



VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018

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

The VDLC acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Watuth, and other First Nations people.

2. CHAIRPERSON: Terry Engler, 1st Vice President

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

MSC that the minutes of the April 24, 2018 meeting be adopted.

4. CREDENTIALS:

The following credentials were received since the last VDLC meeting:

(* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

BCGEU Local 803

Rick Consalvi

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. GUEST SPEAKERS:

a) Megan Davies, Principal, Queen Alexandra Elementary School

Stephen von Sychowski announced that the VDLC raised \$7530.00 with affiliates and received a \$1500.00 private donation from the Shelton family, for a total of \$9,030.00 raised to support the Wishing Tree free store. Megan thanked the VDLC for the continued support for their school, in particular the funding of the Wishing Tree free store. For those that aren't familiar with the program, the Wishing Tree is basically an in-house foodbank, providing not only groceries and toiletries, but clothing, household items, gift cards, if families need something in particular, and transit passes. The Wishing Tree supports some of the school and surrounding community's most vulnerable families; the generosity of the VDLC and its' affiliates provides security, reassurance, safety, and hope to their families whom are struggling.

In the last 5 months, the Wishing Tree has provided: \$950 (38 x \$25) in gift cards, 15 monthly transit passes for kids, and approximately \$1200 in groceries (approximately 150 bags).

The VDLC's generosity throughout the year has an enormous impact on their community. Thank you.

b) Caitlin Davidson King, BC Fed Young Workers' Committee, re: Grant's Law Plaque

The committee has been working, primarily, on Grant's Law, in honour of Grant De Patie a young worker killed on the job in 2005, while working alone trying to stop a gas and dash. We know that working alone greatly increases chance of violence or injury, and workers,

especially young workers, are not receiving health and safety training. Since Grant's tragic death, the De Patie family and the BC Federation of Labour have been working to improve worker safety. Their work resulted in Grant's Law, which ensured that there would be at least 2 persons on shift at all times, or a barrier would be put in place to protect workers. However, in 2012, large companies, specifically Mac's Convenience Stores, lobbied to water down the law and were successful. A third option was offered, basically allowing employers to opt out of protecting their workers by locking their money in a safe at night, or having a panic button on site; this third option does not protect workers from violence, it protects the employer's property and their money. Since 2012, when the law was watered down, the BC Fed Young Workers' Committee has held annual sit-ins at Macs Convenience store. The committee gets signatures and talks to passers-by; many people remember Grant De Patie and were greatly affected by his tragedy. The Young Workers' Committee has been lobbying government since 2015 to reinstate Grant's Law; lobbying the BC Liberal Government has been unsuccessful. On Wednesday, May 16, the committee is lobbying the BC NDP government Labour Minister Harry Bains and the committee is hopeful.

The committee, along with the BC Labour Heritage Centre, is now working on fundraising for a plaque to commemorate Grant De Patie's death. The goal is \$7,000 for the plaque, unveiling ceremony, and event. Pamphlets were made available to delegates and guests; delegates were encouraged to bring back the information to their locals.

Proceeds of the VDLC 50/50 Draw are going to Grant's Plaque.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on VDLC activities since the April 2018 meeting.

Political Action

The Vancouver Crossroads Conference on May 5 was a big success. The Croatian Cultural Centre was full, with the event being very nearly sold-out. Feedback was very positive from the attendees, including verbal feedback received by the organizers, the feedback forms, as well as the comments from party representatives who attended and then met with us the following day. Our assessment that there is immense common ground amongst progressives was confirmed and reinforced, and our message of cooperation was clearly echoed by the participants.

The May 4 panel portion of the conference was cancelled in response to concerns raised by various groups within the community that took positions both against and in favour of Yuly Chan's inclusion on the panel. Without the ability to enter into a fair and rigorous process with all parties concerned in the remaining days before the conference, the organizers cancelled the Friday event. This decision does not endorse or support any of the positions or allegations that were made about the intended panelist, but rather recognizes that the controversy could not be resolved before May 4. The concerns raised still need to be addressed and we are currently working through that.

