



VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

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

The VDLC acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and other First Nations people.

- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** 2nd Vice President Graham O'Neill

- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the June 18, 2019 Regular meeting be adopted.

MSC that the notes of the July 16, 2019 Regular meeting without quorum be received for the information of the delegates.

- 4. CREDENTIALS:** Nil

- 5. GUEST SPEAKERS:**

- a) Mike Schilling, CEO Community Savings Credit Union

As a father of 2 young children, Mike thinks about the future a lot and about the world his children are growing up in. Working with the labour movement in his role as CEO of Community Savings, he feels that he is a part of making the world a better, fairer place.

Community Savings was built by the labour movement, feels very much a part of it, and works every day to further the values they share. It is personally important to him that, as an organization, Community Savings understands labour's challenges and successes and that labour comes together in forums such as the labour council.

It is exciting and inspiring to meet people that are passionate and believe in what they do and give their time and energy professionally and personally to further the causes which they are passionate about and promote and live their values.

Community Savings is a successful, fully unionized, financial institution. Their team is made up of members of UFCW and MoveUP and are the only fully unionized financial institution in BC. They have proven that it is possible to be unionized, cooperate with the union, and still be hugely successful. Every dollar is spent conscientiously: they buy union first, then local, then Canadian.

Community Savings supports their brothers and sisters on the picket line and they can help in time of strikes by making it so that mortgage payments can be deferred, because they understand what the challenges that strike can bring. They support the Union Protein Project, and the BC Labour Heritage Centre, being the sole sponsor of their book

On the Line, which is now in every high school in BC. They are proud to sponsor 2 women from BC Women in Trades to attend the Women Builds Conference in Massachusetts.

Community Savings' core values truly lie with those of the labour movement and, with labour's, they could be one of the premier financial institution in BC, one that shares and promotes the values of labour. It is possible to achieve a bright, equitable future if we work together.

b) Neal Adolph, Director of the CLC Labour Participation Department of the United Way of the Lower Mainland

The United Way has a special relationship with the Canadian Labour Congress and labour councils and together support our communities. Neal is a firm believer in working with unions, being an activist himself out of Saskatchewan, and the work that unions do to build up their communities.

The best way to make things happen, is by working together – that is the core of the labour movement and the core of the United Way. A great example of this, is the Period Promise campaign: they were able to collect over 500,000 packages of menstrual products that were delivered to 75 agencies across the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley, but more than that, working with unions and the government, they were successful in having menstrual products made available in washrooms in all public schools. That success, is largely thanks to the incredible work of Sussanne Skidmore and Nikki Hill, co-chairs of the Period Promise campaign.

The UWLM does the work it does because they care about the places where they live and want them to be the best they can, especially for those who are most vulnerable. They do this by investing in programs and providing opportunities. These programs don't just provide a service to the people who need them at the time, they build a culture of caring.

Programs exist because of donors. This is the time of year when the United Way runs their workplace campaigns. Part of Neal's role is to ensure that donors know that their donations are going to wards these programs and that they know that the United Way is an organization that cares about unions, union values, and appreciates the work they do.

Neal drew attention to two courses being offered at the CLC Winter School, Labour Community Advocacy and Union Community Advocacy in weeks 4 and 5 respectively. The VDLC is also offering a 1 day course of Union Community Advocacy, November 29. Labour Community Advocacy teaches how to support each other and how to guide people to services they may require. Union Community Advocacy takes what we want to see in our communities and provides the tools to turn that into action. This year they will be looking at this through the focus of Period Promise and the Community Benefits Plan; both great shifts in policy achieved through mobilization.

The United Way of the Lower Mainland and the labour movement are work together every day. The report was made available for delegates and guest.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on VDLC activities since the July 2019 meeting.
Political Action

In July, Janet Andrews, NWDLC, and I met with MP Jody Wilson-Raybould regarding Pharmacare. She seemed very much on board for Pharmacare and sympathetic to the model we are proposing.

Also in July, Max Gardner, SCI, and I met with the new Director of Electoral Area "A", Jen McCucheon. It was a friendly and positive meeting and there seemed to be an openness to working together and considering our perspective and any information we could share on local issues. We'll work to build on this relationship going forward.

