



**REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015**

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

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

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Correction under report of unions – should read “The following reports were made but were not submitted...”

MSC that the minutes of the April 21, 2015 meeting be adopted as amended.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

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

BCTF VESTA

Jody Polukoshko *

CUPW

Marion Pollack *

ILWU Local 500

Surj Brach

Cynthia Brooke

Jack Colonna

Steven Ross

John Urrico

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Leila Lolua and Carole Riviere – Alberta Provincial Election and their new NDP government

Labour mobilized with amazing results. In 2008, when Ralph Klein resigned, labour saw an opportunity to bring about change. In Alberta, like in BC, many affiliates are non-partisan so they ran a campaign that focussed on a labour platform that the affiliates signed onto. They then measured parties against this labour platform and the NDP was the only party that met the established criteria. The Alberta Federation of Labour previously had no political action funding, so at their convention a few years ago they approved an assessment of \$1 per member per year to build a fund. They built the groundwork and framework to start running a positive issue and value based campaign that was about progressive views on fair taxation, \$15 minimum wage, supporting public services, and supporting an activist role in the tar sands.

In the 2012 election, they improved their numbers, and were beginning campaign training in preparation for what was to be the 2016 election. When the Alberta PC called the election early they had to switch gears from training to campaigning. They hired university students to go door-to-door to talk to people about this new progressive, positive view and when the time came they switched to talking to people about the NDP. The idea of going door-to-door was new to Alberta politics.

Labour roots run deep in the new government; 29 of the new NDP MLAs come from labour backgrounds and new Premier Rachel Notley once worked with the HSA as a WCB Advocate. It has been said that the Progressive Conservatives were their own worst enemy going into the election, but labour really made the best of that situation. Reaction to short films told them that they were on the right track and that their progressive message was what the people wanted. What we can see is that issues of working people and values of labour are what people wanted to hear about and it worked in the Alberta election, which should give us all hope for the federal election too.

In 2008 the NDP went from 4 to 2 MLAs, in 2012, they increased the caucus to 4, and now in 2015 they have won 55 seats. Leila and Carole worked in the Edmonton Centre riding, which was a close run. The average age in that riding is 28 years old; Alberta is changing, not only their age demographic but they've changed their government and elected a record number of women. In the debate Notley talked about businesses paying their fair share and the economics of the province – despite attempts by the progressive conservatives to brush it away as being too complicated to get into. There was a time during the campaign when they didn't think there were enough people on the ground to accomplish what was needed, but supporters arrived from the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour, the Yukon and BC. The amount of support was incredible and made it clear that when we work together, governments can be changed.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the April 21, 2015 meeting.

VDLC Offices at the Maritime Labour Centre

After three months of displacement due to an arson and just two weeks of settling back into the VDLC office, we received notice from the Maritime Labour Centre that the lower level of the building is being closed up and we need to leave by July 31, 2015. Efforts have begun to find a place to relocate to.

Political Action – Municipal Engagement

As part of the VDLC's commitment to increase our political engagement between municipal elections, the labour council executive will host a meeting and social in late May with municipal, school board and park board representatives who were both endorsed by the VDLC and successful in their election bid.

VDLC Education

The last spring offering is Collective Bargaining scheduled for May 30, 2015. The program then picks up again in the fall. There are some changes and additions to the program that was circulated earlier this year.

Protein for People

The VDLC will host a Protein for People community forum again in the fall. Affiliates will be invited to participate in this event.

2015 Queen Alexandra School Fundraiser

Executive members are asked to approach your unions to request ticket purchases (tables of 8) for the annual fundraiser – probably on September 29 - with Bill Fletcher Jr. He was the keynote speaker at the recent Pacific Northwest Labour History Conference in Seattle, and all of the Canadians in attendance were very impressed with both his content and presentation.

April 28 Day of Mourning for Workers Killed and Injured on the Job

Sister Hartman emceed the event at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Several affiliates, particularly ILWU and CUPE had very strong representation and presence.

