melanie Mark, M.L.A. Vancouver Mt. Pleasant

Melanie Mark will share her personal journey to becoming the first elected First Nations woman as BC MLA and will address housing and child protection issues.



Born of Nisga'a, Gitksan, Cree, and Ojibway ancestry, Melanie grew up in the Downtown Eastside under difficult circumstances and understands the challenges faced by many in the community. Her election campaign focused on addressing issues of social injustice that are a reality for so many.

Melanie has served as the president of the Urban Native Youth Association, worked for the Native Court Workers' Association, and the Office of the Representative for Children and Youth.

Tickets \$50 / \$35 low waged

For tickets contact Keziah at the VDLC office

604.254.0703 / office@vdlc.ca

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