



**REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015**

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 June 16, 2015 meeting be adopted.*

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

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

BCGEU Local 703

Ashley Fehr

Amanda van Baarsen

HEU PHSA

Robbert Heijnen

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

5. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Derrick O’Keefe and Erin Seatter – Ricochet.media

Ricochet is an online media outlet that has been in existence for approximately 1 year. (Sign-up forms were circulated.) Derrick and Erin are volunteer editors of Ricochet; Derrick is an organizer with Unifor’s Freelancers’ Local and Erin is an activist in her union, HSA.

Ricochet grew out of the 2012 Quebec students’ strike. Many saw how English media portrayed the students as entitled young people wanting cheaper tuition. A group of people in progressive media saw the need to translate materials from French to English and publish it in independent media to ensure the full story was getting out. In 2014, they founded ricochet.

Ricochet is bilingual (French/English), however, editorial boards are autonomous so not all material is translated. They provide a news feature every day and lots of opinion editorials.

Lately, production is lower than usual as they are working on building their war chest for the federal election. As of the end of August they will be hiring full time staff to cover the election and key ridings – specifically on issues of labour, environment, and indigenous issues. They will be using their ability to translate from French to English to provide a better perspective on what is happening in Quebec. This election Ontario isn’t necessarily the decider: Quebec and BC could be game changers in getting an NDP government elected to Ottawa. Ricochet will be non-partisan; all parties will be handled equally.

John Lynn, ShopUnion.ca

John is member of Unifor’s Freelancers’ Local and producer of ShopUnion.ca. For years the Directory of Union Products and Services was provided by the Union Label organization. The directory provided valuable information, but ultimately didn’t have a very far reach. The new

website, ShopUnion.ca is available on any digital device. The new directory reaches further by listing everything from goods like car tires, cereals, clothing, etc for all unionists and conscientious shoppers.

In 2012, the service was started from scratch. While the website is still predominantly BC products and services (because they are BC based), they are expanding to Alberta and Ontario will have filters based on location. Unions can advertise on the website which helps maintain the site and it is endorsed by the CLC, BC Fed, Building Trades, and the United Way Labour Participation Department. Delegates were asked to help spread the word and go back to their unions and encourage them to advertise on the website, and list the unionized goods and services provided by their members.

## **6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the June 16, 2015 meeting.

### VDLC Offices at the Maritime Labour Centre

The decision to sell the Maritime Labour Centre has been reversed and the VDLC has been notified that we can stay at the same rent until December 31. Regular evening meetings will continue to be held in the auditorium unless advised otherwise.

### Ballantyne Pier

Sister Hartman was invited to speak at the June 18 commemorative event at New Brighton Park and offered historical context to the "bloodiest day on waterfront history" June 18, 1935.

### Summer Institute for Union Women

The SIUW was held in Portland, Oregon from June 23 to 27, 2015. Sister Hartman facilitated a core class on collective bargaining, which included morning classes, an afternoon workshop with Elaine Bernard, and an evening where she spoke on a panel. It was a very successful school with a US and Canadian instructor in almost every class and almost 50% Canadian participants.

### Living Wage Motion

After 10 years, the efforts to have the City of Vancouver become a living wage employer made a huge step forward on July 8 with city council unanimously supporting a motion on this objective. The unanimity of the vote is very significant and reflects the power of the Metro Vancouver Alliance model of broad based community organizing, combined with the research and longstanding campaign on the Living Wage for Families Campaign. The BC Fed Fight for \$15 campaign is equally important in lifting wages for all low-income earners across the province. The two campaigns are completely complimentary.

### Metro Vancouver Alliance

The MVA has received significant coverage in the media in recent months, including a front page article by Douglas Todd in the Vancouver Sun. This, combined with the success of the living wage campaign, should help to attract new member organizations, including labour unions, locals, and other groups.

### BC Labour Heritage Centre

The AGM was held on July 15 and Sister Hartman elected as Vice-president. Ken Novakowski continues as president and has provided exemplary leadership and innovation.

### VDLC Affiliate Surveys

Completed surveys are starting to be returned. The ratings and comments are generally very positive. One perceived weakness is in the VDLC's leadership development. One option is to offer a program in public speaking, media skills, and effective chairing over a series of evenings in the fall.

### 2015 Queen Alexandra School Fundraiser

Delegates are reminded to ask unions to request ticket purchases (tables of 8) for the annual fundraiser September 29 with Bill Fletcher Jr.

### Federal Election

The October 19 election is critical to win and the Federal NDP is currently showing a good chance of becoming government for the first time. Success depends on mass participation in the campaign: phone banks, door-to-door canvassers, administrative work etc. VDLC delegates are asked to participate in a CLC Labour Leaders Canvass on Saturday, September 12 in Surrey.

