



VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



July 3, 2013

To: *All Affiliates*

Subject: *VDLC Member-at-Large Executive By-election July 16, 2013*

Please be advised that the VDLC executive has a vacant position for Member-at-Large. Nominations to fill this vacancy were opened at the June regular meeting and will re-open and the election will be conducted at the July 16 meeting, starting at 7:30 pm at the Maritime Labour Centre.

Any delegates interested in running for this position can call the VDLC office to determine if they are eligible. Candidates should also be aware that VDLC executive meetings are held between noon and approximately 3:00 pm on the same day as the evening meetings (usually the third Tuesday of each month). Most executive members are supported by their union local for book off and wage replacement to attend.

The VDLC Constitution Article 6 sets out the rules for elections:

Section 2

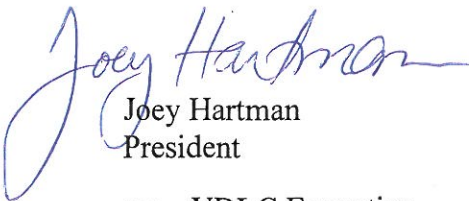
- To be eligible, candidates must have been a VDLC delegate for 1 year and attended 6 of the 11 regular meetings in the last 12 months. (*Attendance at the July meeting counts towards the requirement*).

Section 5

- A majority (50% + 1) must be achieved, and the candidate with the most votes above 50% will be declared elected.
- If no candidate obtains a majority, voting will repeat until a majority is achieved.
- To break a tie, the presiding officer may cast the deciding vote or hold a run-off vote.

In addition, it is VDLC practice to allow each candidate to speak for 3 minutes before the ballots are cast, if they wish. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this by-election.

In solidarity,


Joey Hartman
President

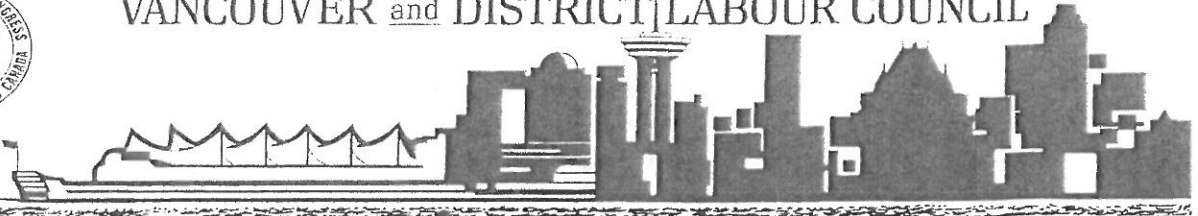
cc: VDLC Executive

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VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2013

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

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

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the May 21, 2013 meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

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

BC FORUM

Sandra Bauer *

De Whalen *

CAW Local 2002

Simon Lau

CUPW

Caroline Boback

CEP Local 465

Colette Barker

Raj Mallhi

Ann Anstee (A)

Aaron Wilson (A)

Teamsters Local 31

Dave Lundy *

TSSU

Donna Hohertz

Beth Maschmann

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. **GUEST SPEAKER(S):**

- a) Tom Bisson, Member of CUPE Local 389 – locked-out by North Shore Winter Club
CUPE Local 389 members have been locked-out since May 3, 2013. The situation they find themselves in started last year when North Shore Winter Club hired a new manager. This manager has been successful at breaking unions in the past; he was successful in the decertification of Terminal City where he was general manager. Bargaining was difficult from the start. The union received a list of demands from management, mostly

concessions: rolled back hours and cut back after cut back. The employer gave a final offer and the union was told to accept it or face lock-out; they obviously did not accept the offer. The North Shore Winter Club has been using scab labour (since ordered to stop) to try to continue running the facility. However, there have been gas leaks and other safety issue. The manager wants full control and as long the union remains in place, that won't happen. Local 389 has been receiving a lot of support. Their only 13 members at the North Shore Winter Club are keeping things going but it has been difficult, so the support is greatly appreciated. A few more people on the weekends would be helpful.

