



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2013**

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

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

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*MSC that the minutes of the October 15, 2013 meeting be adopted.*

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

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

BCTF – VESTA

Nancy Hawkins \*

BCTF – VSTA

Phillip Lee

TWU Local 63

Julie Kadir

Colin Mah (A)

UNIFOR Local 464

John Ehinger

Jack MacDermot

UNIFOR Local 2000

John Hawkins

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

5. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

a) Shane Simpson, NDP MLA Vancouver East

On behalf of the NDP Caucus, Shane thanked delegates and the unions they represent for the support they received in May. The campaign was a clear disappointment for everyone. There were a lot of hopes and expectations that the NDP would form government and make the changes that working people and vulnerable people in this province need.

This past NDP Convention was one largest in BC in nearly 20 years. There was criticism, but criticism that looked to the future. The Caucus felt energized coming out of that convention. The most exciting was the number of young people and how vocal they were.

There has been much conversation about what happened since the election in May; conversation that has moved from disappointment to determination and renewal. They need to move forward and look to 2017. A part of that renewal will be the leadership race; who will lead the NDP into the 2017 election. That race will also bring much debate to the table – namely the economy and the environment. We are a resource based economy and rely on the extraction and selling of those resources, but we need to do that with the best sciences and practices behind it. We need to look at how to transition. We can't be divided. It is the leadership's job to bring both sides together to find the answers.

We need to work together over the next few years. The NDP is in a partnership with the labour movement. We may disagree and have debates, but we need to work together and ensure that our shared values and principles continue to move forward.

b) Kathy Hartman, Director of Social Justice at BCTF – Union Activism for a Green Economy offering at Harrison Winter School

After the election debrief held by the BC Fed, Kathy thought about what she heard; a lot of frustration and anger towards environmentalists. She heard things like environmentalists are ruining the labour movement; there is no middle ground between environment and jobs; environmentalists won't move off their position; and our economy is built on trade, natural resources, and construction. They made sense. Environmentalists have to listen to what trade and construction workers can do and to what they are saying. How? We have to sit down together and ask questions. What should a green economy look like in BC? How are we going to build the infrastructure with good union jobs? The environmental movement has lots of energy and determination; imagine them working together with the labour movement, what could be accomplished. Delegates were encouraged to attend and to encourage other trade unionists to attend the course at the CLC Winter School, February 11 to 14, 2014. (see enclosure)

## 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the September 17, 2013 meeting:

### Political Action

Following the October meeting with representatives of Vision Vancouver, a similar meeting has been scheduled with COPE on December 10.

At the provincial level, the VDLC hosted a session for Jim Sinclair and the BC Fed to debrief the May 14, 2013 election loss and help decide the future relationship with the labour movement. In addition, Sister Hartman was asked to co-chair the balloting committee for the BC NDP convention elections being conducted at the convention November 15 to 17.

### Solidarity Events

- Justice for Cleaners, October 31 – Sister Hartman spoke at a rally for laid-off cleaners at Cadillac-Fairview's head office. At the end of the rally the workers took over the lobby and the 10<sup>th</sup> floor and demanded that the company meet with their union. After 2 hours the police escorted Gavin McGarrigle (Unifor) and Jim Sinclair (BC Fed) to the offices on the locked up 9<sup>th</sup> floor, where they met a company representative who agreed to a meeting with Unifor president Jerry Dais in the near future.

- IKEA international fact finding mission, November 6 and 7 – The VDLC was instrumental in helping to organize a public forum as part of a 2 day investigation by representatives of the ITF, Uni and Teamsters International. Investigators came from Sweden, England and Washington DC to assess the 6 month long IKEA lock-out from an international perspective.

#### World Peace Forum

Three VDLC executive members were presenters at the November 2 forum. Joey Hartman and Stephen Von Sychowski were on a panel about the Temporary Foreign Worker program, and George Christou presented on the Walmart organizing campaign.

#### Labour History

There is a lot of activity currently around labour history projects. Sister Hartman did 3 guided tours over the October 26 and 27 weekend and participated in a full day meeting to set out the framework for a new book about the BC labour history with an aim to launching in 2015. The labour history walking tour booklet that the VDLC contributed to is set to go to print in mid-December, and the Knowledge Network has produced a series of 30 vignettes of 3 minutes each which will start to be shown on TV in January. All of this content is also being used by the BCTF Labour History Project to build curriculum for use in BC public schools.

