



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020**

- 1. LOCATION:** ZOOM Video Conference – 7:00PM

*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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Graham O'Neill

- 3. NOTICE OF VDLC POLICY ON HARASSMENT:** Circulated prior to meeting

**4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**

*M/S/C that the agenda of the November 17, 2020 Regular meeting be adopted.*

Motion brought forward by Russ St. Eloi to move the nominations and elections of the Executive Board immediately after the President's Report.

*M/S/C that the nominations and election of the Executive Board follows the President's Report.*

**5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*M/S/C that the minutes of the October 20, 2020 Regular meeting be adopted.*

**6. CREDENTIALS:**

CUPE Local 15

Aaron Cook

Rose Palozzi

UFCW Local 1518

Patrick Johnson

- 7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES:** Pledge of New Delegates

**8. GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Niki Sharma, MLA-Elect for Vancouver-Hastings

I so wish that we were in the same room together so I could see your faces. Thank you for inviting me. For those of you who don't know me, I was recently elected for MLA for the NDP for Vancouver-Hastings. I'll be sworn in next week, so it's a real honour to be here and I really look forward to meeting with you and having a regular chance to connect over the things that you care about and that you're working and to really learn from you. We've been having these meetings so far and I'm very happy to say that we have a historic 57 MLA's that are representing the NDP and will be serving this province. One thing that is very interesting is that I haven't met all of them which I'm looking forward to. For those people who don't know me, I'm an East Vancouver residence, a lawyer who has worked representing Indigenous people for years. I've worked with battered women support services, with women fleeing violence. On the childcare file, with Minister Katrina Chen, I got to work on figuring

out how we deliver \$10-a-day childcare embedded in to government and there is still work to do on this. More recently, I started working on climate policy with Vancity Credit Union. I'm really excited to bring all of the things I'm passionate about with my colleagues in Victoria.

As most of you know, it's an unprecedented and challenging time for people and with our pandemic and in the midst of the spike that we're seeing, what we're really focused on this is the top of mind issue. For those that followed our platform commitments, healthcare and supporting healthcare workers, supporting everybody that is going through all of the different aspects of the pandemic, whether it's the economic impact or just the impact on health. I hear from a lot of parents and teachers about their concerns and these are top of mind to me right now. We are going to have to work together to get through the next few months, until hopefully we have a vaccine. Dr. Bonnie Henry said today that probably this time next year we will be back to some sense of normalcy. I know that is one of our top priorities right now. So much to work on and I think it will be no surprise to people that follow the things that we are committed to and that we've already delivered on which is childcare and investing in a lot of the social programs that were cut over the years by the previous government. Of course, protecting and supporting the labour movement that we have all been passionate about and will continue to work on. I'm really happy at some opportunity to get to know each and every one of you that I don't know already and what concerns are top of mind for you. I'm definitely in learning mode and really open to hear what the top concerns are for you. You can invite me to any meeting that you like to.

#### Lorene Oikawa, Canadian Labour International Film Festival

I'm so happy to be here speaking with you. I am speaking to you from the unceded territories of Semiahmoo, Katzie, Kwikwetlem, Kwantlen, and Tsawwassen First Nations, the traditional lands that I have lived on my whole life. Otherwise, known as Surrey and my MLA is Bruce Ralston.

Some of you are very familiar with the Canadian Labour International Film Festival. CLIFF is Canada's only national labour film festival. It is our twelfth year and thank you to Stephen and the Vancouver and District Labour Council for their support. This is our usual month where we do our usual talk. We're doing something different with switching to an online due to COVID. We've actually expended it by doing screenings in October and December, with November being our film festival month. You've been provided the link to sign up after tonight's meeting and the access is available for the next 24 hours. There are some great short films and the films we have every year are different, because we put out a call for films about workers, the world of work and they come from not only Canada and the US, but all different countries. It's a great way to see unionized workers, non-unionized workers, workers trying to organize and those with all different types of issues. We have short films, long films, documentaries, fiction and animated films. Please keep in mind that we do this every year and it's free. We depend on donations and volunteer labour support to put this together and we offer a venue for artists to share their work and stories. Not unlike the work that you're doing at the labour council, trying to get issues heard and your union or workers represent, film is such a powerful medium to get these issues seen and heard and the importance of the labour movement. We are very excited that this is our twelfth year, we were able to pull this off despite the pandemic. Next year will be our thirteenth year and we'll look forward to, again collaborating with the labour council and hopefully, it will be in person. Until I can meet you in person, please stay safe everyone! We do have the special screening tonight but you can go online and check out the other screenings that we have. Thank you!