The North Shore Winter Club is located at 1325 E. Keith Road, North Vancouver. Afternoons, Saturdays and Sundays, 12:00 to 4:00 pm would be the most effective times to be there.

CUPE Local 389 Vice-President Kathy McMahon, thanked the VDLC for all the support provided thus far and commended Brother Bisson, who is also the CUPE rep at North Shore Winter Club, for the strength and resolve he's shown and his dedication to the members locked-out.

c) Anita Dawson and Dorothy Tompkins, Teamsters Local 213 – representing members locked out by IKEA Richmond

Teamsters Local 213 members have been locked-out at IKEA Richmond since May 13, 2013. Anita is the Business Representative for Local 213 and Chief spokesperson for the bargaining committee. Dorothy is a shop steward at IKEA Richmond. The Teamsters members at IKEA Richmond are a diverse group of 300 to 350 men and women; some who have been there a long time and built careers there as well as a lot of new members. The members are also diversely skilled; they are interior designers, kitchen planners, machine operators, supervisors, as well as a large number of part-time employees including students, semi-retirees, and those that need a second job – all of them are members of Teamsters Local 213. IKEA wants sweeping concessions. The union has rejected the company's offer 3 times; they rejected the final offer by 84% at a vote conducted at the labour board. The main reason they are fighting so hard is that IKEA wants to re-introduce a tiered wage system. They went on strike 5 years ago to eliminate the tiered wage system and were partially successful and certainly don't want to see any of it come back. IKEA's also trying to increase the amount of time needed to work before an employee can get benefits for their families; currently members need to work 20 hours per week which they want to increase to 24 hours averaged over a year. The way their retail operation works, it is very hard to maintain those numbers. Another issue is that IKEA wants to contract out some of the work. There are many other concessions monetary and non-monetary being demanded by the company. IKEA has no intention of coming back to the table without the tiered wage system and benefits on the table. Every time an offer is made to the members by the company each offer is reduced, every time something more is taken away. IKEA made approximately \$1.4 billion in sales in Canada alone last year, up over 7% from the year before – this is a multinational company. They are trying to bully their workers into accepting major concessions and coerce employees to cross the picket lines. These actions erode their ability to collective bargain. Several members have crossed the picket line and were charged and tried under the Teamsters constitution: it's been requested that those members be expelled from the union. Their 24 hour picket lines are surrounded by security goons. The employer brought in replacement

workers and the labour board told IKEA to cease the practice; an ILO continues to investigate and monitor that situation. The union is standing strong – they will not accept this. These are good jobs and the union will fight to keep them. They ask for help spreading the word not to shop at either IKEA Richmond or Coquitlam until this is settled.

VDLC is holding a support picket Friday, June 20, 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

c) Patti Bacchus, Vancouver School Board Chairperson

School Board Trustee Patti Bacchus brought greetings from Vision Vancouver. They are just past the halfway point of their term in municipal office and appreciate all the support they've received from labour. They've been working hard to develop and maintain strong, healthy, respectful working relationships. The support they've had has allowed them to work towards the promises they made in the election. Their work would not be possible without the support they receive. They thank the labour council for its support and appreciate it not only during election time but throughout their term.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the March 19, 2013 meeting.

Fire at the Maritime Labour Centre

The VDLC office re-opened on June 12 after a fire April 18 closed the Maritime Labour Centre. Joey and Keziah both worked from home for the duration.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

The MVA's assembly on May 27 was very successful with 140 participants from 40 organizations representing labour, faith, and community.

Protein for People

The VDLC is planning another community forum with the support of Protein for People over the next few months. Details are in the planning stage.

United Way of the Lower Mainland

The VDLC executive has decided to nominate Seth Klein from the CCPA to receive the Syd Thompson Community Service Award. This award will be included in the United Way Labour Appreciation Dinner on December 5.

Bloody Sunday 75th Anniversary

On June 19, the VDLC and BC Federation of Labour will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end to the 1938 month-long occupation of the Vancouver Post Office (now Sinclair Centre) by over 1,000 unemployed men.