#### VDLC 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The actual anniversary falls on Friday, November 21, 2014. Ideas to date include arranging for a proclamation from the mayor of Vancouver to be presented during the Labour Day events in September, and a wine and cheese gathering from about 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm on the actual date. Delegates are invited to participate in planning events

*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:

- OXFAM Canada for Philippine Disaster Relief (to be matched by the federal government) – donation of \$500.00
- CoDevelopment Canada advertisement in Film Festival program – at a cost of \$175.00
- PNLHA June 13 to 15, 2014 conference in Cumberland – registration fee \$100.00
- Metro Vancouver Alliance membership renewal June 2012 through December 2013 – at a cost of \$750.00

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

Subject: Federal Changes to Employment Insurance

BECAUSE numerous labour and community groups across Canada have signed a joint statement to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, which calls upon the federal government to:

1. Rescind all 2012 and 2013 Budget measures related to EI.
2. Improve EI benefits:
  - Improve access by reducing qualifying hours in all regions to the lesser of 360 hours or 13 weeks.
  - Increase duration to at least 50 weeks in all regions. Provide a Special Extension when unemployment exceeds 6.5%, paid from federal general revenues.
  - Increase benefits to at least 60% of earnings using workers' 12 best weeks. Raise the maximum benefit. And eliminate severance pay allocations and the two week waiting period.
  - Provide EI income benefits so long as workers are in approved training.
  - Expand supports for work-sharing arrangements under EI to reduce lay-offs, and build links between work-sharing and training.
3. Provide Temporary Foreign Workers with meaningful EI entitlements,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the VDLC Executive's decision to sign on to the "Joint Statement by Community and Labour Groups Concerning Federal Changes to Employment Insurance" as circulated October 2013.

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

Subject: VDLC Political Engagement Program for 2014

BECAUSE the VDLC Executive has identified increased political engagement and effectiveness as a labour council priority for 2014, with a focus on preparing for the municipal elections; and

BECAUSE the VDLC jurisdiction includes Vancouver, North Vancouver City, North Vancouver District, West Vancouver, Richmond and Electoral District A; and

BECAUSE all municipalities in BC will be holding civic elections on November 15, 2014, and will be voting for mayors, council members, school board trustees, and in the case of Vancouver, parks board commissioners,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to the leaders of affiliated unions to advise them of the decision by the VDLC to increase political activity, and to invite them to assist by:

1. assigning representatives to serve on a multi-union vetting committee to assess candidates and develop recommendations for VDLC endorsement;
2. identifying potential candidates from within their membership; and
3. providing contact information for members who might assist with a "council watch" program by attending council meetings and monitoring political issues in their municipality, and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER engage in other activities to support the election of progressive candidates and a positive and ongoing relationship with those elected.

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

Subject: VDLC Policy for Vetting and Endorsing Municipal Candidates for 2014

BECAUSE the VDLC is responsible for vetting and endorsing candidates seeking election to political seats within the VDLC jurisdiction in the November 15, 2014 municipal elections; and

BECAUSE the labour council plays an important role in identifying and promoting the best candidates in our region,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL implement the following policy to guide the candidate vetting and recommendation process for the November 15, 2014 municipal elections:

1. Affiliates will be invited to assign a representative to serve on a multi-union vetting committee that will begin meeting in the spring of 2014.
2. The vetting committee will assess candidates using a range of tools, including surveys, conducting interviews, contacting unions, checking voting records on key issues and other means as appropriate.
3. Regardless of whether candidates are running as independents or as part of a political party, the committee will vet candidates individually vs. approval of a slate.
4. The VDLC will not endorse more candidates than there are positions, but may endorse fewer.
5. The VDLC will only consider endorsing candidates who request it.
6. The committee's recommendations regarding which candidates to endorse will be shared with the affiliates in advance of a vote at the September 16, 2014 VDLC regular delegate's meeting.
7. Following the VDLC vote, the list of endorsed candidates will be provided to the Canadian Labour Congress, who will forward the information to all CLC affiliates with members living in the region for distribution to their members.

