



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2014**

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

2. **CHAIRPERSON:** Terry Engler, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*MSC that the minutes of the September 16, 2014 meeting be adopted.*

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

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

CUPE Local 15  
Nimmi Takkar

TFEU  
Emily O'Neill

CUPE Local 2950  
Rey Astronomo

TWU Local 60  
Sean Royds

IUOE Local 115  
Frank Carr \*  
Tom Kinnear

TWU Local 63  
Benny Chou  
Nasim (Julie) Kadir \*

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

5. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Rob Duffy, Coordinator of the Sustainable Communities Initiative

The Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) conducts research analysis and monitoring of issues of governance in Metro Vancouver and Translink. The project is funded by CUPE, COPE Local 378, Building Trades, BCGEU, and Unifor. The CLC, VDLC, and NWDLC participate as well. Current issues include waste and recycling, transit referendum, and overlap with ports.

**Waste and Recycling:** Bylaw 280 would have prevented disposing waste outside the region. Most municipalities supported 280, regardless of their position on incineration or recycling as it meant maintenance of revenues in those municipalities. On Friday, the province turned it down. They are heavily lobbied by Delcor, who is promoting business for the Cache Creek landfill.

Much waste now goes to Abbotsford and then to the United States. This decision throws Metro Vancouver's waste strategy and reduction targets into disarray, including plans for construction of a waste energy facility. If that isn't approved, it will result in a \$6 million deficit in Metro Vancouver's waste management budget. The province promised a review of the region's waste management plan. The waste management incineration plan was for a \$470 million facility. They've have 9 different proposals so far. Metro supports the project, but there are still concerns. Arguments for the project are, cost effectiveness, electricity generation potential, cost recovery

possibilities. Arguments against are that it creates a demand for waste, so it becomes a disincentive for recycling, and of course, air quality issues.

**Translink:** The Metro mayors' council transportation plan calls for \$7.5 billion in new spending, \$2 billion in operations, and an annual budget increase to \$2.2 billion from \$1.4 billion.

The plan includes a new Patullo Bridge, light rail in Surrey and Langley, extension of millennium line to Arbutus, and 25% more bus services across the region (400 more buses). All mayors signed onto this plan, but the province rejected many of the proposed revenue sources: carbon tax transfer to municipalities was denied in favour of tolls and municipal taxes. The province is willing to consider a 1/3 funding of rapid transit projects and the Patullo Bridge replacement.

The province was also pessimistic of sufficient federal contributions to fund this plan, and noted there would be no further funding for the current Patullo Bridge, funding for HandiDart, or Translink governance reform funding.

Mayors also asked the province for help lobbying the federal government for increased funding. Mayors are opposed to a referendum, but have suggested March 15, 2015 with 2 questions on a ballot: 1) whether voters support the 10 year plan; and 2) whether they support the revenue sources proposed.

It is likely to be a mail in ballot. Based on polls conducted, approximately 57% of those polled said they would be in support – 15% supported a carbon tax, 27% supported a \$75 vehicle levy, 27% supported a \$2 bridge toll and 17% a regional sales tax.

**Metro Vancouver Governance and Port overlap:** There is currently a court challenge on air quality jurisdiction between Metro Vancouver and Fraser Surrey Docks. It is over dust from transporting soy products. Fraser Surrey Docks argues that Metro has no jurisdiction, and Metro argues that they have the right to regulate environmental issues in the region. GVRD is also studying the air quality in Delta and White Rock. Polling around the expansion of coal to Fraser Surrey Docks is fairly evenly split.

**Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM):** passed a policy paper for increased funding and reduced fares for the BC Ferries due to impact on coastal communities. The provincial government dismissed their concerns. At the same time, the provincial government issued a review which stated that municipal workers are overpaid – sources included the Fraser Institute and the Canadian Tax Payers Federation, but they did not talk to municipalities, or the UBCM. Even mayors and councils that are usually supportive of the Liberal government have blasted back. UBCM passed a few resolutions with labour implications:

- U127 supported greater coordination with law enforcement and provincial and federal governments when investigating workers injured or killed on the job due to employer negligence;
- B4 on worker camps calls for greater oversight and regulation of health, safety, and socio-economic conditions; and
- Environmental resolutions with implications for labour around pipelines and coal transport, as well as resolutions around energy and energy efficiency including funding for efficiency upgrades, which could have implications around job creation.

*These issues are important as we head into a municipal election. Rob Duffy was thanked for his time and presentation.*

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

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the September 16, 2014 meeting.

