



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER, 19, 2019**

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

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

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

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

MSC that the minutes of the October 15, 2019 Regular meeting be adopted.

4. CREDENTIALS:

CUPW Local 846

Maria Jackman

Zoe McGowan

ILWU Local 500

Fabio Bartolomeo

TSSU

Jorge Rodriguez

IAMAW Local Lodge 16

Joanne Veloso

ILWU Local 400 Marine Section

Nathan Smith

Matthew Williams

5. GUEST SPEAKERS:

Keziah McCrystal-Rothlin

Stephen von Sychowski thanked Keziah for her 15 years of service to the labour council. Throughout Keziah's 15 years she has worked with 4 different presidents and through the course of doing this has become one of the most recognizable faces of the labour council. She has gone above and beyond to make the work of the council a success.

Keziah was presented with a handmade jewelry box and necklace by a local indigenous artist. She was also presented with a letter by MP Jenny Kwan, congratulating her on her new role and thanking her for her years of service. Keziah expressed that it has been an amazing 15 years with the labour council and she has worked with 4 amazing presidents during those years. Thank you to the delegates and affiliates and on behalf of all workers it has been an amazing time.

Ella & Katherine – Sustainabiliteens re: November 29 Climate Strike

Ella is a grade 12 student at Vancouver Technical Secondary. She has been organizing Sustainabiliteens since December 2018. Katherine is a grade 12 student at Alpha Secondary and has been organizing Sustainabiliteens since this past August. Sustainabiliteens is a local group of youth who are organizing events with the climate movement. These events include

school walkouts and Friday's for Future. Greta Thunberg, a Swedish climate activist which is where our inspiration came from. This January we went to Vancouver City Council to help support their declaration of climate emergency which passed unanimously. We were back in April to support their passing the action plan in response to their declaration. We have also had a few student strikes; in March we had 2,000 students, May we had a nationwide strike with 3,000 local students and then our biggest strike was around 100,000 people this September in downtown Vancouver.

The vision with the movement is creating a local and global community of engaged youth and people who will create climate justice. Ella joined because she does not want to sit idle while people around the world are already affected by climate change, such as those in smaller island nations, who feel the effects. Katherine joined because she does not think its ok for the government to continue to prioritize the short term profit of the big oil companies over the future of human civilization. Our next action is on November 29; we are calling it Future Fest. It is on Black Friday from 12-3 at Georgia and Granville. Our goal is to present a world of alternatives to consumerism.

Ella spoke about the movements long terms goals. As union organizers you understand the power of collective action and the power when we all stand together against injustice in the workplace and elsewhere. Ella thanked the labour movement about what they have learned and continue to learn. Next spring there will be another huge student strike and we need numbers. We need to show the numbers and those who support climate justice. We are on Facebook and Instagram.

Tiffany Ottahal – Vancity

Tiffany's job is to speak about Vancity's work with the labour movement and the shared history that Vancity has with the labour movement. She works with the unions who are members of the credit union. Vancity was started by a small group of working people who were unable to obtain credit from the banks. They came together, pooled their resources and started taking care of their own. Vancity has grown to become one of the largest credit unions in the world.

Tiffany works with various unions who are currently members and she ensures that the credit union is serving the needs of those unions and their members. She also provides subject matter expertise to better serve members. Vancity is a member of the Good Jobs Coalition, they participated in the Labour Day activities this past September and they also attend the CLC Winter School.

Vancity recently partnered with Union Savings which is a national non-profit that is a union owned and run consortium that negotiates deals with financial institutions and insurance companies to obtain good deals for unions and their membership. Vancity recently joined a number of organizations in signing the Period Promise Pledge; we are very excited to be joining other progressive organizations and labour to provide free menstrual products. Also, to support the policy aspect of the campaign. We appreciate the work the United Way has done to bring awareness to the program.

Tiffany showed an example of Vancity members at IBEW 213 at the joint training facility in Port Coquitlam. Vancity recently donated \$70,000 grant for a program that encourages Women and Indigeous Apprentices to come in to train. Targets are ambitious; 20%

enrollment. Also, training in electrical vehicle charging station installation and maintenance and solar panel installation and maintenance.

Vancity is one of the largest living wage employers. They are also activists in the living wage program. Two other services that are available to everyone, even if you belong to another financial institution, is a program called “Fast & Fair” loans. Vancity is attempting to take on the proprietary payday loan industry. It has better rates and better terms and helps to build your credit. The second program is a financial literacy program; “Each One, Teach One”. The tag line is “Literacy before Lending.” The program is taught by over 92 credit unions in Canada and covers budgeting, signing contracts and credit. They are an hour to half day workshops, free for anyone and are taught in English but translated materials are available.