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

a) HEU: North Shore Community – Reported by Graham O'Neill

HEU has negotiated a tentative collective agreement with Compass-Marquise with improvements to wages, vacation and sick leave. This was achieved just after members signed agreements with Sodexo and Aramark. Compass, Sodexo, and Aramark provide support services to various healthcare facilities throughout the province. The Facilities Bargaining Association has their conference the first week of November. The Community Health Bargaining Association will have its conference November 28 and 29.

b) Health Sciences Association – Reported by Agnes Jackman

On November 18, 2013, HSA chapter representatives from around the province and guests gathered in Vancouver to examine the tentative agreement between the Health Employers' Association of BC (HEABC) and the Health Science Professionals Bargaining Association (HSPBA). This tentative agreement is now going out to HSA's members for ratification. A decision has to be made by December 23, 2013. The term of the collective agreement is from April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2019, a 5 year term. The total wage increase over this period would be 5.5%. The bargaining committee worked hard to protect members' benefits and address their recruitment and retention



classification system, Pharmacare tie-in and other concerns. Now they have to wait to see how members feel about what was reached.

- c) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis  
External hiring of Library Assistants IIs is controversial because only external candidates and the most recently hired shelvers can apply. This has caused a lot of upset amongst the clerical staff. Library workers that have been employed for two to five years are feeling devalued. This is what is being said by, not only those being restricted from applying, but also those who are already Library Assistant II's. It is classic divide and conquer tactics by the employer.
- d) Unifor Local 464 – Reported by Jack MacDermot  
Local 464 represents the BCTF administrative staff, BCTF being the employer. In negotiations they have signed off on protocol and exchanged preliminary proposals. Their initial discussion have been positive and cordial and their seems to be optimism moving forward.
- e) HEU Dogwood Lodge – Reported by Karen McVeigh  
Facilities Bargaining Conference was held this past week. Sister McVeigh was elected onto the Bargaining Committee. Facilities Bargaining Unit has suffered raids from both BCNU (nursing staff) and PPWC (trades and maintenance).

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

- a) Teamsters Local 31 – Reported by Dave Lundy

*MSC that Sister Gorman, TWU Local 50, no longer affiliated to the VDLC, be invited to make a report of union.*

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

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

- a) Women's – Reported by Agnes Jackman  
Wrapped their Public Speaking for Women course, which was well attended and received positive feedback. The committee has come up with a new brochure to promote themselves a little more and to hopefully attract new members. Committee will be participating in the Women Transforming Cities Café, November 20 and the December 6 candlelight vigil commemorating the day to end violence against women. Committee's next meeting is Monday, January 13 at 6 pm.
- b) Young Workers' – Reported by Erin Searle  
Committee has started planning for activities for the New Year which includes a large educational component. Committee members George Christou and Natalie Santoro facilitated workshops at the World Peace Forum Teach-In. Committee's craft fair/bake sale is in the lobby all proceeds go towards the World Festival of Youth and Students fundraising efforts. Everyone's support has been very appreciated, they will report on the Festival in the New Year.

c) Education – Reported by Joey Hartman

Labour law courses: Advocacy and Arbitration, with Leo McGrady, and Effective Grievances, with Megan Ashbury, have been successful – so much so that a second Effective Grievance course has been planned for January, which is already full. Unfortunately, of the 28 registered participants for Effective Grievances, only 19 attended which means that the labour council will have to implement a prepayment and registration system, which has not been done to date. The spring program is nearly ready to be announced.

*MSC to adopt the reports of committees.*

**11. OTHER REPORTS:**

a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

See attached

b) COPE – Reported by Matt Damario

Volunteers have been working to get petitions signed for more transit buses and lower fares. In February, COPE will be holding their policy meeting. Policies for consideration for the 2014 platform can be sent to the COPE Executive. Sunday, November focusing on arts heritage and culture, there will also be motions brought forward to adopt the single transferable vote.