On May 6, Joey Hartman and Stephen met with representatives of COPE, the Green Party of Vancouver, the Jean Team, OneCity, and Vision Vancouver to begin our formal mediated process aimed at achieving accommodation agreements with parties to address vote splitting and help ensure the election of a progressive government in October. There was good, frank, but respectful dialogue between all involved. All parties had an opportunity to introduce themselves and their priorities and hopes for this election and to ask clarifying questions of one another where necessary. We discussed the Vancouver Crossroads Conference and reviewed the VDLC's position regarding the need for accommodation amongst the parties, the importance of getting to

the correct number of candidates for the number of seats, and the process we aim to use to achieve that. We also reinforced the benefits of participation in this process - labour support including poll cards, the potential support of at least 50,000 union households, member outreach by VDLC organizers, and so forth. We met again on May 12.

At the end of the day, the process is ongoing and all parties continue to be at the table and continue to express their interest in seeing the process through. We anticipate the conclusion of this process shortly and then looking at the question of mayoral candidates, as well as vetting for the other municipalities in our district.

VDLC Labour Education

Our next course offerings are:

Privacy Rights

- May 16
- Advanced
- Instructor: Jamie Baugh

Pension Law

- May 17
- Advanced – for administrators, trustees, and negotiators
- Instructors: Susan Philpott & Simon Archer

Day of Mourning

Despite heavy rain the Vancouver Day of Mourning event was a big success and we have received substantial positive feedback regarding our role in it. The event featured speakers from WCB, business, and labour (Irene Lanziger) and was emceed by Stephen. There were also two very moving speakers who were personally affected by workplace injuries and deaths. Recommend to continue participation in this event next year.

Labour Day

Held our first meeting with the various affiliates who are sponsors of Labour Day at the PNE and Karen Massicotte, Director of Partnerships at the PNE. We have lots of work to do, and lots of decisions to make, but excitement is growing about the event. The labour council has issued the expression of interest for a Labour Day organizer, which has now closed. Stephen is in the process of selecting the successful candidate.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

Stephen participated in his first meeting of the MVA Coordinating Committee on April 30 and also attended an MVA Leaders Meeting with Carole James on May 2, which was a very successful and positive event.

May Day

May Day was by all accounts a success. There were two events – one at 2 pm downtown and one at 5 pm at City Centre Safeway.

The downtown event had a respectable turnout, slightly larger than last year despite the earlier time of day. We anticipate being able to greatly increase that number now that we have the first run of this new event format under our belts and will likely hold the event later in the day next year. The event featured a variety of speakers on various issues facing working people. The

march from Jack Poole Plaza stopped at a number of locations for speakers and ended at the Bentall Centre where we managed, after some difficulty, to deliver a letter to the Business Development Bank in opposition to privatization.

The Save Our Safeway rally was also well attended. Speeches were given by Stephen , Kim Novak, and Stefan Nielsen.

Adopt-an-Organizer Program

The tour to the Philippines organized by the Adopt-an-Organizer program will be going ahead. We had a meeting of affiliates who are involved in the program recently. Monica Urritia will speak regarding this at our June Pizza Educational.

7. CORRESPONDENCE: *Circulated at meeting.*

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:

- Filipino Workers Network launch event May 12 – Donation of \$100.00
- Cumberland Miners' Memorial Museum – Donation of \$100.00
- Burundian Community Association, 2nd Annual Cultural and Heritage Day Event – Donation of \$100.00

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

Subject: Vote PR BC

BECAUSE the Provincial government will be holding a referendum this year on changing from our current first-past-the-post to a proportional representation voting system; and

BECAUSE proportional representation is demonstrated to be a more democratic form of electoral system, used in numerous countries globally, resulting in increased collaboration between parties, more responsive government, and higher voter turnout; and

BECAUSE the Vote PR BC campaign aims to promote the adoption of proportional representation in the upcoming referendum; and

BECAUSE the VDLC has been on record as supporting proportional representation since 2003,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL sign on as a supporting organization of the Vote PR BC campaign; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY promote and support the campaign in the lead up to the referendum.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

The following report was missed in the March minutes:

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

HEU and other public sector unions are either readying for, or are starting public sector bargaining. The multi-union Community Health Bargaining Association started meeting today after HEU Community members elected its delegates last week.

