



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2016**

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

2. **CHAIRPERSON:** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Terry Engler

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*MSC that the minutes of the April 19, 2016 meeting be adopted.*

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

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

IUOE Local 963

Paul Loeman

Bruce Olsen

HEU VGH Local

Ryan Kreut

Unifor Local 114

Maurice Mills

*MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).*

5. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

a) Krista Lee Munro, Unifor Local 111

Unifor Local 111 represents transit drivers. Historically, transit drivers and maintenance workers were one union. In the 1970's they separated into two locals, but they still bargain jointly – one contract, two signatories. Unifor Local 111's sister local is Local 2200. The locals were in negotiations through the winter but were not able to renew before the current contract ended in March 2016. Negotiating non-monetary issues went very well, but when it came to monetary issues there were problems. The employer demanded a concessionary contract including: cuts to retiree benefits; cuts to dependent benefits; and reduction to starting wages (from 65% of full to 60%). After days of bargaining the employer refused to budge. The union started a button campaign, *Fair Contract Now* – 4,700 drivers and maintenance workers wore those; after about 2 weeks of wearing the buttons, the union called a strike vote. With a 67% member turn out they achieved a 97% vote in favour of striking. The calling of a strike vote was enough to push the employer to open 2 more negotiating days. Despite no movement after those sessions, the union committed to further pursue negotiations on May 26. Despite the strong strike mandate, it is hoped that it will not come to that. Delegates and guests were encouraged to continue to use transit and when they see drivers wearing their buttons, talk to them, let them know that they have your support.

b) Ron Stipp, CLC Representative on the Trans Pacific Partnership

The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a trade agreement between: Chile, Peru, Mexico, US, Canada, Japan, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand – all very different countries, with different economies, and different GDPs. There are others trying to get into the talks as well such as: Colombia, Thailand, Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea, and Indonesia.

Negotiations started in 2008 and Canada joined in 2012. In October 2015, an agreement was reached between the 12 countries at the table. On November 5, the full text was released and alarms were raised. On February 4, 2016 all the countries signed onto the agreement, subject to a 2 year ratification process. Each country has to ratify the agreement. It can come into effect with 6 of the original 12 country signatories and 85% of the combined GDP – in essence this gives the United States a veto. In the US, election both party's presumptive nominees have stated that they will not sign on. The document consists of 6,000 pages of text, 30 chapters, and numerous annexes and is not widely understood. The primary point, is investor rights and the right of business to sue governments and stop governments from passing legislation that would contradict the TPP, thereby removing their sovereignty as a nation.

The group really effected in Canada would be automotive manufacturing. The agreement eliminates the 6.1% tariff on Japanese automobile imports to Canada over 5 years, whereas the US 2.5% tariff will be removed over 25 years. The Canadian parts content for automobiles will be reduced dramatically, forcing the use of parts built in other TPP countries, greatly affecting Canadian parts manufacturers.

The TPP opens the dairy market to foreign producers, allowing them to access 3.2% of the market. The Conservative government, knowing that this was going to be very unpopular, especially in Quebec, offered up a \$4 billion dollar compensation package to Quebec dairy farmers. The Liberal government has stated that they may not honour that.

Healthcare will be impacted around the issue of pharmacology - drug producers and generic drugs. The TPP gives large drug manufacturers the ability to challenge the government on the drugs being included on lists for Pharmacare coverage.

The issues for labour are very complicated. A major issues surrounds temporary foreign workers and the movement of workers within the TPP to move between countries unrestricted and unlimited for projects, or specialized workers.

Food safety standards and labelling could be challenged under the TPP. Certain restrictions and illegal substances in Canada, such as dairy with Bovine Growth Hormone, will be allowed on the market.

Although research continues on economic impact, it is clear, that this is a bad deal for workers, for the environment, and for healthcare.

Federal Liberals have said they won't do much as they think that the US election will result in the TPP being dropped.

A short CLC produced video was shown on the TPP. The video is on Facebook and the CLC website, delegates were urged to “like” and share the video, to help get it out there.

