



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2014**

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 June 17, 2014 meeting be adopted.

4. CREDENTIALS:

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

BCGEU Local 1203

Lena Ngai *

CUPE Local 873

Bronwyn Barter *(Alt)

Al Boulier *

Sophia Georgas

Joshua Henshaw

Bob Parkinson

Aaron Shapiro

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. GUEST SPEAKER:

Paul Croes, PSAC BC PRIDE Coordinator - Multi-Union Pride Coordinator for August 3 Parade

This year's team is truly "multi-union". While they have a number of people involved, they want more. He circulated flyers about events and guidelines for parade. This year's gathering place is at Alberni St, they are F section, number 17 – from 11 am to 12 pm, all the information was on the poster. Affiliates wanting to support the event financially can contact Paul at paul.croes@gmail.com. Everyone was encouraged to go, either as a participant or spectator. Posters were circulated.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the June 17, 2014 meeting.

Political Action – Municipal Elections

The next meeting will be July 23. The committee will also meet on September 10 and 11 to finalize the review and determine which candidates to recommend to the September 16 VDLC meeting.

Labour Law Classes and other VDLC Education

WCB was held on July 5 with 14 participants. The evaluations were very good. Bullying and Harassment will be rescheduled from September 27 and 28 to a weekend in November due to the unavailability of one of the instructors.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

The large assembly in advance of the November civic elections is now set for the evening of October 9 at the Italian Cultural Centre.

Delegation to China

Sister Hartman visited China from June 18 to July 3 as part of the joint VDLC and BC Federation of Labour delegation. The 10 person delegation was hosted by trade union federations in Beijing, Shanghai, and Shandong Province.

The representatives we met with are all very eager to strengthen our relationship and continue learning from each other. Several delegations will be coming to Vancouver next year and are be interested in meeting with the VDLC and other labour organizations. They also want another delegation to visit China in 2 years but that will depend on a number of factors.

A presentation on this trip and about trade unions in China will be the subject of a pizza educational in the fall.

Summer Institute for Union Women

The SIUW was held July 8 to 12 in Victoria. Sister Hartman taught collective bargaining as one of the core courses. SIUW was hosted by the BC Fed this year; over 200 women trade unionists from BC, Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii attended. There was also a small delegation from Wisconsin and some women from a metal workers (automotive) union in Turkey.

MSC to adopt the report

7. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated at the 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:

- December 4th United Way Labour Appreciation Dinner – 5, \$50.00 tickets for a total cost of \$250.00

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

Subject: Support for BC Teachers' Federation

BECAUSE the BCTF collective agreement with the BC Public School Employers' Association expired on June 30, 2013; and

BECAUSE despite two BC Supreme Court decisions confirming that the government of BC acted illegally when they legislatively stripped working and learning conditions from the collective agreement and attempted to provoke a strike; and

BECAUSE negotiations with the government have been very difficult, resulting in both strike and lockout actions with no resolve by the end of the school year; and

BECAUSE BCTF president Jim Iker has called on the government and Employers' Association to agree to an open and unfettered mediation process with no pre-conditions as the best opportunity to reach a fair and reasonable deal; and

BECAUSE municipal mayors and councils around British Columbia are being encouraged to support this call for mediation,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL ask the mayors and councils in its jurisdiction (ie. Vancouver, Richmond, City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, and West Vancouver) to pass motions and take other actions to urge the provincial government to commit to open mediation with the BC Teachers' Federation without unacceptable pre-conditions, in order to reach a negotiated settlement.

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

Subject: Vancouver Pride Parade August 3, 2014

BECAUSE the 2014 Vancouver Pride Parade is scheduled for August 3, 2014; and

BECAUSE the multi-union participation in the Pride Parade is being coordinated through the BC Fed Human Rights Committee; and

BECAUSE the contact people are Paul Croes (paul.croes@gmail.com) and Kari Beppe (kari.beppe.bcgeu@gmail.com),

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL participate in the parade, and will encourage its delegates to volunteer with planning the multi-union pride events and to walk with the multi-union float in the August 3 Vancouver Pride Parade.

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

Subject: Gaza Under Attack

BECAUSE the situation in the Middle East has escalated significantly since July 8, resulting in an estimated 175 Palestinian deaths and over a thousand wounded in Gaza by Israeli air strikes, with innocent civilian adults and children the majority of victims; and

BECAUSE the Stephen Harper government continues to pledge unconditional support of Israel's offensive, thereby encouraging continued escalation; and

BECAUSE there is a rally planned for Saturday, July 19 starting at 2:00 pm at the Vancouver Art Gallery to protest the Israeli assault on Palestinians in Gaza,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL encourage participation in the July 19 rally and will also call upon the Canadian government to take diplomatic steps

in coordination with the United Nations to promote de-escalation, respect for international humanitarian law including the protection of civilians, and the resumption of a ceasefire.