At month's end, the Vancouver Coast Health Region of HEU will be meeting for 2 days in Vancouver, for its regional meeting.

In the first week of June, there will be a one day Truth and Reconciliation Workshop in Richmond.

b) UA Plumbers Local 170 – Reported by Russ St. Eloi

An update on the proposed trusteeship of Local 170 by the International. On April 30, May 1, and 2, the Local was at the Labour Relations Board defending their right to not be put in trusteeship. The 3 days were spent putting forward Local 170's side of the facts on record at the Board and when it came time for the International to present their case, their first witness became ill and was not well enough to testify so the hearing was adjourned until May 14 to 18, when the International will submit their allegations into record. However, prior to Monday, May 14, Local 170, through their lawyers, applied to the Labour Relations Board under Section 17 and the Attorney General's office for settlement request; the International agreed, but on Monday, May 14 nothing transpired. There has been dates set aside in June to continue the hearings.

The definition of trusteeship is:

Under Section 92 of the UA Constitution, when the General President imposes a trusteeship on a local union, the local union's autonomy is complete suspended. The trustee has the full authority and discretion to remove any and all elected officers of the union including, but not limited to, elected Business Agents. Thus an elected Business Agent's term of office is subject to the discretion of a trustee appointed by the president to remove him from office. The local union's autonomy is completely suspended and the trustee has full authority to conduct the local union's affairs without regard to any provisions of the local union's bylaws. The trustee has the authority to terminate officers, suspend bylaws, suspend membership meetings, and to conduct local union business without vote or participation of the local union membership. A trustee's power includes the power to revise the bylaws or collective agreements without a vote of the membership.

c) PSAC UVAC Local 20045 – Reported by Shane Pollack

PSAC 18th Triennial Convention was held in Toronto from April 29 to May 4; delegates elected a new National President, Chris Aylward (formerly National Executive Vice President) to replace retiring president Robyn Benson, the new National Executive Vice President is Magali Picard from Québec.

A tentative agreement has been reached and is being voted on by Border Services Personnel. The union feels this is a victory for Border Services as the new agreement will finally recognize Border Services Agents as law enforcement. The wage settlement package agrees to an overall pensionable increase of over 17.5% over four years.

Treasury Board groups are about to begin a new round of bargaining. They just finished their last round in 2017 for the agreements that had lapsed three years ago. From May 29 to July 12, the four separate PSAC bargaining teams will be meeting with Treasury Board to exchange proposals and then as a group meet on common issues affecting all employees. Their contract expires in June 2018.

It has been over a year since collective agreements were signed for the Treasury Board bargaining units. The signed agreements have a provision to have all the back pay from those agreements paid by November 2017.

The federal government claims it cannot provide an accurate update on the implementation of the Program Administrative Services (PA) bargaining unit collective agreement until June 2019. This is the latest hurdle in PSAC's ongoing complaint against the government for failing to meet the deadline for collective agreements.

Earlier this year, the Federal Public Service Labour Relations and Employment Board declared the federal government had violated its obligations under the law by failing to meet the deadline. The Board also ordered the government to provide an update on implementation. Correspondence from the government to Board revealed that at least 1,400 members of the PA group have yet to receive any retro pay.

Further, the federal government entered into a \$500 million contract with IBM to try and stabilize the pay system, despite a promise from Minister Ralph Goodale that the government would not contract out pay roll processing.

PSAC understands there is an ongoing need to work with IBM, the company that developed Phoenix, but this should not include IBM employees taking over any work already being done by public service workers. The contract workers hired by IBM have already completed their first month on the job; PAC is demanding this work be brought in-house as soon as possible.

d) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Sheryl Burns

Local 1936 enters into early contract discussions tomorrow as a member of the provincial Community Social Services Bargaining Association. They are cautiously optimistic and understand that while there is currently no official Public Sector Employers' Council mandate there will be some money on the table, that said, the union also understands that they need to manage expectations as the NDP are tasked with repairing significant damage left by the Liberal government.

