



**REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2015**

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 July 21, 2015 meeting be adopted.

4. CREDENTIALS:

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

CUPE Local 718

Marianne Thomas

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. GUEST SPEAKER:

United Way Lower Mainland – Carlos Carvalho and Trevor Morgan

The United Way workplace campaign started September 1. United Way partners with the CLC at Harrison Winter School to produce the Labour Community Advocate Training Program; the program consists of 4 courses – Union Counselling Level 1 and Level 2, Unions in the Community, and Critical Incident Stress. The Union Counselling Course is great for first time shop stewards as it helps train them in how to connect their members with community programs that can assist them. Every year, there is a Union Counselling Agency Tour – they travel around and visit agencies that United Way works with and supports. One of the agencies visited this year was Burnaby Neighbourhood House. They participated in their senior's lunch. Carlos sat and had lunch with a senior named Jerry. Jerry never married and had no children, approximately 75 years of age he has slowly moved across Canada and is now in Burnaby with no family or other connections here. Jerry asked why there is only 1 lunch a week now when there used to be 3? What is United Way doing about that? Carlos had no answer other than, United Way is doing its best – but that's not enough anymore. The need in the community is going up while support is going down.

The United Way has 3 priority issues: Helping Kids Be All They Can Be, Poverty to Possibility, and Strong Communities.

Helping Kids Be All They Can Be – Avenues of Change is a program in the Lower Mainland we have 2 areas that have the highest rates of child poverty in all of Canada (Guildford West, Coquitlam River East), 42% of children. The program invests \$400,000 every year for the next 5 years in child literacy programs and community schools in these 2 areas of the Lower Mainland. We are seeing children starting school without basic skills and these kids struggle.

Poverty to Possibility – The campaign provides many food services such as community gardens, food banks, and training young mothers and vulnerable peoples on how to cook healthily and affordably.

Strong Communities – All of the United Way programs ultimately lead to building stronger communities.

Why do the United Way and Labour go together? Our desires for all people are the same: United Way was the initial investor in the Living Wage Campaign; United Way advocated for the “Yes Vote” in the Transit Plebiscite to increase senior’s mobility and reduce senior isolation; and United Way is also an advocate for \$10 a day childcare. At the end of the day our union members are part of the community; when our communities struggle, our members struggle, and when our members struggle, our communities struggle and it is a vicious circle.

When unions partner with the United Way it can mean more opportunity for people in the community and that means stronger communities, which is what we, as unionists, fight for.

Carleen Thomas, NDP Candidate North Vancouver

Carleen introduced herself in the hul’qumi’num language and welcomed everyone to the traditional territory of the Squamish, Musqueam, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations. Carleen was a member of CUPE Local 389 as a teachers’ aid and then a member of BC Teachers Federation when she became a teacher. She is a member of the Tseil-Waututh First Nation and is running for the NDP in North Vancouver. The damage the Harper government has done to our country through the enactment of governmental acts that have made our natural resources vulnerable is a part of what pushed her to run for the NDP in North Vancouver. What was happening made her angry. When she would speak out people would ask her what they could do; she told them to speak to their elected leaders - municipal councillors, MLAs, and MPs. Then people asked her why she didn’t run for office. She thought while she may not be able to fix things, she could be a voice. We all have roots in our communities and we all need to find a way to work together to protect this land for our future generations and that is what she intends to do by running for the NDP seat in North Vancouver. Carleen thanked the United Way for the work that they do - what the United Way wants to achieve is also what the NDP is all about.

Amandeep Nijjar, NDP Candidate Vancouver South

Amandeep is a member of USWA Local 2009, working at COPE Local 378 and is the mother of 2 young girls. Amandeep couldn’t find affordable, quality childcare; what there was had a 5 year waiting period. The cost of childcare is around \$1200 per child, per month. With these kinds of odds parents inevitably debate whether it is worth going back to work. Amandeep isn’t alone in this struggle. Knowing that Harper does not support families led Amandeep to put herself forward as an NDP candidate for Vancouver South. She is thankful for the union environment in which she works and its support of her endeavour. She encourages everyone to support their brothers and sisters who want to get involved in politics, in any capacity. Vancouver South needs support; it really feels as though the Conservative incumbent isn’t really in the race, but that it is between the NDP and Liberals. So please come out in support, this is a seat that can be won.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the July 21, 2015 meeting.

August was a quiet month for the VDLC with both Joey and Keziah taking vacation. September and October will be extraordinarily busy however.

2015 Queen Alexandra School Fundraiser

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

Federal Election

The VDLC will aim to be visible in multiple campaigns, but will put the greatest emphasis on Vancouver Centre and Vancouver Granville. **A VDLC canvass blitz is scheduled for the afternoon of Sunday, October 4th (noon to p.m.)** but everyone is encouraged to volunteer to their maximum capacity. Door-to-door canvassing is important but there are also phone banks and office tasks.