Tuesday Andrich – Safer Supply

Tuesday works for PHS Community Services Society in the downtown eastside as well as being an executive member of CUPE 1004. Tuesday has worked on the front lines for 10 years and would like to thank the labour council for the opportunity to speak about a radical topic. Her experience on the front lines with harm reduction is that right now harm reduction is not enough anymore. In 2001, Portugal was the first country to decriminalize possession and consumption of all illicit substances. The problem has since stabilized after implementing this system. Rates of HIV, Hepatitis C, overdose deaths and criminal activity has dropped subsequently. This continued success is a result of a cultural shift in clinics, pharmacies and the conversations taking place at dinner tables around the country.

In Canada there were more than 12,800 deaths due to a poison drug supply from 2016 to March 2019. The hardest hit provinces are BC, Alberta and Ontario. This crisis eclipses any modern public health catastrophe taking place right now. The persistent resistance of government to address this in meaningful ways is putting thousands of Canadians at risk every day. Municipalities, health care workers and the Vancouver City Police are calling for innovation and action. Vancouver’s mayor, Kennedy Stewart, has received support from the Canadian Federation of Municipalities for Vancouver’s Safe Supply Resolution to prevent further loss of family, friends and loved ones. Earlier this year Vancouver Coastal Health’s Chief Medical Officer recommended that drugs be decriminalized and that people who use drugs have access to safe and legal forms of opioids. The provincial government has made no effort to address these recommendations.

In April of this year, BC Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry made a detailed proposal for a radical decriminalization model but it was dismissed by the Public Safety Minister as something that only the Federal government could do. Back at Tuesday’s workplace, Dr. Christie Sutherland, has pioneered safe supply programs that have been in operation in the downtown eastside for over a year. Access to these programs are limited mostly because of government regulation prohibiting safe supply except in the instance in the treatment for those who are non-responsive to other methods of treatment. The bottom line here is that dead people can’t detox.

We must be brave enough to implement radical change for those Canadians who use drugs and give them a fighting chance to survive and to live a full life. The federal government must make concrete proven and radical change to save the lives of Canadians who use drugs; they are our friends, family and co-workers and they deserve a chance at life.

6. EDUCATIONAL:

Lorene Oikawa – Canadian Labour International Film Festival, Film Screening: The Glasgow Womens' Strike

Thank you to the VDLC for your continuous support from the Canadian Labour International Film Festival. It's our 11th year and our festival is run all by volunteers. This is the only national labour film festival and we make it a very grassroots effort. We put out a call every year for films and we give a fee for the filmmakers. We get their permission to copy their films and then we are like a lending library and they are lent out in the month of November. That way it makes it very equitable for unions or someone in their home to view labour films. This short film shows a little about the action taken by caregivers, cleaners and cooks who for decades have been earning less than their male counterparts. They put on the longest equal pay strike in British history.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

IUOE Local 963 is up against proposals from VSB Management to cut culinary arts programmes and hot lunches for students. This would mean either eliminating or contracting out. We will be working with them, and with VSB Trustees to stop this plan.

Our Municipal Engagement Committee met on October 31, and included Neil Monckton of Mayor Stewart's Joint Chiefs of Staff as a guest for a portion of the discussion to provide information and answer questions. The meeting also decided to submit the issue of workforce housing, a Housing Action Team, and safer supply to this meeting as you will see in recommendations. If the motion on workforce housing passes, then delegates should note that this issue is coming forward on December 10 at 6pm for a public hearing. That is also our December regular meeting night, but if folks from your locals could be part of a delegation to speak on this at the hearing please let me know. There is apparently some opposition to the project on Larch St., a five-story building with 20% moderate income housing in the west-end. While this form of development will not suffice to fix the housing crisis by itself, it is a step in the right direction. We continue to discuss the proposal for public development of truly affordable, not for profit housing with friends and allies in the community. More on this soon.

The meet and greet which I previously reported was scheduled for November 28 has been cancelled until the new year as we were not able to get enough confirmations for that date and time.

Living Wage for Families

On November 18 a motion will be introduced by North Vancouver City Councillor Angela Girard to look into becoming a living wage employer. If you work or live in North Vancouver please consider attending and speaking in favour of this.

Halena Sieferling from the Living Wage for Families campaign is speaking on living wage at the VSB Personnel Committee on December 4th, we are working to organize labour and other support for moving the issue forward at VSB.

