



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 20, 2014**

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

2. **CHAIRPERSON:** Treasurer Paul Sihota

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the April 15, 2014 meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

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

TSSU

Ivan Drury

Unifor Local 888

Sharon Costello

UFCW Local 1518

Laura Cipolato

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

a) Blair Redlin, People's Co-op Bookstore

People's Co-op Bookstore on Commercial Drive is 69 years old this year. It is the oldest and one of the few independent bookstores in BC remaining. What makes People's Co-op Books unique is that it is member owned and operated with a political and social purpose. It exists to provide information, education, and support to the community through literature and print media; People's Co-op Books carries a wealth of books on labour and labour history, women's issues, and cultural issues. It is also a community space for small gatherings, for book launches, speakers, etc. Inquire at the bookstore for booking. With the advent of mega chains and online merchants, times are tough for independent bookstores and People's Co-op Books is no exception. They are reaching out to the community for new support. Brother Redlin called on affiliates and delegates to purchase memberships to bolster support.

6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the April 15, 2014 meeting.

CLC Convention

Sister Hartman attended the CLC Convention in Montreal May 3 to 9 as the VDLC delegate.

The convention was very focused on the Executive elections. There were three candidates for President (incumbent Ken Georgetti, Hassan Yussuff and Hassan Husseini), plus contests for Secretary Treasurer and two full time Vice-Presidents.

Husseini withdrew the day before the election, putting his support behind Yussuff. Nearly 5000 votes were then cast for president, with Yussuff receiving just 40 votes more than Georgetti. Barb Byers was elected as Secretary Treasurer, and Marie Clarke Walker returned as a vice-president along with newly elected Donald Lafleur.

Labour council delegates were also focused on the Structural Review Committee report and the recommendations coming out of the Task Force on Labour Councils. The result is a commitment to providing labour councils with optional model bylaws, and to provide support for communications and financial reporting. There were also assurances from all candidates that labour councils would have access to some financial support and other assistance.

Political Action

The first meeting of the VDLC multi-union municipal candidate vetting committee was held April 30. The committee agreed to a package to be sent to prospective candidates inviting their application for endorsement through a survey and vetting process that may include interviews, references, voting record checks, Facebook reviews, and other research. Suggestions were made for survey questions and a timeline established. Each union will have one vote, but may have more than one committee representative. The views of unions who represent employees directly employed in the municipal sector will be given serious consideration.

It was also agreed that the committee is looking for candidates who share the values of the labour movement such as support for strong public services, can stand up to personal scrutiny, be able to articulate solid positions, and that we would be proud to see elected.

Day of Mourning – April 28th

The annual event was held at noon at the New Westminster Quay on Monday, April 28. Sister Hartman was one of the speakers, along with other labour representatives and family members of victims from the Babine Forest Products explosion and a construction worker who witnessed his friend being crushed to death on the job.

May Day

About 150 participated in the march and rally organized jointly by the VDLC and BC Fed. The weather was good and Carnival Band led the march down Commercial Drive. Rally speakers were Lillian Howard (Idle No More), Irene Lanzinger (BC Fed), Anita Dawson (Teamsters Local 213) and a worker from Ikea who spoke about the lock out that began a year ago on May 13, 2013. The rally was followed by a presentation by Mark Leier at the WISE Hall pub on the history of May Day.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

The Annual General Meeting will be held on June 5, 2014 from 6 to 8 pm at VCC King Edward Campus.

Queen Alexandra Elementary Fundraising Dinner, April 11 with Kent Wong

Most of the costs have now been paid and the revenue from the dinner that will be forwarded to support the Wishing Tree at Queen Alexandra Elementary School is between \$11,000 and \$12,000.

Rana Plaza Anniversary

On April 25, several VDLC delegates participated in an event organized by the BC Fed outside the Children's Place clothing store in Metrotown mall. The demonstration was to mark the one year anniversary of the Rana Plaza garment factory collapse in Bangladesh, killing over 1,100 workers and seriously injuring 2,500 more. Efforts to persuade Canadian retailers such as Children's Place have resulted in only one – Joe Fresh – signing onto the accord on fire and safety that would both protect workers and compensate victims.

Labour History of BC

The new Labour History Walking Tour booklet will be launched with an event at the Maritime Labour Centre on May 22, 2014 from 5 to 7 pm.

MSC to adopt the report

7. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated at meeting.