Chinese Trade Union Delegations

The VDLC will meet with a visiting delegation from the Beijing Municipal Federation of Trade Unions (BMFTU) in Vancouver on September 21. A second delegation from Guandong will be visiting in October.

Labour Day

The VDLC had an information table at the 2015 Labour Day event at Swangard Stadium. Sister Hartman was also one of the speakers, along with Paul Moist, Irene Lanzinger, John Horgan, Nick Volkow, and a member of COPE Local 378 locked-out by BCAA. The event, which featured the band Chilliwack, was well attended and the weather was perfect.

Anita Yan Memorial Labour Law Series

The fall program is registering very well. The courses this fall are:

- September 16 – Advanced BC Labour Code
- September 19 & 20 – Bullying and Harassment
- October 23 – Duty to Accommodate and Return to Work
- October 28 – Introductory WCB for Advocates
- November 28 – Stress in the Workplace
- December 5 – Introductory Effective Grievances

Golden Tree Unveiling

The statue to commemorate three farmworkers who died in a van accident several years ago will be unveiled on October 3 at 11:00 am in Abbotsford. The BC Federation took a lead role in raising funds and ensuring this project was completed. The tragedy of these women's deaths was significant in drawing attention to the unsafe transport and working conditions faced by agricultural workers on a daily basis.

MSC to adopt the report

7. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated

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:

- United Way of the Lower Mainland 2015 campaign – Donation \$200.00
- Metro Vancouver Alliance – Membership renewal for 2015/16 at a cost of \$800.00
- BC Federation of Labour 2015 Conference Registration at cost of \$300.00
- *See motion for Syrian Refugee Crisis*

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

Subject: New Affiliate

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council has received an application for affiliation from HEU Coast VRC Local, affiliating 225 members employed in Community Health Services and support-community sector.

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL accept HEU Coast VRC Local as an affiliated union, entitled to 3 delegates to the VDLC.

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

Subject: Syrian Refugee Crisis

BECAUSE the Syrian refugee crisis is one of the most desperate humanitarian events in recent decades; and

BECAUSE the Canadian system for application, processing, and acceptance of refugees from Syria in particular, and other locations as well, has proven to be extremely inadequate to meet the needs; and

BECAUSE over the past ten years the Canadian government has shifted significant responsibility to assist refugees to the faith based, charitable and individual sponsorship programs, while at the same time cutting funding to these organizations and disempowering refugees from access to public medical care; and

BECAUSE the United Nations has indicated that Canada's share to accept Syrian refugees should be 46,000 to arrive within the next four years, and the NDP has called for at least 10,000 to arrive by the end of December 2015,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL assist with the most pressing need of addressing conditions in refugee camps by a donation of \$500.00 to the charitable organization Lifeline Syria; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL donate an additional \$500.00 to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR); and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER call upon the Canadian government to immediately set targets that meet or exceed the UN objective of 46,000 Syrian refugees to Canada; to expedite the application and approval process; to fund transportation and settlement services; to restore funding to resettlement programs; to restore access to Canadian public medical care and free language training; and other steps to assist with this global humanitarian crisis; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER continue to monitor the opportunities for potential refugee sponsorship and for welcoming and assisting refugees who arrive in the Metro Vancouver area.

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

Subject: Encourage Vancouver School Board to be a Living Wage Employer

BECAUSE the City of Vancouver council and mayor unanimously supported a motion to become a living wage employer, with favourable votes from all parties (Vision, the NPA, and the Green party); and

BECAUSE the Vancouver School Board is now considering a motion to investigate also becoming a living wage employer; and

BECAUSE over 20% of Vancouver children live in poverty; most because their parents have poverty level incomes despite often working full-time or multiple low wages jobs; and

BECAUSE growing up in poverty impacts children's ability to learn, and also has lifelong detrimental effects; and

BECAUSE the VDLC actively supports both the "Fight for \$15" minimum wage campaign and the "Living Wage" campaign with its objective of \$20.68 (2015 level); and

BECAUSE the Vancouver School Board has an opportunity to join a growing list of employers who understand the importance of being a living wage employer, and a model for other employers in the community by aligning with a campaign that recognizes the importance of a living wage for all,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL encourage all Vancouver School Board trustees to support the proposal to become a living wage employer.

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

Subject: October 4, 2015 VDLC Federal Campaign Canvass

BECAUSE the VDLC has identified Vancouver Centre (Constance Barnes) and Vancouver Granville (Mira Oreck) as the two ridings in the council's jurisdiction where our volunteer assistance will have the most impact towards electing the NDP; and

BECAUSE one of the most effective forms of volunteer campaign support is door-to-door canvassing, supported by phoning; and

BECAUSE a labour council canvass day also brings together trade unionists and friends together to be involved in a positive activity and encourages political engagement;

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL promote and actively sign up VDLC executive members, affiliate leaders, delegates, and others to participate in two concurrent VDLC campaign canvass events, both on October 4, 2015 from noon to 4:00 pm, with half of the volunteers assigned to the Constance Barnes, Vancouver Centre campaign and the other half assigned to the Mira Oreck, Vancouver Granville campaign.