Executive By-Election

Kassandra Cordero has resigned her position on the VDLC executive. The by-election to replace her will be conducted at the July meeting – nominations will be open this meeting. Interested delegates should contact Sister Hartman to determine their eligibility.

Full Day Executive Meeting

On June 11, the majority of VDLC executive members met for a full day for strategic planning. It was a very useful day and should probably be an annual event.

Other Activities

Sister Hartman highlighted some events where she represented the VDLC since the last meeting:

- June 8 CUPE 389 Rally at the North Shore Winter Club
- June 13 Queen Alexandra School production “Open Your Eyes” about human rights violations that impact children around the world and at home – ranging from child soldiers to sweatshop workers to homophobia and poverty in Vancouver
- June 14–16 Instructor for Advanced Labour History at the BC Fed Camp Jubilee
- June 17 Ironworkers Memorial Bridge collapse - 55th anniversary ceremony to mark the deaths of 19 workers when the bridge gave way.

Speakers noted other workplace deaths and murders – 1,127 garment factory workers in Bangladesh who were killed when the 8 story building – constructed without permit – collapsed after large cracks were noticed but the bosses refused to evacuate. This tragedy has resulted in many international companies (e.g. Benetton, H&M, Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger, Marks & Spencer) finally signing onto the Accord on Fire and Building Safety that will require independent inspections, pay for workers to continue if a factory is closed for repairs, and commit to up to \$500,000 per year each into a fund for repairs. Notably – WalMart, Target, GAP, Sears and some others have refused to sign onto the code.

Closer to home, 3 BC workers lost their lives on the job since last Friday, including an 18 year old high school student who was working alone as late night cleaner in a mill, and was dragged into a running conveyor system. These deaths were completely preventable.

MSC to adopt the report.

7. CORRESPONDENCE: see attached

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Donations and Spending Approvals from May

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL retroactively approve the following expenditure decisions made by the VDLC Executive in May 2013 when there was no regular meeting:

- Miners Memorial event in Cumberland - donation of \$100.00
- CCPA membership renewal for 2013-14 at a cost of \$500.00

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

Subject: Donations and Spending Approvals

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

- Purchase one ticket for Paul Sihota or another member of the VDLC Executive to attend the Vision Vancouver Spring Fling on Thursday, June 27 at a cost of \$150.00.
- Maquila Solidarity Network membership renewal for 2013-14 at a cost of \$100.00.

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

Subject: Solidarity With Striking Trade Unionists and Protestors in Turkey

BECAUSE the brutal crackdown on protests by Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan in recent weeks have shocked the world; and

BECAUSE at least five people have already been killed and 7,500 injured as police have repeatedly attacked demonstrators with tear gas and severe beatings; and

BECAUSE Turkish national trade union centrals DISK and KESK launched a national strike on June 17, 2013 to support demands for the right to protest; and

BECAUSE organizations representing engineers, doctors, and dentists have announced their intention to join the strike in response to the arrest of medical personnel who have been treating demonstrators and 60 lawyers who have served as advocates for the protestors; and

BECAUSE the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), represented by General Secretary Sharan Burrow, has called for international solidarity from trade unionists around the globe,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL join the international campaign calling upon Turkish Prime Minister Erdogan to:

- free all those arrested;
- drop all charges against them;
- hold accountable those responsible for the police violence; and
- lift all bans on meetings and demonstrations

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

a) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis

Vancouver Public Library Central Branch is undergoing reorganization. They've removed the reference/info desks on levels 3 through 6. It is difficult now for patrons to find reference staff (ie. Librarians). It feels like a cut back.