May Day

The VDLC and BC Federation worked collaboratively again for May Day 2015 and had a very successful march and rally with a focus on the Fight for \$15 minimum wage, combined with messages of international solidarity.

7. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Spending Approvals

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

- World Peace Forum, November 15, 2015 event - Donation of \$100.00

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

Subject: VDLC Syd Thompson Community Service Award

BECAUSE the United Way of the Lower Mainland holds a Labour Appreciation Dinner each December; and

BECAUSE the VDLC issues the Syd Thompson Community Service Award at this dinner each year; and

BECAUSE this award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the labour movement and broader community,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL present the 2015 Syd Thompson Community Service Award to Brother Jim Sinclair, past president of the BC Federation of Labour, at the December 3, 2015 United Way Labour Appreciation Dinner.

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

a) ETEA Local 1 – Reported by Charles Boylan

ETEA had elections and new exec elected: Dan Reilander, former Organizing Committee Chair was elected as President; Tristan Dreyer, Vice President; Jason Collinge, Secretary; and Lili Meier, Treasurer.

FPSE had its AGM in Kelowna May 12 to 15. Cindy Oliver, retired and George Davison was elected as President and Terry Van Steinburg, as Secretary Treasurer. ETEA was given a standing ovation when Dan's report on organizing was read as FPSE invests in organizing the unorganized and is obtaining modest success as I've reported.

Local 10, PGIC is still trying to get their first collective agreement. The teachers voted 97% in favour of a strike. This allowed them to start mediation, but so far the employer hasn't moved on their six step, fifteen year pay scale. Under that pay grid it would take a teacher 10 years to make \$24/hour and then another five years to make \$28. By contrast my local, ETEA 1, goes from \$23.21 to \$33.19. All too low of course, which speaks to need for vigorous organizing.

Local 1 HR&ISC Chair, Charles Boylan, and Local 9, Okanagan College, organized a public forum against Bill C-51 in Kelowna on May 12 with Michael Harris, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, and Local 9's Norah Bowman, and Charles as emcee. The event attracted about 140 people with a great public discussion at the end; it's on YouTube. 100 people signed letters to the senate opposing C-51. Kelowna and Vancouver will be participating in the 3rd National Day of Protest against C-51 on Saturday, May 30 at 1:00 pm at the Vancouver Art Gallery. Local 1 is encouraging VDLC affiliates, in keeping with the March resolution on C-51, to speak out against the regressive Bill C-51, Anti-Terrorism Act, 2015. The best way to "speak out" is to come with union banners on May 30. The Working Group to Stop C-51 has had 14 consecutive public education actions weekly at skytrain stations, every Monday with actions coming on May 25 and June 1. C-51 must become a major issue to fight Harper with this October if we're to arouse the public to vote against him.

Local 1 is taking up a letter writing campaign to the Senate and asked delegates to pick up a blank form letter, sign it, and have it faxed to the Clerk of the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence

b) CUPW – Reported by Fruma Sloan

We just had a national convention and elected a new leadership who are committed to fight for door-to-door delivery and postal workers rights. The city of Hamilton, Ontario is facing off with Canada Post in court next week as the Corporation tries to phase out door-to-door mail delivery and install community mailboxes. The city of Hamilton wants a say about super-mailboxes and have adopted a new by-law to stop their installation and levy fees of \$200.00 per mailbox. Toronto city council has asked the city's chief city planner to report back on the impact of Canada Post's community mailboxes on the urban environment, future developments, the public realm, and urban design.