YVR

We had the first meeting of the new YVR Joint Union Committee on November 1st. All CLC-affiliated unions representing workers at the airport were invited. In attendance were UCTE/PSAC, IAMAW LL 16, MoveUP, and UNITE HERE! Local 40. I chaired the meeting. We have scheduled another meeting for December 13 at 10am. Key issues identified were contract flipping, wages and job security, health and safety, and board representation. The committee is an exciting development which could build a lot of solidarity and collective power at YVR. We will continue to work to engage the rest of the unions in this.

Labour Disputes

There continues to be several labour disputes ongoing in our district.

UNITE HERE! Local 40 members at Hotel Georgia should be congratulated on achieving a new collective agreement, which was ratified in a vote yesterday. Hotel workers in downtown Vancouver led an inspiring strike over the past several weeks, using the power of solidarity and movement building to achieve historic new collective agreements which deliver substantial improvements in safety, wages, hours, and more. We are proud to have stood alongside these workers and glad to finally see agreements reached at all of the hotels.

IBEW Local 213 is still on strike against Ledcor LTS. The main picket line is in Port Coquitlam, but there is now a line in Vancouver as well at 1055 W. Hastings St. from 10am-4pm Monday-Friday.

Unifor has begun job action against Coast Mountain Bus Company. This has not broken into a full blown strike at this point but may if a settlement is not reached.

Similarly, PEA Legal Services Society lawyers may soon be on picket lines if an agreement is not reached.

About 3,000 members of Teamsters Rail Conference, including yard workers, trainpersons, and conductors, have taken strike action against CN Rail. The union has been bargaining with the employer for several months. While wages are not currently a sticking point the employer has refused to meet the union's demands with regards to workplace safety, and is attempting to impose a lifetime cap on prescription drug coverage.

IAMAW LL 3111 (CLC staff) recently ratified a new collective agreement thereby ending their strike over harassment language, pensions, and wages.

United Way

The United Way of the Lower Mainland Labour Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for December 4 at the Metrotown Hilton. We have purchased five tickets in accordance with the recommendation passed at last month's meeting.

Cascade Region Labour Leadership Initiative

I attended the second session of CRLLI last month in Tacoma. While the first session was on personal mastery, this one was on organizational change. The days were long, and the material was dense, yet it continues to be some of the most excellent, well presented, and transformative education I have received. This has led me to label the week as simultaneously exhausting and invigorating. We have been assigned new peer coaches with whom to work

on projects which we are developing and carrying out in relation to the program. Mine is on implementing strategic planning here at the VDLC, something you will hear more about in the coming months. My new peer coach is Ricky Walsh from IAFF, who works at their office in Oregon.

I also got the opportunity while there to canvass in support of I-1000 to repeal the ban on affirmative action in Washington State, and again I-976 which would decimate public transit and transportation infrastructure funding by replacing the current progressive tax model with a small flat tax.

The third and final session will be in February in Portland. I once again want to thank the VDLC for making it possible for me to attend this program.

Labour Education

Since our last meeting we hosted courses on Unions and the Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation Process and Promotions: How to Negotiate Language and Win Grievances. Both courses were very well attended and received good feedback. The new course on reconciliation particularly generated a lot of fantastic feedback and happened to coincide with the historic introduction in the BC Legislature of a bill to implement UNDRIP. We will be offering this course again next year.

I also facilitated a basic steward course for ATU Local 134 and 1724 on November 7. Nearly 20 stewards attended from the two locals and received an introductory course to stewarding. We are able to offer this type of course as a service to affiliates on a cost-share basis.

We have the following courses still to go this year:

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

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

The 2020 program is still being worked on but will be out likely prior to the holidays.

Events Attended

October 14 – Jagmeet Singh rally at UNITE HERE! picket line
October 15 – Conference call re: Cascade Region Labour Leadership Initiative
October 16 – Visit to IBEW 213 picket line at Ledcor
October 16 – Meeting re: living wage campaign