### Political Action – Municipal Elections

The recommendations from the Multi-Union Vetting Committee regarding which municipal candidates to endorse were voted on at the September 16 regular meeting. Sister Hartman was subsequently interviewed by several print and radio media and there was quite a lot of activity on social media.

There was one addition after the vote, when it was discovered that a survey had been overlooked despite being on time. The Vetting Committee agreed to recommend Jessica Stanley for North Vancouver School Board, and the VDLC executive endorsed her by an email vote with the understanding that this would be reported to the October 21, VDLC meeting. Another candidate, Pamela Costanzo, withdrew at the same time.

The VDLC is filing as a third party sponsor with Elections BC in order to list the names of endorsed candidates on the VDLC website. This is a new requirement.

Poll cards are being printed with the names of all VDLC recommended candidates, for distribution through the affiliated unions who wish to supply them to their members.

### Labour Law Classes and other VDLC Education

The VDLC labour law series is gaining recognition and popularity. The most recent offering on Duty to Accommodate and Human Rights was filled to capacity and a number of disappointed people were turned away. The next class will be November 8 and 9 on Bullying and Harassment, and is already over-filled with 23 registrants. The spring program will be available within the month.

### Metro Vancouver Alliance

Almost 800 people crowded into the auditorium of the Italian Cultural Centre on October 9. They were there as delegates of organizations that belong to the Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA), and to participate in MVA's first Election Accountability Assembly. The VDLC delegation had 17 people.

The assembly put the MVA's program for positive change to candidates from four prominent political parties: Green, COPE, NPA and Vision, and asked for a response. The four candidates, Adriane Carr, Meena Wong, Kirk LaPointe, and Gregor Robertson, all said "yes" to each issue they were asked to work with MVA on. These were specific proposals around social isolation, transit, housing and poverty.

The VDLC is a founding member of MVA, which brings together labour, faith and community organizations for the common good. It is hoped that the huge success of this event will encourage more unions to join the MVA to build up the labour sector within MVA.

### Protein for People

November 20, 2014 has now been set as the new date for the VDLC's Protein for People event at Queen Alexandra Elementary School. It will be held in the school gymnasium.

VDLC 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Invitations are being sent out for a wine and cheese social on Friday, November 21, marking the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the labour council. Current and previous executive members, activists, affiliates and other friends of the VDLC are being invited. Volunteers will be needed to assist on the evening of November 21.

*MSC to adopt the report*

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:**      Circulated at the meeting.

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:

- Registration fees of \$175.00 each and per diems of \$35.00 per day for up to 3 VDLC delegates to the BC Federation of Labour 2014 Convention for a total cost of \$1,050.00 (included in the 2014 budget)
- World Peace Forum - Donation of \$100.00
- BC Fed 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Labour Community Christmas Dinner – Donation of \$100.00
- Royal Canadian Legion North Vancouver, purchase of 1 wreath for November 11<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$50.00
- BC Law Institute, Employment Standards Act Project – Donation of \$100.00

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

Subject:            New Affiliation – CUPE Local 718

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the application for affiliation from CUPE Local 718 representing 850 Richmond, municipal workers.

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

Subject:            Endorsement for BC Federation of Labour Executive Council

BECAUSE the elections are held during the BC Federation of Labour convention for five labour council representatives to serve on the BC Fed's Executive Council; and

BECAUSE to be eligible to run for a labour council seat on the BC Fed Executive Council, candidates must first be endorsed by their labour council,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse Sister Joey Hartman as a candidate for one of five positions representing affiliated labour councils on the BC Federation of Labour Executive Council, with the elections to be held during the November 2014 BC Federation of Labour convention.

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

Subject:            Bill C-377 Returns

BECAUSE the federal Bill C-377 is back before Senate, along with a conservative backed motion to limit debate on Private Members' business such as this Bill; and

BECAUSE when Bill C-377 was first considered by the Senate, former Conservative Senator Hugh Segal criticised the proposed law, questioned its constitutionality, and then made several amendments that were passed in the Senate on June 26, 2013; and

BECAUSE during the summer of 2013 prime Minister Harper prorogued parliament, resulting in Bill C-377 being returned to the Senate in its original form, after prorogation; and

BECAUSE Hugh Segal is no longer in the Senate to champion the opposition to Bill C-377,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL refresh its campaign to defeat Bill C-377 and encourage all delegates and affiliates to contact their Members of Parliament and local Senators from all political parties to call for defeat of this legislation and similar attacks on the labour movement.

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

a) CUPW – Reported by Fruma Sloan.