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

a) TSSU – Reported by Haida Arsenault-Antolick

The TSSU at SFU continues to be without a collective agreement, despite bargaining for the last 15 months. Over the last week the union has met with the employer in mediation with Vince Ready. Despite significant movement by the TSSU on each of its positions, the employer has refused to sign-off on even basic administrative changes, such as those required to get the money in the childcare fund into the hands of low-income members with children. The employer has issued what it calls a “final offer” which is very disappointing. The membership is meeting September 16 to decide whether or not to vote on this offer. Other options include escalating strike action, or accepting, if the employer also accepts a final binding arbitration. TSSU would like to thank the VDLC and affiliates for their support and will be in touch soon about further requests for solidarity action

b) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gerard Batty

Brother Batty attended a budget outlook meeting at Vancouver City Hall. Projected revenues for the City of Vancouver in 2016 will be approximately 34 million and expenditures at 27 million. However, because all CUPE Locals in Metro Vancouver have their contracts expire at the end of 2015, the City of Vancouver has set aside 7 million equalling a 1% increase in expenditures. Brother Batty advised those at the meeting that CUPE will be asking for more than that.

Dress code was a bureaucratic exercise that the union believes will not impact the membership since it is now up to CUPE member supervisors to decide what dress is appropriate or not.

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

a) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

COPE 378 members locked out by BCAA marked 100 days on the picket line. They remain on the line over pay fairness. There were a fair number of actions over the summer, particularly around the Evo car share boycott, as it is owned by BCAA. Delegates and friends can lend their support by: calling BCAA at 1.800.811.5900 and telling them that as a BCAA member they won't be renewing until they return to the bargaining table; helping on the picket line at 5590 Goring Street in Burnaby, their lines are up 24/7; and by not patronizing Evo car share.

The TSSU dispute is ongoing as was heard from Sister Arsenault-Antolick. The committee will be in touch with them about how best to lend their support.

b) Young Workers' – Reported by Maxx McKenzie

The committee held 3 film nights for the members locked-out at BCAA; Harry Potter, Jurassic Park, and Toyland. BC Ferry and Marine Workers Young Workers invited the VDLC Young Workers over to Nanaimo for a strike support action. The committee is planning some social activities to try to build up committee momentum.

MSC to adopt the reports.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) **BC FORUM** – Reported Agnes Jackman & Sandy Bauer
Their AGM June 17 was very well attended. FORUM is doing a lot of work for the federal election and this edition of the Advocate focusses on that. Everyone was encourage to take extra copies and leave them anywhere there are magazines for the taking.
- b) **Metro Vancouver Alliance** – Reported by Agnes Jackman
MVA is holding their 3rd assembly September 30 at Langara College. The MVA is active in the federal election with four main issues being raised: Income Justice, Social Inclusion, Transit, and Housing. The Vancouver Granville riding will be presented with these issues. The MVA is asking candidates to be advocates for them in Ottawa; other regions are doing this as well – it only takes one MP to put a bill on the floor. These same issues were brought forward at the municipal election by the MVA with success in the area of the Living Wage, this achievement will be celebrated at the assembly, September 30.

MSC to receive the reports.

11. CLC REPORT: NIL

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

13. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Brother Peter Marcus announced that he is running for the Communist Party of Canada for Vancouver East – the leader of the Communist Party of Canada will be speaking in Vancouver, September 24 at 706 Clark Drive
- A moment of silence was held for 3 labour activists who passed since the June meeting.
 - Barb Dickinson, Secretary Treasurer, CUPE Local 15 lost her battle with cancer. Barb was a vibrant woman, deeply committed to the labour movement and her membership. A celebration of life was held September 12.
 - John McKnight, UA Plumbers Local 170 was a firey speaker who could command a room. A celebration of life is being held September 19.
 - Jim Sayre, Community Legal Aid Society, worked tirelessly as a workers' advocate around workers' compensation issues, through education and the pulling together of other advocates to ensure support and sharing of information to ensure the best work was being done on behalf of workers.
- 50/50 proceeds to benefit the Solidarity in Action Committee
- Come out for the election canvassing blitzes being held – contact the VDLC or see Joey Hartman

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

**17. NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street.**

Pizza Educational
Metro Vancouver Alliance with Deborah Littman
Tuesday, October 20
6:00 pm
Maritime Labour Centre
Immediately preceding the Regular meeting. Pizza by donation.

For more events and for full size of event flyers and for education brochures please visit website – www.vdlc.ca

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

Courses Offered

Collective Bargaining (Introductory/Intermediate)	Peter Shklanka - Kestrel Workplace Legal Counsel	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)	Hillary 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.

CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS
PACIFIC REGION
Winter School



January 17 - February 19, 2016
Harrison Hot Springs, BC

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 Congrès du travail du Canada