Over the summer, NPA City Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung brought forward a motion for the city to adopt a definition of anti-Semitism being promoted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). While we strongly oppose anti-Semitism and all forms of racism and xenophobia, this definition is problematic; it is made clear that criticism of the state of Israel is included in what they consider to be anti-Semitic. No state should be shielded from legitimate criticism of its actions. This definition could have been very damaging to the freedom of expression for members of our affiliates who work for the city and to their efforts to engage in legitimate international solidarity with Palestinian workers. As such, we joined in efforts alongside Palestinian and Jewish organizations, affiliates, COPE, and others, to have the definition rejected. This involved social media, writing to Mayor and Council and speaking with Councilors about the issue. Ultimately the issue was referred to committee, where we hope it will be crafted into something which opposes anti-Semitism and other forms of hate without restricting legitimate criticism of the Israeli state or its government. The referral of the motion has already been a substantial setback for those who seek to silence criticism of Israel by establishing a false equivalency with anti-Semitism. We can be proud of having played a significant part in that. An informal group of interested labour activists have begun meeting to discuss ways we can engage in solidarity with Palestine in the labour movement.

On August 28, I met with Neil Monckton who is one half of the joint chiefs of staff for Mayor Kennedy Stewart. We discussed affordable housing, the Blue Communities Project, and the IHRA definition. There was a commitment to provide an update on where things are at in terms of Vancouver implementing the proposals of the AffordableBC plan. We also discussed Workforce Housing, which we will likely meet again about next month. I expressed our desire to see more, faster in terms of truly affordable housing; as well as the need to protect and expand rental stock. It was indicated that this is on the radar, despite the controversial vote on Arterial Routes some months ago, however, details of what might be coming were not available.

I have been invited to a meeting on October 17 which will be a roundtable on the motion brought forward by UNITE HERE Local 40 re: sexual harassment in the hotel industry.

Finally, on the municipal scene, a discussion has started up around the idea of a public developer being established to build affordable housing. This of course could flow nicely with Land Value Capture and the idea of Workforce Housing. We will continue this conversation and potentially look to launching a campaign on this in the future.

The Federal election is approaching; a series of volunteer canvasses are scheduled during the election period - September 24 and October 2 from 5 PM to 8 PM - and October 12 and 18 from 1 PM to 4 PM. Please watch for those, participate if you can, and bring out volunteers from your own unions.

Labour Day

Labour Day was a success. The rally portion of the event went very well and kept more or less to schedule. I emceed and Rebecca Duncan opened the event. Speakers were Kennedy Stewart, Melanie Mark, and Larry Rousseau. All the speakers were good, Larry was especially rousing. The band and other entertainers were all very good and we received a tremendous amount of positive feedback about the venue. It is difficult to guess at attendance because the event was over the course of five hours, and most people came and went, so there was no point at which to do a count. It was a good event and very well organized by Michelle Livaja. Thank you to all who volunteered and helped make the event a success.

BC Fed Executive Council

The BC Fed held an Executive Council meeting September 5 in Prince Rupert. A presentation was made by Paul Finch, Secretary Treasurer of BCGEU, about a proposal for a new multi-union investment program which would allow unions to invest through a not-for-profit, ethical investment model intended to achieve superior returns. We do not have the kind of money needed to consider participation in this, but if your union is interested you can contact Brother Finch. Another presentation by BC Fed President Laird Cronk and IAMAW Business Agent Walter Gerlach about the "Be More Than a By-Stander" campaign which educates men in the trades about sexualized harassment and violence and provides them with skills to help confront it and change workplace cultures. It was a very powerful and well delivered presentation. If you are interested in this program, please contact Brother Cronk at the BC Fed.

Janet Andrews and I have been appointed co-chairs of the BC Fed Community Social Action Committee.

Goodwin's Way

I attended a screening of Goodwin's Way hosted by Vancity as part of VIFF, and participated in a panel discussion following the film along with filmmaker Neil Vokey, Adrienne Smith, and Lorene Okawa. This is a very worthwhile film. The event was moderately attended but the discussion was lively and positive.

Blue Communities

I was recently invited to participate in discussions around bringing the Blue Communities campaign (Council of Canadians/CUPE) to Vancouver. A recommendation on this is forthcoming. They hope to get Vancouver to sign on as a Blue Community. I have made NWDLC, MVA, CUPE BC, and CUPE Local 1004 aware of this.

YVR

I met with President Rick Singh and others from our new affiliate IAMAW Local Lodge 16 recently at YVR. They are interested in establishing a join union council with the other

unions at the airport. I volunteered to help them contact other unions and to act as a facilitator. We are working toward a first meeting late this fall.