October 16 – Conference call re: United Way amalgamation and labour
October 17 – Interviews for Executive Assistant role
October 17 – Roundtable meeting re: Ending Sexual Harassment and Violence in Vancouver
Hospitality and Service Industries
October 18 – Blue Community meeting with Vancouver City Councillors
October 19 – Jagmeet Singh rally in Vancouver
October 21 – Federal Election
October 22-26 – Cascade Region Labour Leadership Initiative in Tacoma
October 28 – Promotions and Job Selection Course
October 29 – Meeting with Conni Kilfoil re: Labour Education Program
October 29 – Organizing 4 Power training with Jane McIlvoy
October 29 – Conference call re: UNITE HERE! Strike
October 31 – Municipal Engagement Committee
November 1 – YVR Joint Union Committee
November 1 – UNITE HERE! Local 40 rally
November 2 – Electrical Joint Training Committee apprenticeship banquet
November 4 – Visit to IBEW 213 picket line at Ledcor
November 5 – 1:1 Meeting with Deb Cameron-Fawkes, MVA
November 5 – #RedforBCED rally
November 6 – United Way Campaign Cabinet Labour Caucus
November 7 – Job Steward course with ATU locals
November 11 – Remembrance Day, participate in Erased by History project
November 12 – Sustainable Communities Initiative Breakfast
November 12 – BCFED Political Action Committee
November 12 – Organizing 4 Power training with Jane McIlvoy
November 13 – CUPE 2950 Anniversary Event
November 14 – United Way Campaign Cabinet
November 14 – Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee
November 14 – VDLC Executive Board
November 15 – United Way Labour Cabinet of the Board
November 16 – Labour Education – Charter Rights
November 18 – Labour Education – BC Labour Code
November 18 – BC Poverty Reduction Coalition Strategy Gathering
November 18 – North Vancouver City Council meeting – Living Wage proposal
November 18 – BC Employment Standards Coalition
November 19 – Labour Education – Canada Labour Code
November 19 – VDLC regular meeting

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

9. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: 2020 Meeting Dates

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL will host its meetings on the following dates in 2020:

Regular Meeting

January 14*

February 18

March 17

April 21

May 19

June 16

July 21

September 15

October 20

November 17

December 8

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

Subject: End the Lockdown, Free Leonard Peltier

BECAUSE in 1977 American Indian Movement activist Leonard Peltier was arrested and faced deportation to the United States on allegations that he was responsible for the death of a federal agent in a shoot-out on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in 1975; and

BECAUSE the VDLC was amongst those who raised their voices in opposition to the extradition due to concerns that he would not face a fair trial; and

BECAUSE Peltier was convicted and remains in prison to this day and is considered a political prisoner by many. His trial has been labelled unfair by human rights groups such as Amnesty International; and

BECAUSE the National Congress of American Indians (representative of over 500 Indian nations in the United States) unanimously passed an historic resolution calling for Peltier's release in 2011, and various other governments, dignitaries, and human rights organizations from around the world have also called for his release; and

BECAUSE Peltier and the rest of the "Elder unit" at Coleman 1 penitentiary in Coleman, Florida, have been placed on lockdown without explanation and have been denied exercise, placed in conditions of poor lighting, confined to their cells 24/7, and allowed only one half-hour shower every three days,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to Warden Cheatham at Coleman 1 penitentiary calling for an end to the unjustified and inhumane lockdown of Leonard Peltier and the Elder unit; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER join the international call of Indigenous and human rights organizations to free Leonard Peltier.

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

Subject: Solidarity with the people of Chile

BECAUSE the VDLC has a history of solidarity with the Chilean people, going back to the struggle against the fascist regime of Augusto Pinochet from 1973 onward; and

BECAUSE on October 18 massive protests began in Chile, initially started by high school students who called for protests against increase transit fares, but grew into widespread demonstrations against inequality, privatization (including water), neo-liberalism, stagnant wages and high costs of living; and

BECAUSE on October 21 the protest movement grew into a general strike wherein hundreds of thousands of people took to the street, many setting up barricades and taking popular control of their communities; and

BECAUSE the Chilean state, led by the right-wing government of billionaire Sebastian Piñera has responded to the uprising with the police violence, the declaration of a state of emergency, and the implementation of a curfew, something not seen since the Pinochet years; and

BECAUSE on November 12th, the Piñera government announced it would engage in a re-write of Chile's current Pinochet-era constitution, however protests are expected to continue as the government does not appear to intend to do this in a way which will provide for popular participation,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL express its support for the Chilean people, including the labour movement and the youth, in their struggle for a better life, and condemn the use of violence and repressive measures by the government and state forces; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL work with the Chilean community and international solidarity organizations where possible to express support for the Chilean people in the ongoing pursuit of their just demands, and opposition to the human rights violations perpetrated by the Piñera government; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to the Canadian Labour Congress asking that they consider the implementation of a boycott of Chilean products as called for by Chilean organizations in Canada and internationally.