The following verbal reports were presented but not submitted for the minutes:

- a) BCGEU Local 503 – Reported by Keith Stone
- b) CUPE Local 389 – Reported by Joyce Griffiths
- c) TSSU – Reported by Donna Hohertz

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

a) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

As delegates and guests heard from the guest speakers, we have brothers and sisters locked-out of their places of employment for standing up against attacks on their collective agreements. These lock-outs to impose contracts are a poison to the labour movement. The VDLC has organized Friday, June 21 solidarity picket with the members of Teamsters Local 213 at the Richmond IKEA from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. The committee will be planning a solidarity picket for the North Shore Winter Club as well. Anyone wishing to lend a hand at the North Shore Winter Club, the ideal times are Saturday and Sunday from 12:00 to 4:00 pm. The committee's next meeting will be Tuesday, June 25 at 6:00 pm – anyone wanting to get involved should come down to the VDLC office. The committee has expanded its mandate from just strike solidarity to community and political action as well.

b) Education – Reported by Joey Hartman

The 2013 Spring Labour Education program will be conducting “*How to Run a Union Election*” with Mike Dumler on Saturday, June 22. There are still seats available for that course as well as for the “*Collective Bargaining*” with Chris Foy on Saturday, July 13. Both courses will be held at the Maritime Labour Centre. Registration is \$50 and includes lunch.

August 4, Vancouver Pride – as always, there will be a union pride float. Anyone interested in coming down to lend their support or to be a part of that parade is more than welcome. Arrive early as street closures, crowds etc. can make getting a place to sit/stand difficult.

c) Young Workers' – Reported by Erin Searle

The VDLC Young Workers along with the BC Fed Young Workers worked a different riding each Monday leading up to the election. A number of committee members attended the young workers' retreat at Camp Jubilee. It was a great weekend and the committee may have drummed up some new members. They will be holding their craft and bake sale before the July meeting to raise funds for their delegation to the World Festival of Youth and Students in Ecuador; the next planning a meeting will be at the BC Fed office June 19. Raffle tickets are on sale for 5 young workers to do safe, legal work at your discretion for 1 day (Greater Vancouver area): tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$20. Monday, July 15 a labour history walking tour will be held with the Young Workers Committee.

d) Women's – Reported by Agnes Jackman

The next meeting is July 11 at Ingrid Kolsteren's home at 6 pm. Any women interested in attending please contact the VDLC office for the address and to RSVP.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

11. OTHER REPORTS:

a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

See attached.

b) BC FORUM – Reported by Sandy Bauer
See attached.

c) EI Board of Review – Reported by Russ St. Eloi
The EI Board of Review has wrapped up after being disbanded by the Harper government. There is no longer a place for workers to appeal EI. They are now just cleaning up appeals that were allowed and hadn't been finished.

MSC to receive the other reports.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

13. NOMINATIONS FOR BY-ELECTION:

Terry Engler opened the nominations for 1 position for VDLC Executive member-at-large to replace Sister Kassandra Cordero.

<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Union</i>
<i>Mike Clarke</i>	<i>BCGEU Local 303</i>

Nominations were closed. 2nd call for nominations will be held at the July 16, 2013 meeting followed by election.

14. NEW BUSINESS:

MSC that the Vancouver and District Labour Council write to the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health Authorities to condemn their decision to charge fees for wheelchair use in long term care facilities.

15. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

16. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Delegates were asked to discuss amongst their tables where they are active outside the labour movement and how their activism in other organizations, be it sports, faith, community, school, etc could intersect with labour.
- 50/50 proceeds of \$35.00 to benefit the Young Workers' Committee fundraising to attend the World Festival of Youth and Students in Ecuador, December 2013.

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

18. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JULY 16, 7:30 pm** at the Maritime Labour Centre

Pizza Educational
JULY 16, 2013 - 6:00 pm

Marc Lee – Good Jobs & Environmental Sustainability

Marc Lee is an economist with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Pizza available by donation

Correspondence List JUNE 2013 VDLC meeting

All correspondence is available with Joey Hartman for review at the meeting.