*MSC to receive the other reports.*

**12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** NIL

**13. NEW BUSINESS:** NIL

**14. NOTICE OF MOTION:** NIL

**15. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- 50/50 Proceeds will benefit the Young Workers' fundraising effort towards their delegation to the World Festival of Youth and Students.
- Young Workers Committee drew their raffle for service of 5 young workers for a day – Congratulations Wanda Mulhalland
- Coop Radio fundraising drive helped to raise \$40,000
- January 1 will be the 20 year anniversary of NAFTA

**16. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *MSC to adjourn at 8:45 pm.*

**17. NEXT MEETING:** [TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 7:00 pm](#) at the Maritime Labour Centre

**NO PIZZA EDUCATIONAL FOR DECEMBER MEETING**

Note that the December meeting is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month and will start ½ hour early to accommodate the Queen Alexandra Elementary School Choir who will open the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Delegates and guests are invited to remain after the December meeting for some festive cheer to close another great year at the VDLC and usher in the holiday season.

## Correspondence List November 2013 VDLC Meeting

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

FROM	REGARDING	ACTION (if any)
1. BC Fed	Press Release: Commission hears evidence that IKEA Richmond lockout out of step with IKEA philosophy	
2. Briarpatch	November-December 2013	
3. Briarpatch	Membership renewal notice	
4. Broadbent Institute	Thanks for support – list of activities and request for donation	
5. CCPA	Why Canada Needs Postal Banking	
6. CCPA Monitor	November 2013	
7. CLC	Frank Wall Leadership Development Scholarship to attend Public Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure at Harrison – deadline December 6 <sup>th</sup>	
8. CLC	Encouraging donations to OXFAM Canada towards Philippine relief efforts – to be matched 100% by Canadian Government	Recommend donating \$500
9. CLC – Ken Georgetti	Letter to Conservative senators who voted in favour or amended Bill C-377	
10. CLC Pacific Region	Harrison Winter School 2014 Calendar	Joey Hartman co-teaching Collective Bargaining I and attending Labour Council Leadership
11. CoDevelopment Canada	Request to place a VDLC ad in the film festival program for Feb 28 – March 2, 2014	Recommend purchasing ad at \$175
12. Council of Canadians	Invitation to public meeting November 18 re: LNG and Fracking: Risky business for the economy and the environment	
13. Crab – Water for Life Society	Request for donation to annual children`s Christmas party at Ray Cam	
14. CUPE 15	The Members` Voice – October 2013	
15. CUPE National	Counterpoint Summer 2013	
16. Edmonton & District Labour Council	EDLC Labour Reporter – October 2013	
17. Everywoman`s Health Centre	Invitation to 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House November 28 <sup>th</sup>	
18. Greater Vancouver Food Bank	Thanks for \$100 donation	
19. Harry Bains, MLA	Invitation to Labour Outreach Session, Nov 21	
20. KAISAKA early childhood education program – Philippines	Thank you for support as provided through a donation from the BCGEU`s International Affairs Committee	
21. Kamloops and District Labour Council	Minutes of all 2013 meetings and issues of `The Interior Worker``	
22. Living Wage for Families	Update to Living Wage employers and advising that VDLC certification is in effect to January 2015	
23. Metro Vancouver Alliance	Membership renewal for 2013	Recommend renewal at \$750
24. North Okanagan Labour Council	Minutes of October 9, 2013	



25. Office of the Prime Minister	Thank you for letter about the conflict in Syria – referred to John Baird	
26. Oxfam	Thanks from Gloria Ceron from El Salvador to VDLC for International Solidarity lunch meeting	
27. Pacific Blue Cross	Plan Update and newsletter	
28. PASO	Announcing launch of new organization to protect trade unionists in Colombia	
29. People`s Voice	Nov 1 – 15, 2013	
30. People`s Voice	October 16 – 31, 2013	
31. PNLHA – Brian Charlton	Call for presentations to June 13 – 15, 2014 conference in Cumberland and request for donation	Joey Hartman to submit a presentation proposal. Recommend donation of \$100
32. Toronto Labour Council	Labour Action Fall 2013	
33. Trade Justice Network	Request that VDLC sign on to an open letter to Harper re: demanding transparency around CETA	Agreed based on previous resolution passed by VDLC
34. Uni Global Union	Press Release: IKEA must tackle anti-worker culture present in its global network	
35. United Way Lower Mainland	Imagine gift catalogue	
36. VESTA	Newsletter November 2013	
37. World Peace Forum – Gary Cristall	Thanks for donation and presenting	