Labour Disputes

Over the course of the summer, the dispute between MoveUP and Westminster Savings (WSCU) came to an end. MoveUP fought the decision of WSCU to close the Port Coquitlam branch at the Labour Board but unfortunately was not successful; a settlement was subsequently reached. MoveUP members should be thanked for standing up for pensions and against two-tiering.

USW continues to be on strike against Western Forest Products. A hot edict has been issued for WFP products by the BC Fed.

UNITE HERE Local 40 has issued strike notice at the Hotel Georgia, Pinnacle, and Hyatt, and Westin Bayshore. Hotel Georgia issued lock-out notice in response. A variety of actions have been taken and strike could break out at any time. The local is asking unions to send letters to the hotels cancelling bookings and promising not to make further bookings until the dispute is resolved.

Pride

I marched in the Vancouver Pride Parade in August. Several delegates were present with their own affiliates. Shane Polak and I represented VDLC. I handed out CLC materials and helped MoveUP with their campaign to end the blood ban, which we have endorsed.

There was also word that a conglomeration of “alt-right” bigots and fascists intended to disrupt UBC Pride. I coordinated with NWDLC, FVLC, and BC Fed to issue a joint statement calling for solidarity with UBC Pride in response to this.

Territorial Acknowledgements

The BC Lions and Vancouver Canadians have begun including territorial acknowledgments in their pre-game, and the Whitecaps were set to, however, we do not yet know when it will begin. We have received no response from the Canucks. We received a response from Tsleil-Waututh nation indicating interest in working with us on this going forward.

Union Protein Project

This year’s UPP community events will be at Queen Alexandra Elementary School in Vancouver, September 26 and at Blundell Elementary School in Richmond, October 3. These are the same venues as last year. Kat Prinz is once again organizing for us and we will need volunteers on both dates.

Cascade Region Labour Leadership Initiative

I met over the summer with Brian Lalli of BCFMWU, who is my peer coach and vice-versa for this session of CRLLI. We are working on a project for the October session, which will take place in Tacoma.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

On August 1, we hosted the second MVA labour caucus meeting. It was a good discussion, focusing around what it means to do relational organizing and how we can better work with

the other sectors of MVA and deepen labour involvement. These will be held a few times a year.

Queen Alexandra Elementary – Wishing Tree free store

We met on September 11 to discuss the possibility of a fundraiser at the Rio for Wishing Tree this fall.

Labour Education

Our Labour Education Program is kicking back into high gear for the Fall Session, with the following courses on the horizon:

- Bullying and Harassment – Conni Kilfoil – September 30
Unions and the Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation Process – Conni Kilfoil – October 23/24
- Promotions: How to Negotiate Language and Win Grievances – Susanna Allevato – October 28
- Charter Rights in the Workplace – Leo McGrady/Craig Bavis – November 16
- BC Labour Code – Jennifer Glougie/Jonathan Hanvelt – November 18
- Canada Labour Code Part 2 – Tamara Ramuscovic – November 19
- Advocacy: How to Make Your Case Effectively – Leo McGrady – November 21/21
- Current Issues in Benefit Law – Susan Philpot/Clio Godkewich – November 22
- WCB Introduction – Sarah O’Leary/Niki Schnurr – November 25
- WCB Advanced – Iain MacDonald – November 26
- Accommodating Alcohol and Drug Addictions & Medical Marijuana – Connie Kilfoil - November 27
- Privacy Rights in the Workplace – James Baugh – November 28
- Union Community Advocate – Neal Adolph – November 29

Please register if interested and help ensure that the program is promoted to your members and other channels.

We are putting together the 2020 program. We believe that given our financial inability to bring on additional help for the program we have grown it as much as is possible at this time; we are also looking at offering some shorter evening. We will be putting some courses to rest and introducing some new ones. Further info will be forthcoming by the next meeting.

Affiliate Recruitment

ATU Local 134 have requested to affiliate.