**9. EDUCATIONAL:** Nil

**10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the October 2020 meeting.

COVID-19

A reminder that the remainder of our meetings for 2020 will be held via Zoom due to COVID-19. Our office remains open, but we are not hosting gatherings or meetings. Please call ahead if you plan to come by as I am generally working from home and both Liz and I also have meetings and other commitments which can sometimes mean nobody is in office at a given time.

CLIFF

Normally we host a short film as part of the Canadian Labour International Film Festival at our November meeting. As we cannot do that this year, we are instead hosting a virtual screening. You will have received the link for this in your email. You can log-in anytime between 8:30 and 9:30 this evening and will have 24 hours to view the films from that time.

Political Action

On November 13 we will host a webinar titled Perspectives on the Future of Affordable Housing in Metro Vancouver. The panel will be led by Mayor Kennedy Stewart and will include four experts who will share their views on this crucial issue. This event is co-hosted with the New Westminster & District Labour Council and Columbia Institute.

Our Political Action Committee will meet on November 18 and Municipal Engagement on November 20.

We sent a letter to Mayor and Council, per the request of affiliates via the Political Action Committee, requesting consultation on the impacts to workers if the city proceeds with implementing transport pricing.

Anti-Racism

We have had three meetings with delegates and affiliate members interested in doing work around Anti-Racism. This has produced a motion proposing the formation of a new Anti-Racism Committee, which is before you today. There has been an encouraging amount of interest in this work.

Since the open letter in opposition to the "Freedom Rally" we have seen substantial harassment by right-wing elements. This has been in the form of a few phone calls, emails, and social media posts and a mass of carbon-copy spam emails via a "petition". These have been directed at the Labour Council, the organizations and individuals who signed the letter, and me personally. We have not responded, but it is clear to all that these groups support "freedom" to spread their theories but not to criticize them. Many in labour and community are discussing how best to respond this movement going forward.

### BCFED Convention

The BCFED Convention will take place on November 25 and 26. Our delegates will be Nikki Koutsochilis of CMG Freelance, and Lauren Bowles of IBEW Local 213 as our young worker delegate. Ron Stipp will use our extra credential as nobody from the Executive Board requested it. I am a delegate by virtue of being on the Executive Council.

### Labour Education

Based on the responses I received to my recent email, we will make all courses online-only until current gathering restrictions are lifted. Our courses for the Fall continue to move ahead successfully with the exception of our Unions and the Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation Process course which had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances with the facilitator.

The initial sketch of the 2021 program is nearly complete and is being finalized shortly. We are looking at a modest increase in courses due to many requests for different things matched by high levels of interest from facilitators and also some courses that had to be moved from 2020 due to the pandemic or other reasons.

### Climate Round Table

Labour organizations who are members of Trade Unions for Energy Democracy are working on a climate roundtable event in April. If there are particular climate-related topics or concepts you are interested in learning about, please let me know as we are currently working out the program for the event. It is tentatively set for April 10.

### WELLS

The founding meeting of the Worker Education and Labour Learning Society (WELLS) took place on the evening of November 5. This meeting adopted a Constitution and By-Laws, name, membership, directors and officers. It also established working groups to prepare a plan for the new entity's immediate activities. The main purpose of this organization will be to harness resources for the purpose of broadening and improving online learning. This will be in conjunction with our education program, not as a replacement or in competition.

### United Way

Labour Appreciation Night is December 3. You're encouraged to attend and support the great award winners this year, especially Adrienne Smith who will receive our Syd Thompson Community Service Award.

### YVR Joint Union Committee

The Committee had a positive meeting with CEO Tamara Vrooman and VP of Human Resources Richard Beed. There was a strong indication of shift in management approach and an openness to working with us. We were able to discuss issues of interest to the affiliates and agree to continue with further meetings.

