



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**

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 16, 2013 meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

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

BC Teachers' – VESTA

Heather Allison *

Anna Chudnovsky

Janek Kuchmistrz

Jody Polukoshko *

Leslie Roosa *

Les Rowe *

Linda Young *

CEP Local 2025

Erna Post

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

President Joey Hartman presented Cheryll Matthews, principal of Queen Alexandra Elementary School, with a cheque for \$12,500.00, the proceeds of the 2013 annual fundraiser. The VDLC has had a relationship with the school for 25 years; funding their morning program for 18 years and now their 'free store', The Wishing Tree.

Thank you to all our affiliates and friends who continue to support this partnership.

Principal Cheryll Matthews thanked everyone for their on-going support. There aren't a lot of organizations willing to make such a long-term commitment. The new Wishing Tree Store has become an important fixture in their school. Families come in daily to access the store.

The store not only provides needed supplies, but information on their labour rights, and the Vancouver and District Labour Council.

Joey and Cheryll are working on a labour information night for parents on their rights as workers.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS

- a) David Black, Canadian Office & Professional Employees' Union Local 378 – BC Hydro
Ten years ago, half of BC Hydro was privatized by the Liberal government. The Liberals 2005 “clean energy initiative” was in fact green-washing of their privatizing of BC Hydro. Since then COPE 378 has been seeking a meeting with the Minister of Energy, but they won't meet with the union. A number of private power projects have been contracted over the past 8 years, billions of dollars-worth. The private power companies sign deals with BC Hydro to purchase at a guaranteed rate far exceeding Hydro's own rates. Hydro is forced to pay for the power whether they need it or not. Each spring there is a glut of power due to high water levels in rivers and dams and higher wind levels. In the spring of 2012, due to heavy snow packs melting and heavy rain, there was a massive power glut, so a negative cost developed. In past years Hydro would have sold off the excess power, but with these agreements, they had to purchase power at exorbitant rates when they had too much power already. Last year COPE Local 378 intervened at the BC Utilities Commission and put in evidence that hydro rates should go up by 18% for 2013/2014 to cover the costs. The Commission agreed, but the Liberal government passed a law, stopping the Utilities Commission, and arbitrarily set electricity rates at 1.9%. Costs are not being met and accumulating in deferral accounts. A document was recently leaked to the union that shows that because of the private power projects and the deferral of rates last year, to cover the increasing short-fall, British Columbians are looking at a 26% increase to their hydro bills. COPE released the document to get people talking about this. The government has said that they were going to take BC Hydro out of independent review and continue the low rates; this means that they can either continue to defer short falls to their deferral accounts and we pay for it later, or the government can forgo their dividend from BC Hydro worth \$100 million. The impact of such an increase on low or fixed income households could be disastrous, especially in homes heated with only electric heat. Big industry like mines, lumber and pulp and paper mills will be hurt too.

The smart meter initiative put another billion dollars into deferral accounts. The cost to install those smart meters could have employed COPE 378 members to read those meters for 60 years. The estimated life of those meters is 20 years maximum. Any cost savings claimed are non-existent.

- b) Ron Stipp, Canadian Labour Congress – Together Fairness Works Campaign
Together Fairness Works is a multi-union initiative to build union capacity and strength from the ground up and to re-build the credibility with our own memberships. There have been a number of federal bills against unions: Bill C377, onerous disclosure requirements; Bill C525, making it harder for workers to form a union at the federal level; Bill C60, puts the treasury board into negotiations between crown corporations and unions; a bill in Saskatchewan that changed the labour law there; and in Ontario the Conservative candidate has promised a plethora of anti-union legislation if elected. Part of the assault is media's constant branding of unions in a right wing way in the media with terms like “gold plated” and term union bosses. The CLC Canadian Council mandated this union wide campaign to build solidarity, resist the right wing attacks, and communicate the message to the public. Our strength is our solidarity of membership. We see the conservatives gutting EI, expanding the Temporary Foreign Workers program, constant attacks on “union bosses and forced union dues”. A sobering thought, 1 in 6

union members would stop paying union dues if given the choice and another 28% would, depending on the situation. However, they want continued services. A really telling question was how union members thought about their union, 68% said “the union” and only 32% said “my union” – that appears to be the crux of the problem. The essence of the campaign is to listen to what is being said, get a handle on why it’s being said, and talk to our members about the benefits and why being a part of the union movement is important. The hope is to have everyone talking to their brothers and sisters and fellow workers, it has to happen on the shop floor. It is about engaging.