FROM	REGARDING	ACTION (if any)
1. BC Building Trades	Invitation to sponsor or participate in the 15 th Annual Charity Golf Tournament July 17 th	
2. BC Civil Liberties Association	Donation request	
3. BC Coalition of People with DisAbilities	Transition magazine	
4. BC Fed – Jim Sinclair	Letter to Royal Bank CEO Gordon Nixon following meeting re: their use of Temporary Foreign Workers	
5. BC Health Coalition – Rachel Tutte and Rick Turner	Thank you to VDLC for renewing membership for 2013	
6. BCTF – Susan Lambert	Providing copies of the BCTF booklet on education titled The numbers tell the story	
7. Camp Jubilee	Thanks to VDLC for \$100 donation to Send a Kid campaign	
8. CCPA – Seth Klein	Thank you to VDLC for membership renewal and enclosing reflections on the BC provincial election	
9. CCPA Monitor	May 2013	
10. CLC & BC Fed	Invitation to a briefing on the member to member campaign 'Together Fairness Works'	Joey Hartman attended June 17 th
11. CoDevelopment Canada	Partners in Solidarity May 2013	
12. COSCO	Minutes of May 10, 2013	
13. COSCO	Leadership Training Workshop June 24 & 25	
14. Council of Canadians	Thank you to VDLC for membership renewal and \$100 donation	
15. CUPE 1004	Notice that the local is under administration	
16. CUPE 15	Members Voice April 2013	
17. CUPE BC	Public Employee Summer 2013 (includes Barry O'Neill tribute)	
18. Edmonton Labour Reporter	May 2013	
19. Labour Heritage Centre – Jack Munro	Appointing Sister Hartman to the executive board of the Labour Heritage Centre	
20. Libby Davies, MP	Invitation to meet Chris Charlton, MP and NDP critic for Human Resources and Skills Development – June 24 from 11:30 to 1:30.	Joey Hartman to attend
21. Maquila Solidarity Network	Membership renewal for 2013-14 and notification that MSN will close at the end of 2014	Recommend membership renewal at \$100
22. Miners Memorial	Information about the June 20 – 22 weekend in Cumberland	
23. Miners Memorial Weekend – Brian Charlton	Advising that next year the weekend will be combined with the annual Pacific Northwest Labour History Conference June 12 – 14, 2014 in Cumberland	

24. Native Womens Association of Canada	Requesting donations to support youth participation in UN Forum on Indigenous Issues May 20 - 31	
25. North Okanagan Labour Council	Minutes of May 8, 2013	
26. Peoples Voice	May 16 – 31 issue	
27. Shane Simpson, MLA	Response to VDLC letter about the Jane Tyler Legacy Fund, poverty reduction strategies and education – detailing NDP policy on these issues if elected	
28. Toronto & York Region Labour Council	Labour Action Spring 2013	
29. VESTA News	May 2013	
30. Vic Toews, MP	Response to VDLC letter objecting to the government contracting with a reality TV show to film raids on undocumented workers	
31. Vision Vancouver	Invitation to purchase tickets for Spring Fling fundraiser June 27 at \$150	Recommend purchase of one ticket at \$150

SENT BY VDLC

1. Delegates – CEP 465 - Teamsters 31 - BC FORUM - CUPW	Welcoming new and re-credentialed delegates	
2. CLC – Ottawa	Bonding Insurance – re-issue of 2012 cheque	
3. Nick Carr UFAWU/CAW Local 1	Advising that Local is paid through 2016	
4. 2 Affiliates	Advising locals in arrears	
5. North Shore Winter Club	Urging them to return to the bargaining table and show respect to their employees	
6. CUPE 389 – Cindy McQueen	Solidarity with members locked out at North Shore Winter Club	
7. BC Labour Councils	CLC Task Force Submission Draft	
8. Paul Moist – CUPE National President (CLC Task Force)	Submission from BC Labour Councils	
9. All affiliates	Per Capita Statements – Jan to May 2013	

CLC REPORT TO LABOUR COUNCILS JUNE, 2013

BC PROVINCIAL ELECTION

While many of us are disappointed with the outcome of the recent BC provincial election, it is important to recognize the hard work of union activists and labour council members in campaigns across the province. Each day many dedicated their time working on campaigns and supporting progressive candidates, who will bring positive change to BC. Even though we were not successful in electing a new government, the hard work on the ground did pay off in many communities. Congratulations, and thank you for all of the time you spent working on campaigns and a big thanks to those of you who put your name forward as candidates.