### Young Workers Committee

The Young Workers Committee met on November 10 and elected a Chair (Connor Sove, Sheet Metal Local 280) and Co-Chair (Lauren Bowles, IBEW Local 213). It has also

established some priorities areas of work for the immediate future, which include organizing a course on employment rights for young workers, perhaps to be followed by one on organizing, a blanket exercise, and potentially some joint work with the Housing Action Team.

#### Metro Vancouver Alliance

On October 15 the MVA held a “Bridging the Gap” online event to fundraise towards their \$30,000 funding gap needed to restore a full-time organizer. They raise \$15,000 in pledges at that event. I was not able to attend the event. They are planning a further gathering on November 25. I have tentatively confirmed attendance, but this is during the BCFED Convention so I have let them know that may be an issue for some although less-so than usual since it is a virtual Convention this time. If you are interested in attending, you can let me know and I will put you in touch with MVA to register.

In other news, the organizer they had hoped to hire, Audrey Guay, has been swiped up by the BC Health Coalition. This means that if the funding is secured, they will need to identify a new organizer.

#### What Lies Ahead

At our next meeting we will be starting a new two-year term. There’s no way to know what those two years will bring, but it already absolutely clear that these will be busy years for our Council.

For one thing, there will surely be a federal election, likely early in this term. But the biggest task ahead of us in this term will be the 2022 municipal election. It is absolutely crucial that we elect a progressive Mayor and majority City Council in Vancouver and across our District. In Vancouver particularly this will be a difficult task given the divided landscape. However, there is no other entity that historically has been able to bring together Vancouver progressives to get the job done. We will need to give it our all in the pre-campaign and in our labour campaign to elect our endorsed candidates.

In addition to this, we continue to see growth in our labour education program, and new possibilities opened up through the expansion of online learning. Our education program has become a critical source of learning and training for the local labour movement, and sometimes beyond. It has also become an important source of revenue during a time of financial uncertainty caused by fissures in labour unity, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking of which, we know that at least a portion of this coming term will see us continue to work under the conditions of a global pandemic. This will be followed, hopefully sooner than later, by a transition into a yet unknown post-pandemic new normal. We will have to continue to adjust and adapt the ways we do our work throughout this. In particular, in 2021 we will need to explore how we continue our participation with projects that have relied heavily on in-person interaction, community events, and fundraising such as the Queen Alexandra Wishing Tree, and Union Protein Project.

On top of this we will continue to support our affiliates in labour disputes and campaigns, carry out the work of the CLC in our local communities, and speak out on issues that impact workers.

It is my hope and intention that part of how we will achieve all of this is through a broadened volunteer base in the form of active committees and a thoroughly engaged Executive Board. Already we are seeing an uptick in the activity of the Municipal Engagement, Political Action, Young Workers, Housing Action Team, and potentially a new Anti-Racism Committee. But there are others that need some new energy.

If elected or acclaimed tonight I am looking forward to working with all of you to see this through.

### Thank You

I wish to take a moment to thank the entire outgoing Executive Board for all they have done during this term. In particular, I am aware of a few Board members who are not running again this term, and I want to thank them for all of their contributions to our work during the past several years.

### Events Attended

October 21 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Board Retreat Session 2  
October 21 – Young Workers Committee  
October 22 – BCFED Political Action Committee  
October 23 – YVR Joint Union Committee meeting with Tamara Vrooman, Richard Beed  
October 26 – BCFED Climate Action Working Group  
October 26 – BCFED Community Social Action Committee  
October 26 – BC Employment Standards Coalition Basis of Unity Working Group  
October 27 – Housing Webinar Planning Session  
October 27 – VDLC Anti-Racism Meeting  
October 28 – Filming for United Way Labour Appreciation Night  
October 28 – CLC Lobby Meeting with MP Patrick Weiler  
October 28 – United Way meeting  
October 29 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society founding meeting planning  
October 29 – Day of Mourning planning meeting  
October 30 – BCFED Strike Coordinating Meeting re: Bee Clean  
October 30 – Labour and Climate Justice Round Table planning session  
November 2-3 – Building Equality in Unions and Workplace course  
November 3 – Metro Vancouver Alliance touch-base  
November 3 – Perspectives on the Future of Affordable Housing webinar planning  
November 4 – United Way Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee  
November 4 – Future of Work focus group  
November 5 – United Way volunteering with Journey Home (food hampers for refugee families)  
November 5 – Founding Meeting of Worker Education and Labour Learning Society  
November 9 – Housing Action Team  
November 10 – CLC lobby meeting with MP Joyce Murray  
November 10 – United Way Joint Board Integration Committee  
November 10 – Metro Vancouver Alliance meeting  
November 10 – VDLC Young Workers Committee  
November 10 – VDLC Anti-Racism meeting  
November 11 – Remembrance Day