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Pending Approvals

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

- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Ottawa – 2014/15 membership renewal at a cost of \$500.00
- People's Coop Books – donation of \$100.00

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

Subject: People's Co-op Bookstore

BECAUSE at 69 years old, the People's Co-op Bookstore is the oldest independent bookstore in BC and one of the few independent bookstores remaining in the Lower Mainland; and

BECAUSE People's Co-op is a co-operative run by its hundreds of members; and

BECAUSE People's Co-op Books is a unique source of books and publications on progressive topics such as labour history, labour studies, feminism, politics, and much more; and

BECAUSE People's Co-op Books is reaching out to the community seeking new memberships and donations to assist it through a financial crunch, and CUPE BC, CUPE Metro District Council, the BC Teacher's Federation and CUPE Locals 1004, 391 and 15 have all recently responded by taking out organizational memberships and making financial donations,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL, in addition to its \$100.00 donation, encourage VDLC affiliates and individual union members to become members and support the People's Co-op Bookstore.

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

Subject: Mine Disaster in Turkey

BECAUSE less than a month after recognizing the annual International Day of Mourning for workers who have died on the job on April 28, and the one year anniversary of the Rana Plaza collapse in Bangladesh that killed 1,138 workers, on May 13 over 300 workers lost their lives in a preventable mining disaster in Soma, Turkey; and

BECAUSE the Turkish unions and civil society are denouncing this disaster as a workplace homicide, and criticize the Turkish government for privatizing this and other mines and allowing health and safety standards to deteriorate; and

BECAUSE the Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan has stated that “such accidents are usual”, and that the issue should not be “politicized”, and police are using tear gas, water cannons and other violence against the thousands of protestors who are speaking out against these circumstances,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL express our deepest sympathy with the miners and their families; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon the Turkish government to ensure their laws, regulations and enforcement mechanisms prioritize workers’ health and safety over profits, and to respect the rights of protestors to demonstrate against the individuals and institutions responsible for this mining disaster in Soma, Turkey.

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

Subject: Bill M212: Poverty Reduction and Economic Inclusion Act

BECAUSE NDP MLA Michelle Mungall has introduced private member’s *Bill M212: Poverty Reduction and Economic Inclusion Act* that would require the government to develop a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy within one year, and legislate specific targets and timelines to reduce the breadth and depth of poverty in BC; and

BECAUSE despite having the highest rate of overall poverty in Canada for 13 years and the highest child poverty rate for ten years (33% above the national average for that decade) BC is now one of only two provinces left without a poverty reduction plan; and

BECAUSE the BC Poverty Reduction Coalition (BCPRC) which the VDLC joined in April 2014 supports this Bill,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon all elected parties in the Province of British Columbia to support *Bill M212: Poverty Reduction and Economic Inclusion Act*; and to work in a collaborative and bi-partisan way to develop a plan to reduce poverty that ensures targets, monitoring, transparency, and accountability.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS: (in order reported)

a) HEU North Shore Community Local – Reported by Graham O’Neill

There is a tentative collective agreement for the 47,000 member Facilities Bargaining Association (FBA). It includes a cap of 100 FTEs a year for contracting out, restores vacation pay, improved premium pay, provides additional funding to the education fund,

addresses long-standing issues for BC Ambulance Service paramedics, and provides a 5.5% general wage increase over 5 years.

b) CUPE Local 454 – Reported by Roger Phillips

Local 454 is watching with great interest the union's actions at the City of White Rock, who held a successful rally today. There is a problem at Delta City Hall with people retiring, leaving their positions, and those positions not being filled – they are under review. There is often no back filling of these positions resulting in juggling of resources, and people taking on more resources and responsibilities. Worksafe BC has asked that more workers be put on OH&S committees and that more committees be formed. The union is working with the employer to improve workplace OH&S as per Worksafe BC standards.

c) BCTF Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association – Reported by Sylvia Metzner

Things are heating up in the bargaining between BCPSEA (Government) and the BCTF. Thursday, May 15 they appeared to offer an olive branch with a move off the 10 year deal and a signing bonus, but it became clear at the bargaining table that the proposed 6 year deal is just the 10 year deal with 4 undefined years lopped off. There continues to be no resources at the table to restore class size and composition provisions that have been illegally stripped since 2002. They have also levelled threats of wage roll backs, lock-outs, and a two-tiered wage system for new hires. The BCTF strike vote of 89% in favour in March authorized a move to start rotating job action if there was no progress at the bargaining table – they have reached that point. A full press release and the schedule of rotating district closures is accessible on the public portion of the BCTF website. Vancouver will be behind lines Monday, May 26. The union welcomes all the support they can get and extend their thanks in advance to their CUPE, IUOE, and other support staff unions for their solidarity in advance. The government is on notice that they have 6 days to avert school closures. Further actions will depend on progress (or lack of progress) at the bargaining table. There are bargaining sessions scheduled throughout the week.