Local 1936 recently organized a small group of employees at the Sexual Assault Support Centre at UBC and will begin negotiations for a first collective agreement soon.

e) CUPW Vancouver Local 846 – Reported by Nick Aubichon

CUPW is still engaged in collective bargaining with Canada Post. They hope to give a more detailed update at the June meeting.

Canada Post has new directors: one new board member is no stranger to the VDLC, retired BC Federation of Labour President Jim Sinclair.

Canada Post recently released their annual report. The corporation made \$74 million before taxes in profit and the Canada Post pension plan has a surplus. CUPW believes that, because Canada Post Corporation had such a profitable year, Canada Post should invest in new services, such as postal banking; and recognize that it is the workers at Canada Post that delivered those profits and bargain respectfully and in good faith with CUPW for a new, fair collective agreement.

- f) FPSE Kwantlen Faculty Association Local 5 – Reported by Rob Schaff
Last week management unilaterally decided to overenroll their courses; that is, to increase the number of students to more than the maximum allowed by the collective agreement. The local has responded by filing a Class 2 Grievance and meetings with management have been scheduled. Brother Schaff will report back at the June meeting.

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

- a) BCGEU Local 503 – Reported by Keith Stone
b) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: NIL

- a) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Bal Sandhu
As of approximately 8:45 am on Friday, May 11, BCGEU members at Hard Rock Casino in Coquitlam have been on strike, approximately 430 workers are affected. The members of BCGEU are trying to negotiate their first collective agreement, however, the employer is trying to impose an agreement on them. They can be followed on Twitter: @bcgeu #hardrockstrike
- b) Young Workers' – Reported by Stephen von Sychowski
The Young Workers' Committee is trying to relaunch, their first meeting will be May 29 at 6 pm. All young workers are welcome. Delegates and guests were asked to help spread the word.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman
BC FORUM, due to the nature of its membership demographic, is constantly battling attrition and therefore is always looking for new members. At their board meeting, held earlier in the day, it was announced that once again, BC FORUM has over 2000 members. Their AGM is June 27. Deadline for submissions for the summer edition of *the Advocate* is June 29.

MSC to receive the other reports.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The VDLC has a history of supporting the maintenance and protection of benefit plans. A recent article on the Sears employee pensions stated that Sears' defined benefit plan is looking at a \$278 million shortfall and workers have come to the conclusion that they will be receiving between 0 and 10% of what they were supposed to get. While this alone is outrageous, what is more infuriating is that in the past few years, \$3 billion in dividends has gone to Sears executives; 12 times the amount needed to provide pension to workers has gone to a few hundred executives. It is shameful.

One of the resolutions being put forward for the BC FORUM AGM is to push for legislation for bankruptcy protection for workers, so that when a corporation goes bankrupt CEOs and executives don't get priority and workers benefits are protected. Delegates were encouraged to propose such resolutions to their locals.

12. NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD (4 positions for member-at-large): NIL

13. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 Proceeds to benefit the BC Fed Young Workers' Committee fundraising for Grant De Patie plaque
- Workers at the Guildford Sheraton are on strike, Unifor Local 3000 – although no longer members of the CLC, they are still workers – *An injury to one, is an injury to all.*
- Amnesty International Regional General Meeting, May 26 at Downtown Harbour Centre, open to members and supporters – HEU Sister Lisa Kreut will be speaking
- *People's Voice* banquet, June 2 at the Russian Hall, tickets \$20
- At the May meeting, the VDLC passed a resolution on the situation in Palestine – today the situation worsened, 62 people were killed and over 2,700 injured, mostly by gunfire by Israeli troops while Palestinians marked Nakba Day

16. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:13 pm.*

17. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2018**, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

Pizza Educational
Tuesday, June 19, 2018
6:00 pm

Adopt-an-Organizer Solidarity Tour to the Philippines
with Monica Urritia

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

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