November 12 – VDLC Executive Board  
November 12 – BC Employment Standards Coalition  
November 13 – United Way Community Investment & Relations Committee  
November 13 – Perspectives on the Future of Affordable Housing in Metro Vancouver webinar  
November 16 – CLC Labour Council check-in  
November 17 – VDLC Regular Meeting

*M/S/C to adopt President's report.*

## **19. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:**

Motion brought forward by Russ St. Eloi to move the nominations and elections of the Executive Board immediately after the President's Report.

Nominations reopened per Ron Stipp, CLC

**President** – Stephen von Sychowski

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President** – Bal Sandhu

**2<sup>nd</sup> President** – Nick Aubichon

**Recording Secretary** – Karen McVeigh

**Treasurer** – Stefan Neilsen

**Members at Large** – Ashley Duncan, Shane Polack, Jason Woods, Lauren Bowles, Frank Warwick, Mike Logan, Michael Ma (ineligible), Jason Sullivan, Russ St. Eloi, Nikki Koutsochilis, Seema Ahluwalia, Jordan Both (ineligible), Allison Jambor, John Tweed.

**Trustees** – Graham O'Neill, Carol Nordby

## **11. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the October 2020 meeting.

*M/S/C to adopt the Treasurer's Report.*

## **12. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:**

Ron Stipp reported on the Canadian Labour Congress since the October 2020 meeting.

First of all, I too want to thank Graham for all of his work over the years. Graham and I go back a long, long time. You've done great service to the labour movement and you're an asset. I'm glad you're staying on as Trustee.

A few things. Just a little bit on COVID. We were in the process of doing back to work protocols for CLC staff and other union offices. As you can appreciate those protocols have been put on hold and offices remain shut with the exception of one region. Our Atlantic office remains open as that bubble has worked and other have not. Everyone will continue to work from home and we're lucky to be able to do that considering the number of people who can't and do not have that luxury.

On the Member of Parliament lobby we have pretty much completed that. There are a few stragglers that we are trying to lobby. We lobbied over 200 members of Parliament across the country over the last few weeks. We really appreciate the number of folks who stepped

up and helped to achieve this. We tried to get every single Liberal Member of Parliament, in particular, and every single Green member as well. We thought we were going to go into a Federal Election and this did not end up coming into being which we're happy about. There will be a mini-budget by the end of this month, we can't get any answers as to when exactly this will be. However, this does mean that there may be a Federal Election, probably March or April of next year. We'll be gearing up the Federal working group in this region with all the affiliates. We have a working group meeting coming up.

The CLC Convention looks like there will be something scheduled for June, early or mid-month. It will not be via zoom but another virtual product. Just like a number of conventions have been doing. There will be elections at this convention. It probably won't be a weeklong convention; it will be of a shorter duration. It was supposed to be scheduled for May in Vancouver. It's impossible to book any in-person conventions during this time.

The Winter School is going ahead with four weeks of courses. It will all be online. Registration is open and there will be 4 courses, beginning January 11, week two is January 18, week three January 25, week four February 1. It will be four days long in each of the four weeks. It won't be sitting at zoom all day. There will be work associated and you'll come back with work done. The one thing that I do need to remind you of; there are only 16 courses. Only 240 spots; about 60 to 75 are taken already. If you want to go to the Winter school have your affiliate sign you up asap.

The last thing I have is the December 6<sup>th</sup> Day of Remembrance and Action. There will be various things happening that day with the CLC. Look forward to that. And for those of you going to the BCFED convention, labour council caucus was held on Monday to select people for the executive council and those will be ratified at the convention.