October 20 was a sad day for all Canadians. On Monday, door-to-door delivery ended for thousands of residents in Calgary, Montreal, Winnipeg, and Ottawa. Instead of getting their mail delivered to their home, these residents will have to walk to a community mailbox to pick-up their mail. This is wrong on so many levels:

- Canada Post is promoting online purchasing but few will use the Post Office to get their parcel when they have to walk several blocks to retrieve it.
- In the last quarter Canada Post made a profit. This makes Canada Post's claim that they cannot afford door-to-door delivery laughable and wrong.
- Canada Post is refusing to consider services which would both help Canadians and make a profit. This includes postal banking services, which most countries in the world have. For instance postal banking is a major source of profits for Swiss post.
- Lack of door-to-door delivery will hurt seniors and persons with disability.

The decision to end door-to-door delivery was fully supported by Stephen Harper and his cabinet. Please keep this in mind a year from now when the federal election occurs. In the meantime, continue to pass resolutions, sign petitions, talk to friends, family, and co-workers, and attend CUPW Save Canada Post events and actions.

In part because CUPW knows that ending door-to-door delivery will negatively impact seniors and persons with disabilities, the union has launched a Charter challenge. With their allies, including seniors' organizations and the disabled women's network, CUPW is arguing that Canada Post's actions in cutting door-to-door delivery is discriminatory and illegal. The union will continue to keep the labour council informed of the challenge.

Some good news, CUPW represents some non-Canada Post employees who process customs mail. They work in postal facilities including Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal. They are employed by one of Canada's largest temporary agencies - Addeco. After many months of negotiations CUPW managed to negotiate a first collective agreement for these workers. It is for 16 months and includes a 17% wage increase over the life of the contract. Even though it is a significant increase these workers are still seriously underpaid. This new contract is in the process of being ratified.

Thank you and remember that in the fight to save Canada Post, the struggle does continue.

The following report was made by not submitted for the minutes:

- a) Unifor Local 2002 – Reported by Tim Cheung

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

**10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)**

- a) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan

Women Transforming Cities held a flash mob to launch their “Hot Pink Paper”. The paper outlines issues affecting women and girls in the city that should be held in serious consideration during the civic election. The pamphlet also encourages women to vote.

The VDLC's IWD Dinner will be Friday, March 6, 2015 – posters and tickets available soon.

- b) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephan Von Sychowski

IKEA Richmond is still on lock-out, but there is a possible end in sight. The union and IKEA have re-entered mediation with Vince Ready, and he has been enabled to recommend binding arbitration.

*MSC to adopt the reports of committees.*

**OTHER REPORTS:**

- a) CLC – Provided by Ron Stipp

Harrison Winter School course schedule and registrations were made available, the website is live and registrations are already coming in, so register early. There are new courses being offered as well as the courses that are popular.

The Federal Working Group will be meeting soon to start preparing for the federal election.

The Retirement Security Campaign will be re-launching December 4. They will be pushing to keep the issue in the forefront of the next election. There will be a regional political action conference in March, focusing on four major issues being made an election priority by the CLC: retirement security, jobs, health care, and child care. Health care is likely to be the number one issue in this election.

Municipal election poll cards will be out soon. CUPE, COPE, BCGEU, Machinists, TWU, PSAC, HSA, Unifor, IBEW, BC FORUM are all sending out poll cards. Thank you to the affiliates for helping to elect progressive candidates.

- b) BC FORUM – Reported by Sandra Bauer

BC Advocate was made available. The magazine is full of great information for all, retired/non-retired, union / non-union. There are also membership cards available to sign-up, membership does not require that you are retired, just that you are 50 plus years of age. Anyone that signed up at the meeting received a ‘pocket socket’ cell phone charger.

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**      NIL

**12. NEW BUSINESS:**            NIL

**13. NOTICE OF MOTION:**      NIL

**14. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- 50/50 Draw to benefit the Solidarity in Action Committee
- World Peace Forum, Saturday, October 24, Imperialism, Resistance, and Alternatives. What is happening now and how can it change. November 11, they will be showing *All Quiet on the Western Front* at the W.I.S.E Club, 1:00 pm.
- Saturday, October 24, 12:30 pm at Waterfront Station - StopWar demonstration against the bombing of Iraq and Syria by the U.S. and its allies.
- Wednesday, October 29 at the 7:30 pm at the Peretz Centre an award winning film is being presented about a young Russian Jew as she grew up in Westbank.
- March for housing and against homelessness, November 3 from the Vancouver Art Gallery to the Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel where there is a conference on homelessness being held.

**15. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *MSC to adjourn at 8:36 pm.*

**16. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2014**, 7:30 pm,  
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street

**Pizza Educational**  
**Labour In Theatre**  
**Tuesday, November 18**  
**6:00 pm**