Post election many union activists have recommitted to work with the government we have, and continue to stand up for fairness for working people.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION PLANNING

Municipal Elections are being held across BC in November, 2014. While that may seem like a long time away, it's important to start the early planning stages soon. Your CLC representative will be speaking to your labour council in the near future to start the assessment process. With the results of the provincial election, having progressive people at the municipal level has never been more important. We need to start planning early to ensure we are all working together to make sure that good candidates are in place come Fall 2014.

CLC FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN

'Together We Win!' the CLC Fairness campaign, continues to build momentum. CLC representatives in the Pacific Region continue to set up and present to local unions on a member- to- member campaign that allows us to reintroduce ourselves to our membership. For a presentation in your area, please contact your CLC representative.

Many labour councils will hear more about the campaign as we work together in planning Labour Day events across Canada, as in the past we will post regional labour day events on the CLC website.

PRIDE, THE CELEBRATION OF LGBTQ

No one should ever be harmed for who they are, for how they express themselves, or for whom they love. Being yourself is something that should be celebrated. For many Canadians and many of those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and/or queer (LGBTQ), summer means the beginning of a season of Pride celebrations across the country. It is a time to honour the stories of our LGBTQ friends, allies, family members, neighbours, fellow workers, our fathers, mothers, care givers, our elders and ancestors – all those who have worked to create social change, achieve equality for the LGBTQ community, and make our country a better place for everyone.

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) joins in celebrating Pride season in communities from coast to coast. The labour movement has been a long time supporter of the LGBTQ movement and its pursuit of equal rights and social change. The CLC commemorates the courageous individuals and activists who have fought to achieve these rights for LGBTQ Canadians regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity – many of whom were union members who fought for recognition in workplaces, for equal benefits, for human rights and justice on the job and in communities. In particular, the CLC congratulates all those activists that have fought to bring discrimination based on gender identity to light, and who seek to change the laws and legislation in the Canadian Human Rights Act and Criminal Code through Bill C-279.

Most Pride events occur annually and many take place around June to commemorate the Stonewall riots and to mark the massive protests that followed the 1981 Toronto bathhouse raids, both of which were pivotal moments in the modern LGBTQ rights movement. Now these are occasions to celebrate, learn and continue the effort to challenge discrimination, homophobia and transphobia. Each year more Canadian communities hold Pride events, and union members are proud to be a part of this growing celebration.

Our work does not end once Pride season is over – unions will continue to strive for fairness for LGBTQ people all year round, in workplaces and communities.

By celebrating the accomplishments and diversity of the LGBTQ community labour members can be a part of social change in Canada and continue the legacy of strength, love and respect for all. Happy Pride!

SUBMISSIONS TO PARLIMENT

CLC Presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee of Finance Regarding Bill C-60

On behalf of the 3.3 million members of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), I want to thank you for the opportunity to present our views on Bill C-60, an Act to implement certain provisions of the 2013-2014 budget.

The CLC brings together workers from virtually all sectors of the Canadian economy, in all occupations, in all parts of Canada, including those working for Crown corporations.

Crown corporations and their employees play a key role in providing Canadians with the services that the private sector is either unable or unwilling to provide. The 48 Crown corporations falling under federal jurisdiction operate in many key sectors of the Canadian economy, including transportation, energy, agriculture and fisheries, financial services, culture, and government services. As of December 31, 2012, these entities employed over 88,000 workers. Most of them are represented by a union.

A Crown corporation is a distinct legal entity having a name, mandate, powers, and objectives set out by legislation or in articles of incorporation under the Canada Business Corporations Act. They are wholly owned by the state but operate at arm's length from government.