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

- a) HEU Dogwood Lodge Local – Reported by Karen McVeigh
Facilities Bargaining Association ratified their new collective agreement.
- b) BCTF – VESTA – Reported by Sylvia Metzner
Thanks to all the VDLC's affiliates for their on-going support. The BC government is currently getting away with publicly stating that they agree to mediation while actively blocking every attempt with unreasonable pre-conditions.

There are no visible pickets in Vancouver because there are no teachers are working. All aspects of VSB operations: international programs, regular and remedial summer school, and summer distance learning have been cancelled.

If there is no movement over the summer there are plans to raise the profile of negotiations by mid-August. Plans include demonstrations at high profile intersections throughout the city and tentative plans for a joint elementary and secondary teachers' rally on August 28. Expect more concrete plans following their summer representative assembly in mid-August.

- c) CUPW – Reported by Fruma Sloan
Recently, Blacklock's Reporter, an online news site requested access to information about a secret study ordered by Stephen Harper. The Prime Minister's office conducted a secret study into the privatization of Canada Post. This study was commissioned months before Canada Post announced their 5 point plan to cut services and jobs and increase postal rates. Minister Raitt has denied that the government has any intention of privatizing Canada Post, but we know that the government has deliberately lied to the public. Canada Post is the largest retail network in the country with the largest distribution network in the country. By cutting back services and laying-off thousands of workers, Canada Post becomes much more attractive to investors. This manufactured crisis would allow Conservatives to steal from the public purse and give away the post office to their friends.

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

- a) CUPE Local 1004 – Reported by Frank Lee

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

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

- a) Young Workers' – Reported by Erin Searle
Joey Hartman led the committee on a Labour History Walking Tour, they were joined by a few new members, it was very informative. On July 6, committee members joined the Teamsters at the Ikea Richmond picket line and plan more support there.
- b) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
Ikea Richmond and Teamsters wrapped up a round of hearings at the Labour Board around the charge of unfair labour practices and issues around the scabs working behind the picket lines, the union has very strong feelings and the employer refuses to talk about it. Hopefully

once the decision comes down they can move forward. The committee spoke with the union at the picket line about some creative ways to increase pressure so stay tuned for that. Pickets are still up 24/7, so please lend your support whenever you can.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

a) CLC – Provided by Ron Stipp

Municipal campaign has them very busy. Labour councils around the province are going through their endorsement process, New Westminster and District Labour Council has already endorsed many of their candidates (expect approximately 100). Affiliates have been very cooperative in putting together vetting committees province wide. There are nearly 300 progressive candidates currently elected in BC and we hope to increase that in November. Candidate workshops have started, the next in our region is at Hilton Metrotown in September.

A federal election may be as soon as spring of 2015. Affiliates will be contacted about putting together a federal election committee. There could be some interesting seats coming open due to redistribution, retirements, etc.

Labour Day is coming up and will again be co-hosted by the VDLC, NWDLC, BC Fed, and the CLC. This year's events will take place at Swangard Stadium. Trooper will be one of the bands performing and the CPP Campaign will be re-launched.

Harrison Winter School 2015 course lists will be out at the end of July. This year's school was the largest to-date and next year's should be even bigger. New courses have been added. Register early as courses fill quickly.

b) VDLC Financial Report – Reported by Paul Sihota

Treasurer Paul Sihota presented the 6 month financial report. The report showed where the VDLC was in comparison to what was budgeted for the year. The labour council expenditures are on par with income: expenditure breaks down to approximately 75% going to salaries and 25% operating costs, donations, etc. We hope to continue to build a stronger contingency fund.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

President Hartman addressed an inquiry that was raised at the June meeting about the submission of an emergency resolution regarding the federal government's green lighting the next step to their pipeline proposal. The response at that time had been that the labour council already had a position on the pipeline. Sister Hartman reminded the council that in September 2012 the following resolution was passed and forwarded to the BC Fed Convention:

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL oppose the construction of pipelines designed for the transport of raw bitumen until such time as:

- *an independent and comprehensive BC environmental impact review has been completed and made public; and*
- *First Nations communities in BC have withdrawn their objections; and*

- *opportunities for the processing of bitumen in Canada into synthetic crude oil be considered and implemented where viable; and*

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL further demand that, should the pipeline proceed, that all construction be done by skilled and unionized craft workers who will ensure that best construction and provide the highest regard for environmental protection.

12. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Sunday, August 10 there will be a gathering in support of prison justice. Financial cuts are resulting in the loss of prison libraries, education programs, and programming that helps prisoners upon their release. Prisonjustice.ca has more info – the event will take place at Trout Lake near the Claire Culhane memorial bench, near the swimming beach.
- VDLC staff person Keziah McCrystal Rothlin injured her shoulder and will be out of the office for a while, meaning the office will be closed when neither Joey or Keziah can be in. We wish her a speedy recovery and thank everyone for their patience.
- VANDU city wide housing march July 26
- Downtown Eastside Pride Parade, Saturday, July 19 from Crab Park to Oppenheimer
- Everyone invited back to the WISE Hall for a social
- **REMINDER NO AUGUST MEETING**

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

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

**Pizza Educational
TBA
Tuesday, September 16
6:00 pm**