



## VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, July 17, 2012

1. **LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC
2. **CHAIRPERSON:** Terry Engler
3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*MSC that the minutes of the June 19, 2012 Regular meeting be adopted.*

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

**Health Sciences Association**

Simone Gruenig

Mohammad Kazemian

*MSC to obligate/seat the delegates.*

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

- a) **Guest performance by Atomic Duo:**

Silas Lowe and Mark Rubin from Austin, Texas who performed at the Vancouver Folk Festival.

6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Joey Hartman reported on activities since the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Job Action and Bargaining Support**

- **Teamsters Local 31 locked-out by Rocky Mountaineers** – the dispute has now continued for over a year. Reports are that ridership is down 30%, but the company continues to operate with scabs.

Further to our discussion at the last executive meeting, VDLC representatives met with representatives of the PNE Board on July 11 to seek remedies to the PNE's inclusion of a Rocky Mountaineer trip as part of their annual prize package for 2012.

The PNE will offer a cash equivalent prize of \$8,500.00 and to post this on their website so the winner knows they have this option, and other steps to address concerns.

- **COPE 378 and the Alma Matter Society at UBC** – Job action took place July 13<sup>th</sup>. The major issues for these newly unionized security staff are job security and wages. Currently, the average wage is \$11.50 and the employer wants two-tiered wages starting at only \$10.50/hour. The VDLC visited the line to offer our solidarity.
- **COPE 378 and ICBC** – The union has begun an overtime ban as the first step of job action in an effort to achieve a fair collective agreement renewal. The Labour Relations Board recently found for the union in an unfair bargaining complaint. ICBC had insisted that a government review prevented them from considering wage increases and demanded a five year agreement of all zeroes. The LRB order states in part that: “... *the Employer is ordered to withdraw its refusal to negotiate monetary items and is ordered to bargain towards a collective agreement with the Union on all issues.*”
- **BCTF and the BC School Employers** – discussions with government appointed mediator Dr. Jago resulted in a negotiated agreement which has been ratified by both parties. It does not include wage increases but does have benefit improvements. Significantly, it does not include concessions on the application of seniority and other important union rights, and refers contentious issues such as class size to a joint committee.
- **International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 882 and the Richmond Olympic Oval** – after a year of negotiations for a first collective agreement, job action commenced early in the morning on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The main issue is job security against contracting out. The VDLC and BC Federation of Labour both had a strong presence on the picket line. The parties met that afternoon and had a memorandum of agreement by the evening.
- **BCGEU and the Government of BC** – after mediation broke down in master contract discussions, the union struck for one day on July 3<sup>rd</sup> at the liquor distribution branch outlets and is planning additional actions to support their bargaining position.
- **United Steel Workers and Rio Tinto** – almost 800 workers in Alma Quebec had been locked out since January 1<sup>st</sup>. With the support of the labour movement across Canada and internationally, including the VDLC, they succeeded in fending off concessionary demands and have ratified a new collective agreement.

### Labour Day

The VDLC is participating in planning meetings for the September 3, 2012 Labour Day event at Trout Lake (John Hendry Park). It will include a bbq, children’s games, information booths, Carnival Band, plus CUPE BC is sponsoring the band Chilliwack to play a 90 minute set.

### Multi-Union Pride

The Vancouver Pride Parade is Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup>. The VDLC will have a presence again this year.

*MSC to adopt the report.*

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE: NIL**

## 8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

**SUBJECT: LabourStart Donation**

**BECAUSE** LabourStart has served as the global labour movement's preeminent news and campaign service for 14 years,

**THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL** donate \$100.00 to LabourStart to assist with their increased costs due to expansion.

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

**SUBJECT: COSCO Conference**

**BECAUSE** COSCO, a VDLC affiliate, is holding a national conference in Richmond on October 1 and 2, 2012, which will explore the opportunities and challenges of Canadians' increased longevity; and

**BECAUSE** the issues related to living longer are of concern to workers,

**THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL** sponsor the registration of one senior, with preference given to a VDLC activist, to attend "The Joys & Tears of Living Longer" conference October 1 and 2, 2012 at a cost of \$150.00.

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

**SUBJECT: "Gathering of the Clans" Fundraising Dinner**

**BECAUSE** there will be a dinner held on July 21, 2012 to raise funds for an event called Gathering of the Clans II on September 7<sup>th</sup>; and

**BECAUSE** one of the purposes of the dinner is to strengthen relations between First Nations and the labour movement,

**THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL** purchase one ticket to the July 21, 2012 fundraising dinner and auction hosted by the Lil'Wat Liberation Movement at a cost of \$50.00.

## 9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

- a) BCGEU Local 303: Reported by Mike Clarke

BCGEU's work has been focused on the current labour dispute with the government. Media attention and public support has been very positive surrounding the "one day of action" involving the Liquor Store Distribution Branch on Broadway as well as other locations in

Kamloops and Victoria. We hope to have actions to gain more attention and public support over the coming months.