As a result, Crown corporations are set up to operate under “a corporate model”, free of “political” interference on their ongoing activities, including labour relations and the collective bargaining process.

The free collective bargaining process outlined in the Canada Labour Code, the Code governing labour relations for federal Crown corporations, has worked very well for decades. This process allows both the employees and employers to sit down at the bargaining table, look at the needs of both parties

within an organization, develop responses that satisfy both parties, and help build harmonious labour relations while achieving labour peace.

These relationships, developed over time between workers and employers in the federal sector, are good ones and are underscored by the fact that almost all Crown corporations end up in a settlement without a labour dispute between the parties.

Unfortunately, the proposed provisions in Division 17 of Part 3 of Bill C-60, if passed, will achieve the exact opposite: more labour disputes.

By having a third party enforcing a bargaining mandate through its presence at the bargaining table during all stages of negotiations without an in-depth understanding of the ongoing challenges within the organization is problematic. Furthermore, Treasury Board will have a veto on a tentative agreement. This degree of intervention by a third party will jeopardize the free collective bargaining process, allowing a third party to dictate negotiations at all stages.

Moreover, the Bill specifies that Treasury Board is neither the employer nor an employer representative of the Crown corporation, confirming its role as a third party without having any responsibilities over the success or the failure of the process.

For us, the proposed legislation is an attack on the capacity of Crown corporation employer representatives to freely negotiate the terms and conditions of employment with the Crown corporation's employees during a free collective bargaining process.

This section of the Bill gives Cabinet and Treasury Board the ability to impose the terms and conditions of employment on their unionized and non-unionized employees without having to live with the consequences. It does not build a bargaining relationship necessary for a productive business model.

It attacks the core "corporate model" of Crown corporations by allowing more political interference in the ongoing business of arm's length organizations, such as labour relations.

This section of Bill C-60 undermines a long tradition in Canada of labour legislation and policy designed for the promotion of the common well-being through the encouragement of free collective bargaining and the constructive settlement of disputes as written in the Canada Labour Code preamble, and promoted by organizations such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Finally, this section of Bill C-60 provides a narrow ability for workers to successfully negotiate workplace terms and conditions through free collective bargaining.

For all these reasons, I urge you to amend Division 17 of Part 3 of the Budget Implementation Act (Bill C-60) to protect free collective bargaining and stay out of the collective bargaining process between the Crown corporations and their unions and employees.

BC FORUM Report for VDLC June 18, 2013

1. BC FORUM held its AGM on June 12th.

Approximately 100 members attended.

Speakers included Pat Kerwin, President of the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) and Janine Farrell, Seniors Care Researcher of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. Janine described the challenges facing BC seniors noting that access to home support has been cut by 30 percent by the BC Liberals.

Irene Lanzinger, BC Fed Secretary Treasurer of the BC Fed brought greetings from the federation. She criticized right-wing governments, both federally and provincially, for their continuing attacks on unions and ordinary people. And noted that it's never been more important for unions and activists to fight for social justice.

Members debated and adopted six resolutions that:

- Demanded that the Harper government maintaining the Health Council of Canada, and reverse its plans to cut \$60 billion from the federal contribution to public health care.
- Called on the provincial government to create a truly independent Seniors' Advocate with a priority focus on combating elder abuse.
- Called on the provincial government to restore full funding to the Therapeutics Initiative, an independent watchdog that helps ensure prescription drugs are safe and affordable.
- Declared support for defined benefit pension plans that provide retirement income security for workers.
- Supported unions that are working to maintain and expand post-retirement health care benefits.
- Committed BC FORUM to fight privatization and advocate for a universal public postal service.

2. Rosemary Brown Award for Women

Each year, the Rosemary Brown Award for Women honours and recognizes a BC woman or organization that promotes the values and ideals that Rosemary Brown championed during her lifetime. This year, Alice West – long serving Board member and former President of BC FORUM – was the very deserving recipient.

In Solidarity



Sandy Bauer
BC FORUM Delegate