d) BCTF Burnaby Teachers Association – Reported by Dave McPhee

BCTF job action is entering stage 2 after one year of negotiation. Burnaby will be on the line picketing Thursday, May 29 and would appreciate any support (even a drive by honk). The rotating picket line schedule for the Lower Mainland is: Monday - Vancouver, New Westminster; Tuesday – Langley, Richmond; Wednesday – Delta, Abbotsford; and Thursday – Burnaby, North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Surrey.

e) CUPW – Reported by Fruma Sloan

Canada Post has announced that they will be closing down the Ottawa sorting plant and trucking all mail to Montreal for sorting, then truck it all back to Ottawa for delivery. It appears that they want to do the same with London and Hamilton, Ontario. Resolutions opposed to postal cuts have been passed by city councils in West Vancouver, North Vancouver, Burnaby, West Vancouver, Vancouver, and it's on Richmond's agenda as well. The union knows it is on the right track; 61 municipalities across the country have passed resolutions to oppose the cuts; and 60% of Canadians, respondents to stratcom survey, oppose Canada Post's plan to replace door-to-door delivery with super mailboxes.

The new federal minister recently announced consultation for a target pension plan. This is a way to weaken defined benefit plans. The main points of target benefit pension plans are: 1)

workers bear all the risks, 2) benefits can be lowered or clawed back, and 3) no retirement security; CUPW is preparing a brief on this and hope others will as well.

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

- a) Unifor Local 464 – Reported by Jack McDermot

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

- a) Education – Reported by Joey Hartman

Labour Law education program brochures are available. The next course being offered is Collective Bargaining, May 24. Registration fees are very reasonable and scholarships are available if needed. Tonight's Pizza Educational with Sgt. Smith on Rights on the Picket Line was very good. He provided a letter which outlines rights around passive leafleting which was made available and is enclosed.

- b) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Joey Hartman

If anyone is not on Stephen's call-out list and would like to be, contact the VDLC office. Often there are last minute calls for solidarity action, while delegates and friends may not be able to attend every time, but the times you can make it count - showing up in support makes a big difference to morale.

- c) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan

Woman Transforming Cities is holding their 18th café: City Budgets through the eyes of women and girls - What is gender budgeting and why is it important? It will be June 5 at Britannia Centre, free admission.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) CLC – Provided by Ron Stipp
See attached

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

12. NEW BUSINESS:

MSC that the following emergency resolution be adopted:

Subject: Solidarity with BC Teachers' Federation

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL extend their support and solidarity to the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) in their efforts to negotiate a new collective agreement; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL urge all affiliates and delegates to support the BCTF on the picket line and urge VDLC delegates and affiliates to undertake other support and solidarity activities as requested by the BCTF.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- CoDevelopment Canada Annual Solidarity Dinner, June 7, Maritime Labour Centre – a great night with a silent auction and dessert auction – tickets available with Marion Pollack or Joey Hartman
- BC Health Coalition town hall focussing on the court case challenging our Medicare laws, June 10, 7 pm, Heritage Hall – see more on the BC Health Coalition website
- People’s Voice Newspaper fundraiser, May 31, Russian Hall, tickets \$20
- The White Rock city workers’ rally had a great show of support unions, it is so important to make the effort to get out to the picket lines of our brothers and sisters. The Teamsters line at Ikea Richmond still really needs support too
- BC FORUM AGM is June 11, 9:30 am, BCGEU office in Burnaby. Come out to hear some great speakers and join FORUM.
- Mainlander blog fundraiser, Friday, May 23, Russian Hall.
- IUOE Local 115 is holding their Annual Open House and Heavy Machinery Rodeo – June 21, Maple Ridge (Haney) Training Centre. It is a free family event for more info and map visit the IUOE Local 115 website – <http://iuoe115.com/event/iuoe-local-115-annual-open-house-heavy-equipment-rodeo>
- 50/50 draw proceeds to benefit the Solidarity in Action Committee’s work in support of Teamsters Local 213 locked out for over a year at Ikea Richmond

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:08 pm.*

16. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014**, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street.

Pizza Educational
Tuesday, June 17, 2014, 6:00 pm
Film