## **6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

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

### VDLC Executive Elections

Welcome to Krista Lee Munro (Unifor Local 111) as a newly elected VDLC member-at-large on the executive. Nominations and elections will continue to be agenda items until all five remaining vacancies are filled.

### Political Engagement

Lobbies on the CPP campaign are being scheduled and two have been held with:

- Joe Peschisolido, Steveston-Richmond East, with constituent De Whalen
- Hedy Fry, Vancouver Centre, with constituent and VDLC Executive Krista Lee Munro

### VDLC Office Move

The VDLC Executive has approved relocation of the labour council to office space on the upper level of the Maritime Labour Centre, effective July 2016. This space, which once housed TURB, is slightly larger than our current offices, but with a much better layout and the same cost per square foot. There are 3 individual offices, a common area suitable for a boardroom table, and a kitchen/photocopy/storage room.

### Strategic Planning

Subsequent to the April 13 VDLC strategic planning day, and the executive meeting consideration of the recommendations, steps have been taken to organize a Political Action Committee meeting on June 28 and executive meetings starting in the fall will be held on the Thursdays before the monthly meeting (instead of the same day) to allow additional executive board involvement in planning the meetings and to provide more advance notice of guest speakers, proposed motions, and other agenda information to affiliates and delegates.

### Education

The 3-day Duty to Accommodate program and Bullying and Harassment course with Conni Kilfoil, as well as the 1-day Media Training with Rich Overgaard received excellent evaluations. One affiliate has approved any VDLC course for staff in recognition of the high quality and low cost of the education program. In contrast, the book study program was cancelled with only one registrant.

### Metro Vancouver Alliance

Plans are underway to organize a large pre-election accountability assembly in the spring with a focus on provincial issues.

### Climate Justice

The May 5<sup>th</sup> forum, “*Jobs, Justice and Climate: What do we mean by a just transition?*” was postponed when a key speaker cancelled due to bargaining responsibilities. A new date will be set when the speaker becomes available.

Day of Mourning April 28

Sister Hartman spoke about the CLC call for a ban on asbestos at the Day of Mourning event co-sponsored by the BC Federation of Labour and the Fraser Valley Labour Council. The event was held at the Golden Tree statue in Abbotsford.

May Day

The annual march and rally, with the theme “Jobs yes, but with dignity” was well received with powerful speakers from Migrante and Migrant Workers Dignity Association. Irene Lanzinger spoke on behalf of the BC Fed and we enjoyed music from Carnival Band and the Left Coast Labour Chorus.

Regional Prosperity Forum at Wosk Centre

On April 27, Sister Hartman attended an invitation-only forum that was also attended by several Metro Vancouver mayors and councilors, business representatives, and policy analysts. The forum was regarding ways to collaborate to invite new enterprise into the region rather than compete or piecemeal approach to opportunities, regulations, and permit systems. There was some emphasis on Private Public Partnerships as well.

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 all encouraged to purchase tables and donate tickets if unable to fill with their own members. Silent auction donations are also needed.

Support for School Trustees

The VDLC promoted and participated in rallies at the Vancouver School Board offices to support VSB trustees who are refusing to pass a “balanced” budget that falls far below the needs. VDLC also wrote letters to each of the Vision and Green Trustees to thank them for their commitment to children in our public school system.

**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:

- Poverty Reduction Coalition – Donation of \$200.00
- BC Labour Heritage Centre project fund – Donation of \$100.00
- Labour Day (in addition to \$500 approved in April) – BC Federation of Labour – Further contribution of \$500.00
- Additional donation, see motion re: Fort McMurray

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

Subject:            Poverty Reduction Plan for BC

BECAUSE BC is the only province without a poverty reduction plan, despite experiencing some of the highest rates of poverty in Canada; and

BECAUSE most families living in poverty have at least one adult working full time hours or more; and

BECAUSE the Poverty Reduction Coalition, to which the VDLC is a member organization, is asking municipal councils across the province to pass motions supporting a poverty reduction strategy for BC, and to submit a resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) to build support for this issue at their September 2016 convention,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to all municipal mayors and councils within its jurisdiction with a request that they both pass the provided motion as their own policy and to also vote to submit the resolution to the Union of BC Municipalities in advance of the June 20, 2016 deadline.