6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the July 16, 2013 meeting:

Summer Break

There was no August VDLC meeting so it was an opportunity to take vacation and catch up on backlogs in the office.

Protein for People

The VDLC community forum funded by Protein for People will be held Wednesday, September 25 from 3:00 to 7:00 pm at Queen Alexandra School. Anyone able to volunteer should contact Bonnie Hammond through the VDLC office. Unions are also encouraged to have a presence with information, give-away items, and members wearing union clothing to show our presence in the community.

Political Action

The VDLC executive is working on an increased level of political involvement with an emphasis on preparing for the November 2014 municipal elections. Affiliates will be contacted to seek “council-watch” volunteers and to identify potential new candidates who could be approached and provided with training. The executive also has a representative on the COPE executive with voice but no vote, and has a meeting scheduled with representatives of Vision Vancouver.

Unifor

Over the Labour Day weekend the CAW and CEP held their inaugural convention in Toronto, joining together formally into the new largest private sector union in Canada with 300,000 members. Indications are that Unifor will be a very activist based progressive union which will put a lot of effort into mobilization and organizing the unorganized. The previous presidents of both CAW (Len Lewenza) and CEP (Dave Coles) made room for Jerry Dias to become the new president.

Website

Progress continues on the new website and it should be functional before the October meeting.

Wishing Tree Fundraiser 2014

Kent Wong has agreed to be our keynote speaker at a fundraising dinner in April or May 2014. Kent is the director of the Centre for Labor Research and Education at UCLA, where he teaches Labor Studies and Asian American Studies. He is founding president of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO) and was deeply involved in the very successful organizing campaign “Justice for Janitors.” He is Vice-president of the California Federation

of teachers, and a great speaker. Unifor has agreed to cover Kent's flight and hotel costs to attend, with the understanding that a tag-on event for their members can be organized.

MSC to adopt the report.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** see attached

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:

- Cumberland Museum - \$100.00 for signs and displays re: labour history
- Joe Hill Video project - \$100.00 to assist with production costs for short video about Joe Hill staying in BC
- World Peace Forum - \$200.00 to assist with costs of November 2, 2013 forum at SFU Harbour Centre, with 3 VDLC activists on the program
- Joey Hartman to BC NDP Convention November 15 to 17, 2013 at a cost of \$375.00

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

Subject: United Way Campaign

BECAUSE the VDLC has traditionally supported the United Way of the Lower Mainland in their annual fundraising campaign; and

BECAUSE the United Way works in partnership with the labour movement, funds agencies and programs that are both delivered by and accessed by union members and their families, and helps to prevent and alleviate poverty, bullying, social isolation and other problems in our community,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the United Way of the Lower Mainland fundraising campaign for 2013/14 and encourage all affiliates to give generously and consider workplace campaigns where their members work.

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

Subject: Reconciliation

BECAUSE part of the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement in Canada included the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC); and

BECAUSE the TRC is organizing a number of events through "Reconciliation Week" September 16 to 22, 2013; and

BECAUSE the labour movement is actively participating in Reconciliation Week as a step towards more collaborative relationship with Aboriginal people built upon understanding and mutual respect,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse and participate in the Reconciliation Week events, including joining with the BC Federation of Labour to join in the September 22 Walk for Reconciliation and a New Way Forward, starting at 10:00 am from the Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza.