CUPW National wants the federal government to declare the cancellation of home mail delivery as unconstitutional; a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

The backlash is growing. Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre says that he and the mayors of Laval, Longueuil, and Westmount are frustrated with the cavalier approach of Canada Post. They will be joining CUPW's lawsuit aimed at overturning the loss of door-to-door delivery. Westmount Mayor Peter Trent has said that "it's simply not true that the current mail system has outlived its usefulness."

c) PSAC/CEIU Local 20974 – Reported by Crystal Warner

PSAC federal public workers have been without a contract for almost a year. On May 7, the Harper government tabled Bill C-59, which gives government the authority to impose a short/long term disability plan on PSAC members. This is a clear violation of their charter right to collective bargaining. PSAC will fight it in the courts, but they are also ready to start fighting them in the streets. PSAC has signed a solidarity pact with 17 unions representing federal government employees. The union will not concession bargain. At the PSAC Convention a resolution was unanimously passed to spend another \$5 million on mobilization. They held a rally at Library Square April 21 with approximately 200 members present.

In June, their employer holds "National Public Service Week", where they reward employees by letting members buy themselves Timbits. The union is calling for a national boycott.

PSAC is also looking for support as they hold rallies in June as a national day of action. Information will be sent to the VDLC for distribution.

d) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis

Currently, 12% of VPL staff earn below a living wage. A Living Wage for Families campaign event is planned for June 2 at the Central Library on Georgia in the Alma Van Dusen Room. The employer is attempting to introduce a “respectful appearance policy” and is still threatening to discipline anyone who comes in wearing a CUPE shirt or button.

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

a) ILWU Local 400 – Reported by Terry Engler

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: NIL

OTHER REPORTS:

a) BC FORUM – Reported by Sandy Bauer

AGM will be held June 17 from 9:30 am to 1:30 pm at 2920 Virtual Way, BCGEU, in Suite 130. The Commemoration Ceremony of the collapse of the Ironworkers’ Memorial Bridge is also on June 17 at 1:00 pm. Sister Agnes Jackman will be FORUM’s second delegate to the VDLC.

MSC to adopt the reports.

11. NOMINATIONS

Sister Agnes Jackman is retiring from the HSA and as such will be leaving her position on the Executive as Member-at-Large. Thank you to Agnes for her years of service.

Nominations were opened and presided over by Ron Stipp, CLC Representative:

- *No nominations at this time, will be open again at the June 16 meeting.*

12. CLC REPORT:

Federal Election

On June 8, there will be a Time for Change Rally at the Anvil Centre Theatre in New Westminster. This is the CLC kick-off for the federal campaign and they want several hundred people there. They will be showing a film of Jack Layton’s last speech when he spoke to the CUPW, and talks about labour and the relationship with the NDP. They will be talking about the 4 issues and mobilizing around that. This is the most important election in recent times. We cannot take another term of the Conservative government, regardless of who the leader is. Help spread the word about the rally.

The 4 issues:

Retirement Security – doubling of CPP phased in over 7 year period. Very few people outside of the labour movement have a pension plan, and a number within the labour movement don’t have a good pension plan. They also want to bring the age of retirement back down to 65 years of age, the Harper government raised OAS entitlement to 67. The third component is raising the GIS (Guaranteed Income Supplement) for those on Old Age Security who are living below the poverty line to lift them out of poverty.

Health Care – the Harper government is removing \$36 billion from health care transfer payments. We all need to fight this. This is an issue that resounds with all Canadians.

Childcare – the introduction of a national childcare program. We know that this does not in effect cost the crown anything as we know that when there is affordable childcare, more parents can work and pay income taxes. The numbers show an investment return of 254% back into the economy.

Good Jobs – since 2008 we've seen a loss of some 400,000 good jobs lost, mostly in the manufacturing sector. Jobs being produced now are precarious, jobs in service and part-time jobs. There is no national jobs strategy in Canada, and that needs to change.

The intent of the pamphlets as one can see is not pushing any particular party, but rather showing facts around the issues that matter to Canadians.

Come to the rally on June 8, talk about the issues in workplaces, to neighbours, and with family and friends. Get the word out – Canada needs a government that cares about what Canadians care about. Get the vote out. If this can happen in Alberta and Quebec, we can do it in Ottawa.