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

Subject: Fort McMurray and District Labour Council

BECAUSE the devastating fires in Fort McMurray and surrounding areas has had an enormous impact on workers and their families, many of whom lost their homes and livelihoods,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL send a message of support and solidarity to the Fort McMurray and District Labour Council in addition to a \$100.00 donation to the Red Cross relief effort.

## 9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

- a) CUPW Vancouver – Reported by Fruma Sloan

After months of fruitless negotiations, Canada Post started the clock ticking on the union again by applying for conciliation. CUPW now has federally appointed conciliators, progress has been minimal. The union's demands are fair: more full-time permanent jobs; for the corporation to consider all its options, like postal banking, before it considers cuts; sick days returned; and decent pensions. CUPW will not accept concessions. Canada Post's profits in 2014 were \$269 million. In 2015, they continued to remain profitable, posting \$136 million dollars profit. Parcel volumes are growing with the post office being #1 for moving parcels in Canada. There is no reason by they can't expand postal services. Canadians certainly want to retain 5 day a week delivery. There's a postal charter review, which is a high priority for CUPW, and they urge everyone to take the time to go to the website, this affects everyone.

<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsu.gc.ca/examendepostescanada-candapostreview/index-eng.html>

CUPW is determined to ensure that the review will result in better jobs and public postal service.

- b) Unifor Local 114 – Reported by Maurice Mills

Unifor passed recommendations at Prairie Council to oppose the TPP.

Local 114 continues its, *Safe as Our Cargo Campaign*, and asked that anyone who has not already signed the petition to please do so. Brother Mills will be attending a meeting in June in Toronto specific to forming a strategy opposing two-man all-off crews.

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

- a) UA Plumbers Local 170 – Reported by Barb Tetu
- b) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Michael Lanier
- c) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis
- d) ILWU Local 400 – Reported by Terry Engler
- e) Unifor Local 464 – Reported by Jack McDermot

|  |
|--|
| <p><i>MSC to allow guest Easter Tocal to speak and report for Health Sciences Association.</i></p> |
|--|

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

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

- a) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan  
The last meeting had a great turnout with lots of good dialogue and planning. In the fall, the committee will be holding a *Public Speaking for Women* course and *Women's Labour History Event*, dates have not been set. The committee has been supporting Women Transforming Cities, on June 4 there will be another café, on empowering mothers to balance kids and community involvement. The WTC cafés are always a great dialogue, free admission, and childcare onsite.

*MSC to adopt the reports of committees.*

#### **OTHER REPORTS:**

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman  
The Advocate magazine has been distributed to the tables. At the centre of the magazine, FORUM's health and dental benefits are well laid out for retirees and their families. FORUM's AGM will be Wednesday, June 22 at the UFCW Local 1518 office at Columbia St. in New Westminster from 9 am to 1 pm.
- b) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp  
Ron introduced new CLC representative Amandeep Nijjar who will be working with labour councils and on community projects and multicultural outreach. The CLC has also just hired temporary representative Adrienne Smith who will also be doing special projects, like the CPP campaign.

The CPP campaign is supported by the Atlantic provinces and Alberta, Manitoba may be lost, and Saskatchewan was never on-side. The only hold out, at this point, is BC. There will be a meeting of the finance ministers at the end of June, it is hoped that some sort of deal will be worked out then. CLC's Hassan Yussuff met with Premier Christy Clark in Ottawa and it was apparently a very good meeting. The federal Liberals are in support of CPP improvements. While it's unlikely that labour will get the full doubling of the CPP that is being asked for, an enhancement is likely.

CPP ads will start June 24 on television outlining what happens to people when they retire without adequate pensions. There will also be bus ads, newspaper ads, and radio.

Provincial elections are coming and planning is underway. MLA lobbies are being planned, Amandeep is coordinating that effort. There are 3 in VDLC jurisdiction: North Vancouver Lonsdale, Vancouver Fraserview, and Vancouver False Creek. If you live in one of these jurisdictions and are interested in participating contact Amandeep at the CLC office.