*MSC to adopt the report*

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE:**      Circulated

## **8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

Subject: New Affiliate

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council has received an application for affiliation from BCGEU Local 703, affiliating 75 members,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL accept BCGEU Local 703 as an affiliated union, entitled to 2 delegates to the VDLC.

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

Subject: Spending Approvals

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

- CCPA National – renew annual membership at a cost of \$500.00
- Columbia Journal – Labour Day ad at a cost of \$110.00 + tax
- Labour Day Events – labour council contribution to BC Fed at a cost of \$500.00

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

Subject: Solidarity with Greek Anti-Austerity Advocates

BECAUSE the European Union is responding to the Greek economic crisis by saving the financial institutions while forcing a punishing austerity program on the Greek government and people through increased taxes, sell-offs of public assets, privatization and a range of other measures that will have significant and negative impacts; and

BECAUSE the costs of these austerity measures, as has been demonstrated over the past five years, fall most heavily on pensioners, workers, and the poor, and have resulted in a weak economy, massive job loss, rising inequality, and growing hardship for the most vulnerable,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL affirm the inalienable right of Greek citizens to democratically decide their political and economic future, which governments and international financial institutions must respect; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER call upon the Canadian Government to urge European governments and international creditors to commit to a program of debt relief and targeted investment to support job creation, economic growth, and a sustainable recovery in public finances in order to find a feasible, lasting, and humanitarian solution to the economic crisis in Greece.

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

Subject: COPE 378 Members Locked Out by BCAA

BECAUSE on June 5, BCAA locked out about 70 employees who are represented by COPE 378; and

BECAUSE the collective agreement expired in September 2014 for these workers, who are responsible for dispatching tow truck drivers at BCAA Emergency Roadside Assistance; and

BECAUSE these workers make the same monthly wage as other BCAA employees doing similar work, including people doing the same work for BCAA's car-sharing company called "Evo", but work five hours longer every week,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL encourage its affiliates and others to:

1. Refrain from using BCAA's "Evo" car share service until the lockout ends,
2. Call BCAA, especially if you are a member, to urge them to end their lockout and negotiate a fair and reasonable collective agreement, and indicate membership if appropriate, and
3. Visit the 24/7 picket line at 5590 Goring Street in Burnaby and show support.

## 9. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Tim Cheung presented the 6 month statement which is right on track with the budget and should remain so, barring any unforeseen expenses.

*MSC that the report be received and filed for the information of the delegates.*

## 10. REPORT OF UNIONS: (in order reported)

a) CUPW – Reported by Fruma Sloan

For the last 2 quarters Canada Post has posted significant profits. The second quarter profit was for \$53 million. However, even though they have made money, they refuse to change their position about eliminating door-to-door delivery. In partial response to this, and to prepare for the federal election, CUPW National has launched "Save Canada Post Bus Tour". When the caravan hits the Lower Mainland, CUPW will be asking the VDLC to put out notices.

Locally letter carriers have been moved from the downtown location at 349 West Georgia (the retail office remains downtown) to the new location on Woodland near Hastings and Commercial. The new building is inadequate for so many workers and their vehicles; there are many blind spots on the work floor that are health and safety issues; the elevator was

out of order; the parking lot is too crowded; and letter carriers out on their walk delivering the mail have reported being intercepted by supervisors asking them how they're doing on their new walk. It has been very stressful.

b) BCGEU Local 1203 – Reported by Matt Damario

BCGEU has successfully organized 260 new LifeLabs Medical Laboratory services workers. The group will be varied into an existing LifeLabs collective agreement. This means the majority of LifeLabs workers are now BCGEU members.

BCGEU has renewed its call for a public inquiry into the provincial government's firing of Ministry of Health researchers in 2012; 8 workers were fired, 3 of whom were BCGEU members, including Roderick MacIsaac who tragically took his own life. Since then reports have shown that the government misled the public about the firings, including falsely saying there was a police investigation when there wasn't. Lawyer Marcia MacNeil researched the findings and has found the investigation was flawed.

On July 5, BCGEU conservation officer Bryce Casavant was suspended without pay for saving 2 baby bears. The bears' mother had already been euthanized but the officer's opinion was that the cubs could be saved. Management told Bryce to euthanize the cubs but he disobeyed and brought them to a wildlife recovery centre. The story has gone viral, and an online petition has received over 270,000 signatures. Actor Ricky Gervais has even tweeted his support. The BCGEU has said that it will aggressively support Brother Casavant until he is reinstated.

c) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis

Local 391 is pleased to see the living wage being supported by the City of Vancouver and is hopeful that it will be implemented to all Vancouver Public Library (VPL) employees.

The employer (VPL) is about to release its proposed employee dress code which is proving unpopular with the members. The employer is to conduct a branch staffing review.

d) TSSU – Reported by Matt Greaves

TSSU is commencing strike action against the employer (Simon Fraser University). They've been without a contract for 15 months. This is the second strike vote taken this year, with 86% in support of job action which could include picket lines; grade withholding starts this week.