Events Attended

July 16 – Meeting with UNITE HERE Local 40

July 17 – Pharmacare lobby with Jody Wilson-Raybould

July 17 – BC Fed conference call re: Pride Parade

July 20 – MoveUP BBQ

July 22 – Meeting with Jen McCucheon, Electoral Area A director & Max Gardiner, SCI Coordinator

July 23 – Meeting with NWDLC President Janet Andrews re: BC Fed CSAC

July 23 – UNITE HERE Local 40 rally

July 24 – United Way of the Lower Mainland pension plan meeting
July 28 – Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association Moncada Day celebration
July 30 – CRLLI Peer Coaching
July 31 – BC Fed Community Social Action Committee
August 1 – Labour Day Conference Call
August 1 – Metro Vancouver Alliance Labour Caucus
August 3 to 16 – Vacation
August 4 – Vancouver Pride Parade
August 19 – Palestine solidarity meeting
August 21 – BC Fed Conference Call re: UNITE HERE Local 40 dispute
August 21 – Vancity/VIFF Conference call re: Goodwin’s Way screening
August 21 – Meeting with UNITE HERE Local 40 organizer Harley Augustino
August 21 – Labour Day Planning Committee
August 22 – UWLM Board of Directors, Metrics Dashboard Presentation
August 26 – Blue Communities conference call
August 26 – Vancity/VIFF Goodwin’s Way screening
August 28 – VDLC Education Committee meeting
August 28 – Meeting with Neil Moncton, Vancouver Mayors Office
August 30 – Meeting with IAMAW Local Lodge 16
August 30 – BC Government announcement re: consultation on paid leave
September 2 – Labour Day
September 4 to 6 – BC Fed Executive Council (Prince Rupert)
September 9 – Palestine solidarity meeting
September 10 – UNITE HERE Local 40 action
September 10 – Metro Vancouver Alliance Strategy Team
September 11 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Campaign Cabinet
September 11 – Queen Alexandra Elementary Wishing Tree fundraising meeting
September 12 – Executive Board
September 16 – BC Employment Standard Coalition
September 16 – United Way of the Lower Mainland, Labour Committee of the Board
September 17 – Regular meeting

8. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated at the meeting
MSC that the correspondence be received and filed for the information of the delegates.

9. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Spending Authorizations

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

- Renew membership in BC Poverty Reduction Coalition at a cost of \$100.00

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

Subject: Restore IRCC Services in Havana, Cuba

BECAUSE the Government of Canada's abrupt decision to shut down the section of its Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (IRCC) Office in Havana through which visas were processed for Cuban citizens wishing to visit Canada and those seeking work or study permits; and

BECAUSE this decision followed the 50 per cent reduction in January of this year of the staff of Canada's embassy in Cuba; and

BECAUSE Cuban citizens will now have to make their applications through a visa application centre in a third country (the nearest being Mexico); and

BECAUSE the reduction of Embassy staff and the closing of the IRCC Office have introduced unreasonable delays and significant financial obstacles for those Cubans seeking to travel to Canada, and will cause (and has caused), amongst other things, significant damage to business, cultural, scientific and sporting relations; and

BECAUSE Canada and Cuba have enjoyed uninterrupted diplomatic relations since 1945, and the reduction of Embassy staff and the closure of the IRCC Office are developments that represent a serious departure from the relations which have existed for all those years,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on the Canadian government to reinstate the discontinued services at the IRCC Office in Havana, so that visa processing may proceed in a reasonable manner.

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

Subject: Amazon Partnership with ICE

BECAUSE Amazon warehouse workers have recently been on strike to protest dangerous working conditions, unfair scheduling, incredibly low wages and impossible demands; and

BECAUSE Amazon workers in the US, UK, Germany, Spain, and Poland were also protesting and striking on Prime Day, Amazon's busiest shopping event of the year; and

BECAUSE Amazon effectively enables Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain and deport people with precarious status, by providing hosting services to Panantir, the software which ICE uses to manage and track down possible deportees; and

BECAUSE Amazon recently pitched its facial recognition software, Rekognition, to US government agencies like ICE; and facial recognition software has been used to scan millions of state driver's licenses as part of the Trump administration's directive to hunt down people with precarious status; and

BECAUSE along with the recent strike, Amazon employees are recirculating a letter that was sent in June 2018 demanding Amazon stop selling its facial recognition technology to government agencies and drop Palantir; and

BECAUSE we know that those with precarious employment and those with precarious status often come from marginalized communities, and

BECAUSE we know that colonization, racism, and unaddressed structural violence is the causation behind the current crisis in the United States, where workers live on food

stamps, and people are being held in migrant detention centres that people have begun to call concentration camps; and

BECAUSE Trump had called for mass ICE raids over the weekend in 10 US cities, and families are currently living in fear; the conditions at the migrant detention centres are abhorrent, children aren't allowed to console one another as they are separated from their families, there is a lack of food, water and hygiene products, cases of sexual assault are commonplace, and people are overcrowded like animals in cages; and

BECAUSE the VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL is committed to promoting the interests of its affiliates and generally to advance the economic and social welfare of all workers, regardless of their immigration status; and values the protection and strengthening of democratic institutions.