They will be canvassing on the \$15 minimum wage in 5 BC regions. Canvassing for the VDLC area will be in Vancouver Fraserview, June 9.

The Liberal government has just introduced legislation to ban asbestos in Canada.

*MSC to receive the other reports.*

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL**

**12. NOMINATION TO VDLC EXECUTIVE:**

There are 5 openings for Executive Member-at-Large. Nominations presided over by CLC Representative Ron Stipp.

| <b>Nominee Name</b> | <b>Union Local</b>                         |
|---------------------|--|
| Karen McVeigh       | HEU Dogwood Lodge Local - <i>acclaimed</i> |

Karen McVeigh was sworn in as a Member-at-Large of the VDLC Executive.

**13. NEW BUSINESS: NIL**

Table Talk: Delegates asked to take 10 minutes to talk at their table about the \$15 Minimum Wage. Joey Hartman provided information on the points. This is good practice for canvassing June 9 and to arm delegates and guests with the information needed when faced with naysayers.

**14. NOTICE OF MOTION:**

The following motion will be brought forward at the June 21 meeting.

Subject: VDLC Office Relocation Costs

BECAUSE the VDLC Executive has approved the relocation of the VDLC from its current address at 020 – 1880 Triumph St. to the new address 170 – 111 Victoria Drive, also located within the Maritime Labour Centre, to be effective July or August 2016; and

BECAUSE Article 9, Section 5 of the VDLC Constitution and By-Laws states that no individual expenditure in excess of \$500.00 may be authorized except with two weeks' prior notice,

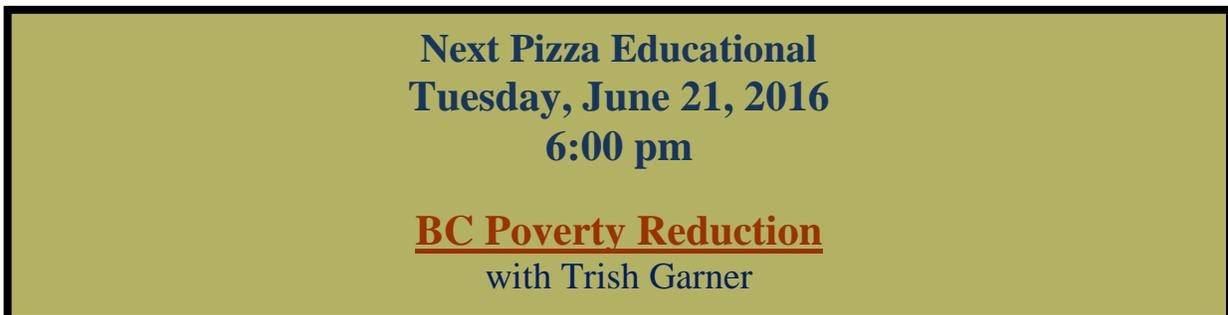
THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL authorize an extraordinary expenditure of up to \$10,000.00 to cover the cost of moving, purchase of necessary furnishings, new letterhead, overtime, and other costs associated with the move, to be funded from VDLC savings.

**15. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- 50/50 Draw to go to the Red Cross to be used to assist families affected by the wild fires in Fort McMurray, Alberta
- Student rally for better funding of education, Saturday, May 28 at 1 pm at the Vancouver Art Gallery
- Rally Saturday, June 4 at 2 pm against Saudi arms deal
- 24<sup>th</sup> Annual People's Voice banquet in support of the People's Voice newspaper, June 10, 6pm. Tickets are \$20
- CoDev Canada annual fundraising dinner at the Maritime Labour Centre, June 4, Marion Pollack had tickets available
- Film – *She's Beautiful When She's Angry* – on Netflix now, documenting the often buried history of some the incredible women that started the women's movement.

**16. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *MSC to adjourn at 9:10 pm.*

**17. NEXT MEETING:** [TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2016](#), 7:30 pm,  
Maritime Labour Centre.



For copies of posters for these events, please visit website – [www.vdvc.ca](http://www.vdvc.ca)

**[For lists of happenings please see our website events page.](#)**