*M/S/C to adopt the Canadian Labour Congress Report.*

**13. CORRESPONDENCE:** Circulated prior to the meeting.

*M/S/C that the correspondence be received and filed for the information of the delegates.*

**14. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

a) *M/S/C that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Spending Authorizations

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

- Book of ten tickets to the United Way of the Lower Mainland Labour Appreciation Night at a cost of \$350

b) *M/S/C that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Endorsement for BC Federation of Labour Executive Council

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse President Stephen von Sychowski for the BC Federation of Labour Executive Council at the upcoming 59<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Convention.

c) *M/S/C that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: 2021 VDLC Meeting Dates

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL schedule its Executive Board and Regular meetings for the calendar year 2021 as follows:

Executive Board

January 14

February 11

March 11

April 15

May 13

June 10

July 15

September 16

October 14

November 10\*

December 9

\*November Executive Board meeting to be held one day earlier than normal in order to avoid the Remembrance Day statutory holiday.

Regular Meeting

January 19

February 16

March 16

April 20

May 18

June 15

July 20

September 21

October 19

November 16

December 14

d) *M/S/C that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Creation of Vancouver and District Labour Council Anti-Racism Committee

BECAUSE the VDLC recognizes the undermining and disruption of Indigenous peoples in their unceded lands, and that we have a responsibility to challenge colonialism for the better of our shared future together; and

BECAUSE the VDLC has reaffirmed its longstanding commitment to opposing racism in Canada, acknowledging that racism must not be downplayed or dismissed, and recognizing that colonization and racism have created systemic and inter-generational barriers to equity which require our labor movement to press not just for anti-racist education but for systemic societal change; and

BECAUSE the VDLC has stated that the labor movement is a movement for all workers who must stand together regardless of place of origin, nationality, refugee, immigrant, or citizenship status, recognizing that racist discrimination harms all workers by dividing us,

thereby weakening our movement, and undermines our collective strength and the well-being of our society; and

BECAUSE the VDLC recognizes that meaningful change centers the voices and experiences of those most impacted by racism and colonialism, and affirms our commitment to working with our affiliates, the BC Federation of Labour, and the Canadian Labour Congress in conjunction with government, Indigenous peoples, civil society, and communities, to develop intersectionality-informed policies, programs, and initiatives to combat racism and bigotry of all forms.

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL create a committee known as the VDLC Anti-Racism Committee.

e) *M/S/C that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: CLC President's Endorsement of Bill Morneau for OECD Secretary

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL issue the following statement on the endorsement of Bill Morneau for Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development:

The Vancouver and District Labour Council is disappointed by Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) President Hassan Yussuff's endorsement of Bill Morneau for Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). We object strongly to this endorsement and have heard widespread opposition to it from our affiliated unions.

We have not forgotten that as the Liberal government, in which Mr. Morneau served as Minister of Finance, introduced Bill C-27, which would allow pension administrators to convert defined benefit pension plans to defined contribution ones. This change would harm the retirement security of workers. This change was lobbied for by Morneau-Sheppell, which stood to profit from the reform. Mr. Morneau's support for Bill C-27 should come as no surprise given his remarks in a book titled "The Real Retirement," which he co-authored in 2013. In that book, he comments that "accepting reduced compensation goes against the grain of the labour movement, but it is in the best interests of employees to be open to the idea."

We also recall how in 2018 that same Liberal government undermined free collective bargaining and the right to strike by legislating members of the Canadian Postal Workers Union back to work, the suffering caused by the mishandling of the Phoenix Pay debacle, the attempted contracting out of work through the WE scandal, and more.

We are also very disturbed to learn from our affiliates that this decision was made by President Yussuff unilaterally, without consultation with affiliate leaders or a decision of the CLC Canadian Council. We therefore feel that both the endorsement, and the method by which it was issued, demonstrate complete contempt for workers, affiliates, labour councils, and the democratic norms of our movement.

We therefore call for the reversal of this endorsement, and express our support for CLC affiliates in taking whatever further steps they deem appropriate through established processes to address what has taken place.