#### **CORRESPONDENCE SENT BY VDLC**

<b>TO</b>	<b>REGARDING</b>
1. All Affiliates	Young Workers Scary-Okee fundraising event
2. BC Fed	VDLC donation to 19 <sup>th</sup> annual Labour Community Christmas Dinner
3. CUPE 15	Thanks for donation to the VDLC Protein for People event
4. Greater Vancouver Food Bank	VDLC donation of \$100
5. John Brennand and Sheila Gorman	Regret that TWU is assigning full affiliation to New Westminster but recognize no members working in Vancouver. Thanks to both for contributions to the VDLC over the years.
6. PSAC BC	Thanks for donation to the VDLC Protein for People event
7. PSAC Vancouver Area Council	Thanks for donation to the VDLC Protein for People event
8. Quebec Premier Pauline Marois	Proposed Quebec Charter of Values
9. Rob Ashton	Thanks for contributions to the VDLC as a member at large on the executive
10. Royal Canadian Legion	Order for a wreath to be laid on November 11
11. United Way LM	Purchase of five tickets for December 5 <sup>th</sup> Labour Appreciation Dinner
12. Protein for People	Invoice letter for expenses from Community Event
13. VESTA	Invoice for registrations for Fall Labour Education Program
14. Delegates (2)	Welcome to the VDLC
15. BC Fed	VDLC donation to the Labour Community Christmas Dinner
16. Rob Ashton	Thank you for his time on the Executive
17. TWU Local 50	Thank you for their participation at the VDLC, they will be missed

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## CLC Report to Labour Councils November 2013

### CLC Winter School 2014

Winter School 2014 registration is now open! Check out 2014 course descriptions and register online at <http://www.canadianlabour.ca/pacific-region/week-long-course-descriptions>.

If you have any questions about Winter School, contact the Pacific Regional office at 604-430-6766.

### *together FAIRNESS WORKS*

The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) completed 24 **Leaders Seminars** (1900 participants, from 600 union locals who have a total of 800,000 members across Canada). The Leaders Seminars were held for local union leaders (presidents, unit chairs, business managers and assistants, and key local staff). In follow up to the seminars the CLC will be contacting individual locals to discuss next steps, and connecting union staff to the virtual communications site and webinars that will run through the month of November.

In addition to the member to member initiative the CLC is sending a public message to millions of Canadians that: “ The labour movement is not just about decent jobs. It’s about a better life, for everyone.” , through a series of TV ads. The TV ads will run until November 17, 2013 as part of a national advertising campaign to remind people about the good things we all enjoy because unions bring fairness to the workplace - and our lives. The feedback has been positive and we encourage you to watch the ad and share it through social media. The ad can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhInxpMMqk0&feature=youtu.be>

### **Municipalities Matter 2014 Campaign**

The CLC and labour councils have worked hard over the past few years on the Municipalities Matter campaign. In preparation for the municipal election the CLC has reconvened its provincial municipal working group, to assist in coordinating the municipal work of the affiliates on a provincial level.

The CLC's next step is to work with labour councils through an assessment process. This process will help guide the labour council's future work on the municipal election. Your CLC representative will be in touch with you to discuss dates to set up a municipal assessment in your area.

## **Retirement Security:**

### **Want to Help the Middle Class? Focus on Pensions.**

*Ken Georgetti, President CLC*

An old Chinese proverb says that the best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago and the second best time is now. That describes the opportunity that we have missed by not acting before now to expand the Canada Pension Plan.

The federal government claimed recently in its Throne Speech that it wants to help consumers and the middle class. But Ottawa is dragging its feet on the most important pocketbook issue of them all -- that of providing decent, secure pension income for all Canadians when they retire.

Fortunately there is a solution at hand in the form of an enhanced CPP. The labour movement has been advocating since 2009 for a modest, phased in and achievable proposal to double future benefits under the CPP on a fully-funded basis. The increased contributions to support this improved CPP would be phased in over a period of seven years. For about the price of one cup of coffee a day we could have been on the way to providing real retirement security but we have squandered four years.

The need is urgent. Only 38.8 per cent of all employees are covered by a workplace pension plan, most of them are our members. But millions of Canadians simply can't save enough on their own to retire. Most businesses are not offering workplace pension plans anymore, and many are shedding their existing plans. A growing number of people can find only part-time work, which seldom involves their employers partnering in providing pension plans.