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

## **11. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

a) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

Will be calling a meeting organizing action around the BCAA lock-out. There are leaflets available that can be used to flag windshields of Evo cars so that anyone using that car can see the pamphlet and be advised that Evo owner BCAA is mistreating their employees. ETEA Local 10 had picket lines up and the committee extended their support should they need it – those lines have since come down during mediation. Shaw employees, USW TWU, and TSSU members may be having job action as well. Anyone wishing to be on the Solidarity in Action contact list, please let Stephen know (or contact the VDLC)

- b) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan  
Women Transforming Cities has 4 upcoming cafés: the first cafe, September 15, will focus on women and children in the city. Their grand event will be at Heritage Hall, January 4. The committee's annual garden potluck will be held in September.

*MSC to permit Maxx McKenzie to speak for the Young Workers' Committee*

- c) Young Workers' – Reported by Maxx McKenzie  
The committee supported the BCAA picketline and are planning another picket support in Nanaimo at a golf course.

*MSC to adopt the reports.*

**OTHER REPORTS:**

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Sandy Bauer  
BC FORUM focus is on the upcoming federal election. The summer 2015 edition of the Advocate focuses on this as well as public health care.

As BC FORUM delegate to the VDLC, Sister Bauer joined VESTA at the rally in support of Vancouver School Board trustees.

- b) Labour Day Planning – Reported by Joey Hartman  
BC Federation of Labour is planning a Labour Day event at Swangard Stadium. Music by Chilliwack. The VDLC will have a table and we hope to see everyone there.

*MSC to receive the reports.*

**12. CLC REPORT: NIL**

**13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL**

**14. NOMINATIONS:**

Due to time restraints by-election for a vacant member-at-large will be revisited in September.

**15. NEW BUSINESS: NIL**

**16. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL**

**17. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- 50/50 proceeds to benefit the Solidarity in Action Committee
- July 1, a commemoration was held at the Oceanview Cemetery where Arthur "Slim" Evans is interred. The Communist Party commemorated the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of a brutal attack of the On to Ottawa trekkers. Slim was an organizer of the On to Ottawa trek and was a popular trade union and Communist leader of the 30's.
- Join delegates at W.I.S.E Hall after meeting for social
- Union Pride – There are more unions involved in MultiUnion Pride than ever before,
- information available on VDLC website
- Brother John McKnight of UA Plumbers Local 170, a passionate, old school trade unionist, passed away this morning, July 21. His passion will be missed.

**18. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *MSC to adjourn at 9:30 pm.*

**19. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015**, 7:30 pm,  
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street.

**Pizza Educational**

**Check Your Head with Anastasia Gaisenk**

**Tuesday, September 15**  
**6:00 pm**  
**Maritime Labour Centre**

*Immediately preceding the Regular meeting. Pizza by donation.*

For more events and for full size of event flyers to post please visit our events page on our website – [www.vdlc.ca](http://www.vdlc.ca)

- Education flyers under Education on website

Vancouver & District Labour Council  
22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fundraiser for  
**Queen Alexandra Elementary School**

**New Paths Toward Social Justice and  
a Renewed Labour Movement**

Bill Fletcher Jr. is a labour and community activist who speaks and writes about opportunities for revitalizing the labour movement across North America. His experience in the US provides valuable insight into new models for the Canadian labour movement.

**Tuesday, September 29**

5:30 pm Doors  
6:30 pm Dinner  
Fraserview Hall  
8240 Fraser St., Vancouver



**Bill Fletcher Jr.**  
Bill Fletcher Jr. has been an activist since his teen years. Over the years he has been active in workplace and community struggles as well as electoral campaigns. He has worked for several unions and held a senior staff position with the national AFL-CIO. He's also one of the leading activists and writers today on labour and race in the United States.

**Tickets \$50 / \$35 low waged**  
For tickets contact Keziah at the VDLC office  
604.254.0703 / office@vdlc.ca

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

**Courses Offered**

Collective Bargaining (introductory/intermediate)	Peter Shklinka -Kestrel Workplace Legal Council	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)	Hilary Henley & Rolf Harrison - Rush Crane Guenther	October 28 - Saturday
Duty to Accommodate & Return to Work (introductory/intermediate)	Catherine Sullivan & Lindsay 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.**

**The Fight for \$15 takes flight**



Join members of IAMAW for a BBQ and leafleting event  
Saturday, August 15th, 2015  
Templeton Skytrain Station, Richmond, BC

Meet at Templeton Skytrain Station at 10:30 am to leaflet  
Then join members of IAMAW for a BBQ lunch\*  
Post-lunch leaflet at the McArthur Glen Outlet Mall

\* For IAMAW members—the BBQ will go from 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