Also our members at the Pine Acres facility in Kelowna were locked out for almost two weeks. This employer attempted to make drastic cuts to employee's wages and benefits in an effort to increase profits. Workers have returned to work and BCGEU is working to resolve the issues as soon as possible.

b) CUPE Local 1936: Reported by Sheryl Burns

Community Social Services Bargaining Association has been conducting strike votes for the past month. Results will be released by next week. The dispute is not with the employer but rather with the government. The employer chose not to respond to the union's monetary package.

c) CUPE Local 391: Reported by Gary Jarvis

The first day of bargaining will be on July 19, 2012.

Lynda Gray is secured to speak at the CUPE Local 391 table at the Word On The Street on September 30, 2012.

d) ETEA Local 1: Reported by Charles Boylan

ETEA is proud to announce that on Monday July 16, 2012 our union successfully organized and certified forty ESL teachers employed by Inliugua Language Centre as the new Local 7 of ETEA. ETEA also re-organized itself with the president of ETEA being a different person from the various local presidents. Previous to the AGM in May the President of Local 1 was automatically the President of ETEA. Local presidents are now constituted as a Council of Vice-Presidents.

The main pre-occupation of ETEA is to unionize the majority of some 200 private ESL schools as well as teachers in other private education enterprises. [www.eteaunion.com](http://www.eteaunion.com)

e) TSSU: Reported by Murray Martin

TSSU represents SFU teaching assistants and sessional instructors. At the end of June TSSU members voted 90% in favour of striking after over two years of fruitless negotiations with the University. The union has filed for mediation and is not anticipating job action until the fall depending on the outcome of the talks.

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

## 10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

1. Strike Solidarity: - Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

The next meeting will be in September. The support shown on the picket line for Operating Engineers Local 882 was a success, as a deal was agreed upon within 24 hours of the strike.

2. Education – Reported by Joey Hartman

The VDLC is offering a series of educational programs in the fall. The brochure with a description of all the courses and registration forms is now available. We will also be sending out electronic copies to all our affiliates, delegates, and email contacts. The VDLC encourages its delegates to attend and spread the word.

5. Young Workers' - Reported by Bonnie Hammond

Currently working on a fundraiser for “Take a Strip Off” in the fall. The August meeting will be a BBQ and social.

We will be continuing our bake and craft sale after the meeting. All proceeds will go to support the Young Workers’ Committee.

6. Women's – Reported by Ingrid Kolsteren

The potluck was successful again this year. There were about 25 women in attendance. Our next committee meeting is Thursday July, 19, 2012.

## **OTHER REPORTS**

CLC: - Reported by Ron Stipp

The CLC is currently lobbying with various MPs in the Lower Mainland over Bill C-377. This bill will make changes to the income tax act that will affect labour councils and union offices.

CLC Harrison Winter School has been juggling some of the courses due to a stat in the 5<sup>th</sup> week of the program. The Winter School brochure should be out by next week.

Heads of Unions meeting will be held in March or April of 2013. Both the VDLC and the NWDLC will be involved in the planning. This could be a good way to increase the number of labour council affiliates.

BC Forum – Reported by Sandy Bauer

A letter signed by Jim Sinclair was sent out to the BC Fed ranking officers asking for the unions to appoint a liaison person to attend a meeting and work actively with BC Forum to increase its membership. As reported last month, the BC Federation of Labour has been encouraging affiliates to pay for their member’s first year FORUM dues upon retirement. It was noted that every union has a different structure making it difficult to set up a process. I am asking that delegates here may bring this discussion to their meetings and ask their executive to follow up.

BC Forum serves the needs of both retired and active union members over the age of 50. You do not need to be retired to join.

BC Health Coalition – Reported by Rachel Tutte

There will be no extension of Nation Health Accord after 2016. The coalition's National Day of Action will be Wednesday September 18, 2012 at the Vancouver Art Gallery.

*MSC to adopt the reports of Committees and Other Reports.*

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** NIL

**12. NEW BUSINESS:** NIL

**13. NOTICE OF MOTION:** NIL

**14. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- Dunc Shields – VDLC and a Japanese organization were to so-sponsor an event the Kinuko Lasky statue for Hisorshima Day but it has been cancelled due to schedule overlaps
- Rachel Tutte – World Peace Forum – War on the Workers Conference will be on September 29 [www.peaceforumteaching.org](http://www.peaceforumteaching.org)
- CAW Local 111 will be having a Women's Committee event Saturday July 21
- Peter Marcus – July 29, 2012 Moncada Day Celebration at the Chilean Co-op

**15. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *MSC to adjourn at 8:42 pm*

**16. NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, [September 18, 2012](#), 7:30 pm, Maritime Labour Centre.

**REMINDER: THERE IS NO MEETING IN AUGUST**