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

Subject: Syria

BECAUSE over 1,000 Syrian civilians were killed by chemical weapons in August, leading to an intense international debate as to the appropriate response, including the potential for US led military strikes; and

BECAUSE the attack on Syria could provoke retaliation or spark a regional war; and

BECAUSE international negotiations appear to be making progress, with Syria indicating agreement to turn over all stores of chemical weapons,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support the UN call for a peaceful political solution to the Syria crisis, to be negotiated in accord with the UN Charter and international law; and further

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL encourage the Canadian government to provide aid to Syrian refugees.

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

a) HEU North Shore Community Local – Reported by Graham O’Neill

Good news: a victory for Tina Irvine, an HEU member at Stanford Place in Parksville. In January 2012, Sister Irvine spoke out to protect seniors’ care; she was suspended for six days plus other disciplinary action. The arbitrator ordered the discipline rescinded and back pay for the six days. The arbitrator further stated that Tina’s speaking out was fair comment and not insubordination.

On Monday, September 16 the big three contracted services started a three week process of taking a strike vote.

b) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis

Rapid changes are happening at the library; they are in danger of having their skilled work being pushed down in classification to the lowest paid position. For details (see www.cupe391.ca and read Gerard Batty’s most recent President’s report)

c) CUPW – Reported by Jeannette McConnell

National tech change consultations with Canada Post have been going on for the past 7 months. Canada Post Corp. was not forthcoming initially with the notices and information regarding the Pacific Processing Plant they are building in Richmond. The Union is trying to mitigate the stress involved in such a massive work change (hours, times, location). The union has fought hard for comforts, health and safety for its members. A current example of disregard for health and safety is the “rest pods” for eating, etc. on the work floor, 2 of them have conveyors running right over them. CUPW’s campaign, Postcards for Posties, a grassroots union strategy is connecting members.

The following verbal reports were presented but not submitted for the minutes:

- a) BCGEU Local 503 – Reported by Keith Stone
- b) CUPE Local 116 – Reported by Harry Easton

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

- a) Women's – Reported by Agnes Jackman
The committee is hosting a workshop on Intersectionality, Oct 8 from 7 to 9 pm. The committee is holding Public Speaking for Women, November 7 and 14, a two day session. Please RSVP to the VDLC office for both of those. The committee's next meeting is September 23 at the VDLC office.
- b) Young Workers' – Reported by Bonnie Hammond
The committee met Monday, September 16 where they discussed a number of things, among them the lock-out at Ikea in Richmond. Ikea currently has scabs working behind the line. Those scab workers are employees who have chosen to cross their own unions picket line to work and Ikea is paying them above the rate being asked for by the workers they've locked out. The committee is planning to invite a member of the RCMP to speak on how to hold a peaceful protest. The committee will be holding a craft fair / bake sale in November before the regular meeting at 6 pm as part of their fundraising for the World Festival of Youth and Students. They are holding a bowling night in Surrey and Scary'oke at the Princeton Pub. Unifor Local 111, Young Workers' Committee is holding a Hallowe'en Party October 19.
- c) Education – Reported by Joey Hartman
The fall Labour Law program is set, Advocacy at Arbitration and the Labour Board, October 19 and 20 with Leo McGrady and Leslie Burke-O'Flynn; and Effective Grievances, November 16 with Megan Ashbury. Please pre-register with Keziah at the VDLC office, 604.254.0703 or office@vdlc.ca

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

11. OTHER REPORTS:

- a) COPE – Reported by Matt Damario
Poetry in Music event, bringing awareness to the number of music and culture venues being closed due to high rent increases and gentrification. Another event COPE is promoting is the Future of Public Transit and Universal Access.
- b) BC FORUM – Reported by Sandy Bauer
The latest issued of *the Advocate* is hot off the press. It provides a full report of their June AGM and includes several articles on public health care, concerns regarding cuts to home support, and the Therapeutics Initiative, etc.
- c) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp
UBCM meeting has a resolution on the table, proposed by Vancouver on campaign contribution and spending limits. Update on Bill 377, because the House is prorogued the Bill with the amendments go back to the Senate. As a private members bill, it will not

die, it just returns to where it started. There will be some attempt by some Conservative Senators to undo some of the amendments.