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL make a statement in support of Amazon workers, and denounce the collaboration between Amazon and ICE; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER write to the BC Federation of Labour with regards to the above, asking that they investigate the potential for issuing a boycott targeting Amazon.

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

Subject: No Sale of Public Lands

BECAUSE public lands are a public resource which ought not simply be deemed surplus and sold off for short term gain; and

BECAUSE these lands belong to the public and not merely to the government of the day, and should be maintained for future generations,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on all levels of government, including Vancouver City Council and the Vancouver School Board, not to sell public lands under any circumstances but instead to keep it for public use and/or offer it for lease where appropriate; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER encourage all levels of government to consider opportunities for the construction of affordable rental housing on public lands where appropriate; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY specifically oppose any proposal to sell the Vancouver School Board property known as Kingsgate Mall.

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

Subject: Blue Communities

BECAUSE there is nothing more important than clean water. We need it for drinking, sanitation and household uses. Communities need water for economic, social, cultural and spiritual purposes; and

BECAUSE water services and water resources are under growing pressure. Communities everywhere – including in Canada – are experiencing extreme weather, including record levels of drought, intense rain and flooding. At the same time, privatization, the bottling of water, and industrial projects are threatening our water services and sources,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the Blue Communities Project of the Council of Canadians and Canadian Union of Public Employees, which calls upon communities to adopt a water commons framework by:

- recognizing water and sanitation as human rights;
- banning or phasing out the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events; and
- promoting publicly financed, owned and operated water and waste water services.

10. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) PSAC/UVAE Local 20045 – Reported by Shane Polak

Table One bargaining unit was called back to the table by the government at the end of August. The union was advised that the government wanted to make a deal before the federal election and had improvements to bring to the members; after 7 days and nights of intense talks, it became apparent that the government's claims of improvements were false and, in fact, they were offering less than their original offer and talks broke down without a deal. The union is now waiting for a report back from the Public Interest Commission (PIC), which meets in December. PSAC Leadership is advising membership that they will likely be taking a strike vote in early 2020; PSAC National President Chris Aylward is advising to expect a strike and this time it will be a 'general' strike of all units. When that time arrives, PSAC will be coming to the VDLC for support.

b) CUPW Vancouver Local 846 – Reported by Nicholas Aubichon

Arbitration update: the Corporation had two witnesses testify in late August: 1) Dr. Robert Campbell, recognized as an expert on postal labour history, economics, and public postal analysis, who presented a report he wrote on declining lettermail volumes and the competitive nature of parcel delivery – 2) the second witness is the interim finance lead who focused on challenges that he believes Canada Post will face in the future. These witnesses presented the same doom and gloom messages that have been heard for decades. The arbitration continues throughout October, a decision is hoped for by year's end.

For the federal election, CUPW has coordinated across the country to help locals mobilize members and meet with people in their communities to spread the union's message of delivering Canada Post and to support parties that are labour friendly with environmentally friendly initiatives.

c) UFCW Local 1518 – Reported by Abby Leung

President Kim Novak and Secretary Treasurer Patrick Johnson were elected by acclamation to their positions. They ran on a platform of member education, engagement, and empowerment. They started implementing that with Local 1518's first ever picnic for industrial members in the Fraser Valley. Five of the 25 Vice President positions on the executive board were contested, so an election was held by secret mail-in

ballot; the results were tallied on August 25. The following members were elected:

- Laura Cipolato (Save-On-Foods, North Vancouver)
- Virgilio Encarnacion (Sofina Foods, Port Coquitlam)
- Rajiv Mehra (Grand River Foods, Abbotsford)
- David Diamond (Save-On-Foods, Kelowna)
- Linda Wilson (Port Alberni Home Support, Port Alberni)

UFCW Local 1518 members make a variety of quality, locally sourced food items. Local 1518 is highlighting their members at Lilydale, which was established as a farmers' cooperative in Alberta 75 years ago and is now owned by Sofina Foods. UFCW Local 1518 represents about 600 members working at the hatchery in Abbotsford, the turkey processing plant in Abbotsford, and the chicken processing plant in Port Coquitlam. Those members make a wide variety of fresh, frozen and fully-cooked chicken and turkey products as well as deli meats, sausages, and turkey bacon. Lilydale birds are free-run, hormone-free, and 100% Canadian raised. Lilydale products are available at unionized grocery stores like Safeway, Save-On-Foods, Co-ops, and Real Canadian Superstore.