Delegates were encouraged to start that conversation with each other by finding out about the lives of those around us. Throughout the conversations almost everyone can say that something came up around at least 1 one these 4 issues.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

12. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Left Film Nights – *One Step at a Time* film being shown about Caesar Chavez and the fight he led with farmworkers
- A talk on the situation in the Ukraine at SFU Harbour Centre, June 12, 7:00 pm
- Co-op Radio is compiling a CD of some favourite programming. If anyone has a program that they really enjoyed please let Gary Jarvis or Joey Hartman know.
- Most people are aware of the disaster that struck Nepal when they suffered a large earthquake and the subsequent aftershocks, the Canadian government is matching donations until May 23 for anyone wanting to donate.
- CoDevelopment Canada's fundraising dinner, Saturday, May 30 for the last time at the Maritime Labour Centre, tickets are \$60
- Friday, May 29 – Tastes Along the Fraser River, NDP fundraiser, tickets are \$125, all food and drink will be local
- Bill C51 should also be an issue around the federal election as well as the 4 that have been focused on by the CLC. The Harper government did not expect such a reaction from Canadians. The 4 issues of focus were chosen by the Canadian Council before Bill C51 was introduced and became the issue it is. The 4 issues are those that are solid issues of the labour movement but Bill C51 will not be missed and will be used in regions where it is a huge issue.
- Anti-Bill C51 rally at the Art Gallery, bring your banner – Saturday, May 30, 1 pm

16. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:03 pm.*

17. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2015**, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street.

Pizza Educational

Lockouts, Scabs, & Injunctions –
What’s New and What’s Hot: lessons from the Southern
Railway lockout of CUPE Local 7000 members.
with Carmela Allevato & Randy Stuart

Tuesday, June 16
6:00 pm
Maritime Labour Centre
Immediately preceding the Regular meeting. Pizza by donation

During the nearly four month lockout of CUPE Local 7000 members by billionaire owned Southern Railway there were a number of legal decisions that helped support the union’s strategy opposing concessions.

Lawyer Carmela Allevato and CUPE 7000 Vice President from the Sry unit Randy Stuart will share practical tips on the lessons learned and will review the leading cases.

- For full size of event flyers to post please visit our events page on our website – www.vdlc.ca
- Education flyers under Education on website



TIME FOR CHANGE
This year, let's make a better choice.



The labour movement's "TIME FOR CHANGE TOUR"
is coming to a community near you.

ANVIL CENTRE
Theatre
777 Columbia Street, New Westminster, BC
Monday, June 8, 2015
6:30 p.m.

REGISTER HERE: www.google.ca/maps/place/Anvil+Centre

Canadians want a federal government that will create **GOOD JOBS**, fix **RETIREMENT SECURITY**, help them find affordable **CHILD CARE** and invest in the **HEALTH CARE** services we all need.
That's why it's time for a change.

Vancouver & District Labour Council
2015 Labour Education
Anita Yan Memorial Labour Law

Courses Offered

Collective Bargaining (Introductory/Intermediate)	Peter Shkianka - Kestrel Workplace-Legal Counsel	May 30 - Saturday
BC Labour Code * (Advanced)	Jonathan Hanvelt & Jennifer Gloulie - Banister & Co.	September 16 - Wednesday
Bullying & Harassment (All levels)	Conni Kilfoil & Leo McGrady - CUPE	September 19 & 20 - Saturday & Sunday
WCB (Introductory)	Hillary Henley & Rolf Harrison - Rush Crane Guenther	October 28 - Saturday
Duty to Accommodate & Return to Work (Introductory/Intermediate)	Catherine Sullivan - Linsay Buss	October 24 - Saturday
Stress in the Workplace (All levels)	Michael Prokosh - McGrady & Co.	November 28 - Saturday
Effective Grievances (Introductory)	Megan Ashbury - BCGEU	December 5 - Saturday

* For union staff, officers, and senior stewards ** For pension administrators, trustees, and negotiators

Course venues to be announced.