Harrison Winter School is set January 19 to February 21; a list of courses is available on the CLC website.

- d) We Can End Violence Against Women – Reported by Graham O’Neill
Their AGM is Saturday, October 12, 10am to 4pm at the BCTF office – www.wecanbc.org

MSC to receive the other reports.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

13. NOMINATIONS / ELECTION FOR BY-ELECTION:

Those interested should be aware that they must be a delegate from an affiliate union in good standing and have attended at least 50% of the regular meetings from the previous 12 months. As well candidates should have the ability to attend the Executive meetings, held at 12 noon, at the Maritime Labour Centre, the same day as the Regular meeting.

1st Vice President Terry Engler opened the nominations for 1 position for VDLC Executive member-at-large.

<i>Nominee</i>	<i>Union</i>
<i>Jeannette McConnell</i>	<i>CUPW</i>

Nominations were closed. A 2nd call for nominations will be held at the October 15, 2013 meeting followed by election.

14. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

15. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

16. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- A moment of silence was held for Brother Steve McFarlane, BC Teachers’ delegate from Vancouver Secondary Teachers’ Association, and Sister Elizabeth Kelleher a friend of the VDLC, a tireless social advocate and activist.
- Protein for People event at Queen Alexandra Elementary School, September 25, 3 to 7 pm. It is a family friendly event with music, activities for kids, face painting, information booths, and so much more. If CUPE workers are on strike, the event will be a sidewalk party. Anyone that can volunteer some time, please see Bonnie Hammond.
- Sensible BC – anyone interested in becoming a canvasser please see Sandy Bauer
- 50/50 Proceeds will benefit the Young Workers’ fundraising effort towards their delegation to the World Festival of Youth and Students.

17. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:20 pm.*

18. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 7:30 pm** at the Maritime Labour Centre

Pizza Educational
OCTOBER 15, 2013 - 6:00 pm
Pizza available by donation

Correspondence List September 2013 VDLC meeting

All correspondence is available with Joey Hartman for review at the meeting.

FROM	REGARDING	ACTION (if any)
1. ALIVE (Aboriginal Life in Vancouver Enhancement Society) – Scott Clark	Copy of letter to Minister Stephanie Cadieux (Children & Family) re: unmet needs of urban Aboriginal children and families in Grandview Woodlands	
2. BC Building Trades	Tradetalk – Fall 2013	
3. BC Fed	News release re: 5 year anniversary of mushroom farm tragedy	
4. BC Fed – Irene Lanzinger	BC Fed endorsement of United Way Campaign	
5. BC Fed – Jim Sinclair	Notice of Regional Conference – November 25 – 27 in Vancouver	
6. BC Health Coalition	Notice of AGM September 10, 2013	
7. Briarpatch	Sept/Oct 2013	
8. Briarpatch Magazine	Request for support for special labour issue	
9. Canadian Merchant Service Guild – Mark Boucher	Notice re: changes in executive	
10. Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association	July 2013 newsletter and notice of Moncada Day Celebration July 28	
11. CAW Canada	Booklet “Where did our rights come from?: The Rand Formula and the struggle for union security (available on line)	
12. CCPA	Monitor – Sept 2013	
13. Chilliwack NDP – Dick Harrington	Donation request	
14. CLC – Amber Hockin	Together FAIRNESS WORKS campaign update	Encourage participation in Leaders seminar, Hilton Vancouver Metrotown Saturday Sept. 28. No cost but pre-registration required
15. CLC – Ken Georgetti	CLC boycott of Labatt products in support of NUPGE members on strike in Newfoundland: Stella Artois, Beck’s, Brahma, Hoegaarden, Leffe, Staropramen, Boddingtons, Bass, Lowenbrau, Ozusko Pivo	VDLC delegates are asked to support and promote this boycott
16. CLIFF Labour Film Fest	Information about 2013 festival	Will show a CLIFF film for November VDLC Pizza Educ
17. Columbia Journal	Sept 2013, including VDLC Labour Day ad	
18. Cumberland Museum	Donation request for \$100 to help develop signage and displays for “Labour History Hall”	Recommend \$100 donation
19. CUPE 4627	Cc of correspondence to VCCFA	
20. CUPE BC – Paul Faoro	Invitation to Barry O’Neill retirement celebration September 12	
21. CUPW	Pacific Perspectives – Summer 2013	
22. Digital Employees Union, Philippines	Thanks to supporters for helping to bring a successful outcome to their 4 month strike	
23. Edmonton Labour Council	Labour Day picnic	
24. Elizabeth Bagshaw Women’s Clinic	Request to sponsor / donate to fundraising event October 27 th	Referred to Women’s Committee
25. Fruma Louise Sloan	Notice that she has accepted a 6 month position with CUPW in Ottawa and therefore vacating her position as member-at-large on the VDLC executive	By-election to be held – nominations open Sept with election at October VDLC