**15. REPORT OF UNIONS:** Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes.

**No reports**

*M/S/ to adopt the report of unions.*

**16. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

Young Workers Committee – Lauren Bowles/IBEW Local 213

I'm here to let you know that the Young Workers Committee has been revived. We are looking for more members to join. The criteria to join includes living in BC, you must be 30 years or younger and it is open to union, non-union and unemployed workers. I'd like to emphasize that it is open to young workers throughout BC. The committee is in the early stages of development so we are still figuring out the structure and mandate. Nevertheless, we invite new people to join, share ideas, thoughts, suggestions and criticisms. To keep communication open with our online zoom meetings, we have created a Facebook page. You can find us at [facebook.com/groups/vdlycw](https://facebook.com/groups/vdlycw). The group right now has 43 members and that is only in a month. It's growing quick. As mentioned, the committee held elections at our last meeting. I am in the co-chair position. Connor Sove, from Sheet Metal Workers Local 280, now holds the chair position. Congratulations Brother. Our next meeting will be held before the end of November. The date has yet to be decided and will be posted online shortly. Please let your fellow young co-workers, neighbours, family and friends and community members know about our new network. We want people to come out and collaborate.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

BC Forum – Report by Agnes Jackman

BC Forum continues to support various petitions with request for action and sends them to our Board, Regional Representatives, Affiliate Liaisons as well as our allies and affiliates, if relevant.

Our president, Diane Woods, continues to participate in Zoom and other virtual meetings of the BC Federation of Labour, the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations, the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada, the National Pensioners Federations and the Canadian Labour Congress and other town halls and webinars.

Of late, BC FORUM has been particularly busy in regards to health related issues, particularly those related to seniors care. There is no lack of work here! Universal Dental Care, Universal Pharmacare, National Standards for Long-term care, as well as more suitable housing and protection of secure pensions remain forefront in BC FORUM's efforts.

Two events of particular note are the November 3<sup>rd</sup> BC Seniors Advocate news conference launching her report on "Staying Apart to Stay Safe – The Impact of Visit Restrictions on Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Survey" and the upcoming event in Ottawa on November 19<sup>th</sup>, regarding a National Day of Action in support of Long-Term Care, called "Broken Hearts, Empty Shoes". It's a national event in support of federal and provincial coordination to create standards for long-term care that is being organized by Canadians 4 National LTC Standards. For more information, contact [canadians4ltcstandards@gmail.com](mailto:canadians4ltcstandards@gmail.com)

*M/S/C to adopt reports of committees*

**17. REPORTS OF LABOUR COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES:** Nil

**18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Nil

**19. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:** Moved Forward after President's Report

**20. NEW BUSINESS:** Nil

**21. NOTICE OF MOTION:** Nil

**22. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Romy Kozak/ Kwantlen Faculty Assoc.

NEVR (Network to Eliminate Violence in Relationships) has a House of Commons Petition calling for a national plan and media strategy on preventing relationship violence. The link to the petition is <https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/petition/details?Petition=e-2881>

This petition closes on January 20, 2021.

Peter Marcus

Long Term Care – I'd like to suggest that we eventually endorse a program of public ownership of long-term care facilities. Put them under public ownership. Secondly, unemployment, housing and various other crises are all coming together at the same time. Lobbying doesn't seem to be having any effect. Perhaps a second "On to Ottawa Trek". Unemployment and housing are major crises which are very critical to the Canadian population.

Neil Adolph/ United Way of the Lower Mainland

*M/S/C to allow Neil to present*

I'd like to give you a quick update on a couple of things. By the end of this month, the second round of the Emergency Community Support Fund will be giving out to community organizations across the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley will be close to \$2,500,000 going out. We are focusing on food security, youth and women's mental health. We have received more than double the amount of requests that we have been able to fund. There is a lot of need in the non-profit sector right now. The Labour Appreciation Night is coming up. We have some fantastic recipients this year: Bruce Temple from UFCW Local 1518, Adrienne Smith from Adrienne Smith Law, Walter Gerlach IAM Northwest District 250, Susanne Skidmore from the BC Federation of Labour and Nikki Hill from United Way of the Lower Mainland. And lastly, the United Way will have a couple of courses at Winter School. If you have any questions about the courses please let me know.

Russ St. Eloi/ UA Local 170

In reference to employment insurance and the concept of guaranteed annual income. This is something that we should begin to push for again. Secondly, the Employment Insurance Appeals Division. We should be pushing for this as well. This was stopped under the Harper government. We need to have something safe for people to appeal decisions made if they quit due to various reasons.

**23. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:51pm.*

**24. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020** at 7:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference.



Please visit website for event listings and more – [www.vdlc.ca](http://www.vdlc.ca)