Even a modest increase in CPP contributions would produce thousands of dollars a year in extra, pre-funded benefits for Canadians when they retire. Under our proposal, the basic pension floor for retirees in the future would rise from the current level of \$12,150 a year to a far more livable \$24,300.

The finance ministers have been talking since 2009 about improving the CPP, but every time they get close to an agreement, the federal government changes the rules or cancels the meetings. For some reason they want Canadians to use individual retirement savings plans offered by the financial services industry. They know that the Canadian mutual fund industry charges among the highest management fees in the world. They charge fees that are more than 2 per cent on average, which skims off 40 per cent of your

savings over a lifetime.

Some provincial governments are proposing designs for improving the CPP. In September, PEI's Finance Minister Wes Sheridan defined what would constitute a "modest" increase to the CPP. Ontario has also been a staunch advocate of improving the CPP but has become so frustrated with Minister Flaherty's resistance that it is threatening to set up a plan of its own. That is not the answer either.

Provincial finance ministers plan to meet on their own on November 1. At that meeting, they should survey the room and if enough of them agree, then they and their premiers should insist that Ottawa immediately table legislation enabling CPP improvements.

No doubt the financial services industry and special interest groups such as the Canadian Federation of Independent Business will plead that the economy is too fragile to accommodate even a modest increase in CPP contributions. The same people predicted disaster when then Finance Minister Paul Martin increased CPP contributions in the late 1990s to put the plan on a more secure footing. He acted and received the required support from the provinces despite the objections of British Columbia and Saskatchewan at the time. The Canadian economy actually improved and employment grew notwithstanding the dire predictions.

The alternative to improving the CPP is for Canadian government to use the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) to continue subsidizing businesses that don't offer pension plans to their employees. If we do nothing to improve pensions now, the GIS tab to taxpayers will grow from \$9.9 billion today to \$22 billion by 2030 and \$31 billion by 2040.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." The federal Conservatives are refusing to use their power to provide a vehicle for financial security for all Canadians.

So we applaud the Provinces for taking the lead and showing the character of leadership.

The time has come to plant that new tree that will, over time, grow the financial security that all Canadians deserve after a lifetime of work.

### ***Labour Code changes target collective bargaining: CLC's Georgetti calls it affront to democracy***

OTTAWA — Amendments that the Conservative government has slipped into a giant budget bill is an attack on the constitutional right to collective bargaining, says Ken Georgetti, president of the Canadian Labour Congress.

“The Conservative government is using a 308 page budget bill to do by stealth what they will not do by the light of day,” says Georgetti. “This government has a habit of using



this technique to push things through it knows will be unpopular so that there is no chance for real debate. It's playing partisan politics with their employees' livelihoods."

Georgetti was responding to the government's tabling the second part of its Economic Action Plan 2013 Act in the House of Commons on October 22. He says, "This Bill proposes big changes to the Public Services Labour Relations Act (PSLRA), especially around essential services, the dispute settlement mode and grievance procedure. There was no consultation on this with any of the parties affected."

Georgetti says the budget bill would undermine the right to collective bargaining by unilaterally designating services as essential. "There's been no problem raised with the existing process to designate essential services, so what is the government trying to fix here?"

The government is also changing the existing arbitration process for the federal public service, and putting the lives of workers in the federal jurisdiction in danger by introducing amendments to change the definition of dangerous work.

"What we're seeing here are amateurish moves that will disrupt the delicate balance of long-standing labour relations practices in the federal public service, and put the health and safety of federal workers at risk, all for purely ideological reasons," Georgetti says. "The unintended consequences will likely be more disputes than Canadians have ever seen before — and Canadians should ask to what end?"

## **Survey on Domestic Violence in the Workplace**

Winter 2013, the CLC is asking that affiliates please consider incorporating the launch of the domestic violence survey into their plans for December 6, 2013. The survey deadline will be June 6, 2014.

Additional information and time lines for this initiative will be provided, but if you would like a copy of the entire background and time line, or additional materials to build support for the initiative in your organization, please contact Chantel O'Neill, CLC Representative in the Pacific Region (604) 430-6766 ext.267.