26. Lawrence Boxall	Information on VIFF films to consider for VDLC sponsorship (no cost to VDLC)	Indicated 1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd choice
27. Living the New Economy Forum	Requesting financial sponsorship for event Oct 15 – 20	
28. NDP – Libby Davies	Opinion survey for constituents re: the senate	
29. Next Up Leadership group	Card thanking Sister Hartman for Labour History Walking Tour	
30. NUPGE – James Clancy	Notice that campaign “Labour Rights are Human Rights” is being integrated into CLC together FAIRNESS WORKS campaign	
31. Our Times	Aug 2013	
32. Our Times	Sept 2013	
33. Patrick Dickie, Labour Lawyer	Open house for new practice	
34. Rabble.ca	Thank you for support and donation	
35. Ron Verzuh	Joe Hill’s Secret Canadian Hideout – donation request for short video	Recommend \$100 donation
36. Toronto & York Labour Council	Labour Action special issue: Labour Day 2013	
37. UNITE HERE! Local 40 – Robert Demand	Update on escalating labour dispute with Hospitality Industrial Relations (hotels) and notice that a strike, lockout or boycott could be imminent at several hotels. Seeking affiliate support to contact employers with sample letters provided. List of hotels attached includes 17 in VDLC jurisdiction.	Notify Solidarity in Action Committee to be prepared in case of job action
38. Vancouver Rape Relief	Donation request	Referred to Women’s Committee
39. World Peace Forum – Rachel Tutte	Donation request to assist with costs of 2013 forum – November 2 at SFU Harbour Centre	Recommend \$200 donation

CORRESPONDENCE SENT BY VDLC

TO	REGARDING
1. All Affiliates	VDLC Anita Yan Memorial Labour Law courses – Fall 2013
2. All Affiliates	Young Workers’ Committee Newsletter and covering letter
3. All Affiliates	Community Forum with Protein for People – Sept. 25 th at Queen Alexandra
4. Wuhan Federation of Trade Unions	Invitation to visit VDLC when visiting Vancouver
5. Mike Clarke – BCGEU	Congratulations on election as VDLC Member at Large
6. Rabble.ca	Donation of \$100 per membership approval
7. Shaanxi Provincial Federation of Trade Unions	Invitation to visit VDLC when visiting Vancouver
8. Tim Cheung, CAW	Request for assistance to facilitate Kent Wong as keynote speaker for VDLC 2014 fundraiser for the Wishing Tree at Queen Alexandra School
9. Various Affiliates	Audit – Per Capita confirmation letters
10. Delegates	New delegate letters
11. Bow Valley Labour Comm. 12. Lethbridge Labour Council 13. Calgary Labour Council	Solidarity with Alberta Workers impacted by floods – as per motion July 16/13
14. Ken Georgetti, CLC	Endorsement of CLC Together Fairness Works Campaign – as per motion July 16/13
15. District 5, United Steelworkers	Solidarity with member following tragedy in Lac Megantic, Quebec – as per motion July 16/13