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

- a) BCTF VSTA – Reported by Treena Goolieff
- b) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis
- c) CUPE Local 718 – Reported by Dustin Innes

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman

Laird Cronk, BC Fed President and BC FORUM Chair, made a presentation at the FORUM Board meeting about the high number of labour disputes going on in BC, the BC Fed Conference in Prince Rupert, pension solvency, employment standards and domestic violence paid leave, Uber non-employee status, automation in the workplace, and the delay in producing a federal international declaration of indigenous rights bill. The meeting recapped what has transpired over the summer and what BC FORUM needs to do in the next few months, particularly in regards to the upcoming federal election. Future funding of BC FORUM was, once again, a hot topic. Solutions need to be found for BC FORUM to remain viable. The National Pensioners Federation Convention in Toronto was reported on and discussed.

The fall issue of BC FORUM's magazine Advocate was available to delegates and guests. Article on October 1, International Day of Older Persons, this year's theme is "the Journey to Age Equality".

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

CLC Winter School preliminary course schedule is out. There 5 full weeks and several new courses, including Introduction to Labour Economics, Human Rights: an Introduction, A Path to Reconciliation: Standing in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples, and Labour Community Advocate and Unions in the Community. Labour Council courses are Week 2: Labour Council Officer Development and New Activist courses –

they aren't open registration, anyone interested in the New Activist course needs to speak to Stephen.

Federal election, October 21. Focus issues are: pharmacare, strengthening public pension, good jobs, climate action, and inclusivity. This is a really important election. Text: 3431001413 – type the message 'FAIR' – this engages you with the CLC campaign. Get involved, help with door knocking, volunteer. We don't want another Conservative government.

b) BC Fed Workers with Disabilities Committee – Reported by Sheryl Burns

The BC Fed is in the process of organizing a celebration December 3 for the International Day of Workers with Disabilities. Details will be released later. There are 2 provincial surveys being conducted right now, one on domestic violence and the sexual assault. The provincial government has said they need public input before they can implement the paid leave for survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. The second survey is about accessibility legislation for workers with disabilities.

MSC to receive the other reports.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

13. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

14. NOTICE OF MOTION:

The following motion will be brought forward to the October meeting for adoption. (proposed changes sent out to affiliates and delegates)

Subject: Constitution and By-Laws Ammendments

BECAUSE the January 2019 regular meeting adopted a recommendation to establish a Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee; and

BECAUSE the Committee was subsequently formed in accordance with the adopted recommendation, and carried out a review of the Constitution and By-Laws of this council including consideration of affiliate, delegate, and staff feedback, other labour council Constitutions & By-Laws, CLC standard language, and more; and

BECAUSE the recommendations of the committee were approved by the September meeting of the Executive Board, and notice of motion was served at the September regular meeting,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL adopt the recommendations of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee as circulated.

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Question asked about the Unifor and BCNU situation - they remain the same.
- Retirees need to be encouraged to stay active in the labour movement.
- Brother Peter Marcus and Kim Cariou are running in the federal election for the Communist Party of Canada in Vancouver East and Vancouver Kingsway respectively.
- Garth Mullins, local activist, has a SoundCloud Channel – an interesting listen

MSC that NDP candidate for Vancouver Centre, Breen Ouellette, be allowed to address the delegates.

- Breen Ouellette is Métis out of Saskatchewan, was a lawyer in the inquiry into the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and was active in his union as steward and OH&S rep for his local in Regina CEP Local 1S. The calls by UNITE HERE Local 40 for the safety of the hotel workers on the job is a serious one and he commends labour for rallying with those workers and not letting this issue fall. Human rights made Breen get into politics. Canada promised to protect human rights when it signed onto the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, but is not living up to that promise. Breen wants to change that. Delegates and guests were invited to his campaign office opening.
- Joy Tullos from CUPE Local 15 had to resign as VDLC Treasurer as she is now the full-time rep for CUPE Local 15. While it is a loss for the VDLC, we are happy for her. Stefan Nielsen from UFCW Local 1518 has stepped into that role until the election in February.

16. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 8:56 pm.*

17. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2019**, 7:00 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

Please visit website for event listings and more – www.vdvc.ca