MSC that the following be allowed to speak to the Solidarity with Chile recommendation:
Dario Moldanado, who was born in Chile, spoke to the current conditions and human rights violations that continue in Chile.

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

Subject: Oppose the Sale of Arms to Saudi Arabia

BECAUSE there is an urgent need to draw attention to the actions of Saudi Arabia and its Western allies in Yemen; and

BECAUSE the UN has found Saudi Arabia and its Western allies complicit in war crimes in Yemen; and

BECAUSE the Saudi-led intervention has contributed to what the United Nations calls the "world's worst humanitarian crisis"; and

BECAUSE Saudi ranks in the International Confederation of Trade Union's "10 Worst Countries in the World for Workers' Rights" and

BECAUSE Canada has a \$15 billion arms deal with the Saudi Arabia; and

BECAUSE as member of the global labour movement, and an internationalist labour council, we have a responsibility to promote solidarity and to take actions that ensure human rights and the safety and security workers and communities are not being undermined;

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL oppose the sale of arms to Saudi Arabia; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER write to Canadian Labour Congress President Hassan Yussuff calling upon the CLC to do the same, and to declare military goods destined for Saudi Arabia to be "hot cargo".

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

Subject: Funding for Private Schools

BECAUSE private schools are projected to receive public funding to the tune of \$426 million this school year; and

BECAUSE private schools have received provincial funding of \$2.6 billion since 2013; and

BECAUSE meanwhile, public schools have been deprived of appropriate funding and continue to be in need to substantial additional funding to ensure appropriate teacher staffing levels, pay for programs, and support students with special needs; and

BECAUSE in a recent poll 64% of British Columbians opposed funding to secular private schools, and up to 75% for private religious ones; and

BECAUSE private schools receive an exemption from the BC Human Rights Code, allowing for the potential of discrimination against employees and students on the basis of their sex, gender, sexual orientation, ability, religious and political beliefs, race and ancestry. This exemption is opposed by 81% of British Columbians; and

BECAUSE there is presently a degree of public dialogue taking place about education funding, connected in part to the ongoing negotiations between the provincial government and the BC Teachers' Federation whose demands we have previously voted to support,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to Minister of Education Rob Fleming and Premier John Horgan calling for an end to the policies of providing public funds to private schools, and of exempting private schools from the BC Human Rights Code; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER take the opportunity to further state our support for the BC Teachers' Federation, and call upon the government to ensure that a fair and reasonable collective agreement is reached as quickly as possible.

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

Subject: Housing Action Team

BECAUSE the housing affordability crisis continues to be one of the most pressing issues in our region, and a driving force in the over-all political dialogue; and

BECAUSE there is more that labour can do to help move the public discourse, bring together those calling for housing action, and press for action on the part of government,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL establish a Housing Action Team as a working group of the Municipal Engagement Committee as a mechanism for the labour council and its affiliated unions to address the housing crisis and be part of solutions; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER charge the Housing Action Team with the following responsibilities:

- liaising with community groups involved in housing justice (e.g. Acorn BC, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, Metro Vancouver Alliance, Vancouver Tenants Union, etc.) to build support networks between labour and the broader community,
- reaching out to union members in the labour council area to engage on housing issues,
- educating the working group members, VDLC delegates, and union members about issues surrounding the housing crisis and rights under Residential Tenancy Act,
- promoting actions on affordable housing to labour council members,
- operating in accordance with the VDLC Constitution & By-Laws and policies,
- reporting back to the Executive Board and the Municipal Engagement Committee and providing recommendations to the labour council via the Executive Board.

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

Subject: Workforce Housing in the City of Vancouver

BECAUSE we believe workers should have access to good, affordable housing so that they may live in the city in which they work if they wish, regardless of income; and

BECAUSE the City of Vancouver will be holding a public consultation on December 10, 2019, on the construction of "workforce housing" through three pilot projects which will generate slightly more than 300 units of new housing for individuals and families earning between \$30,000 and \$80,000; and

BECAUSE we recognize the dire need for more affordable housing in the City of Vancouver and surrounding region, and acknowledge the need to support proposals intended to provide more housing to those in the low and middle income strata, the vast majority of whom are working people; and

BECAUSE at the same time, we consider it self-evident that private developer and market based solutions will not solve the housing crisis,
THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support the workforce housing pilot project as a step in the right direction, which will deliver some more affordable housing for working people earning middle and, in some cases, lower incomes; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL at the same time, acknowledge that this proposal is insufficient to ultimately resolve the housing crisis which is gripping this region, and forcing working people out of the city, and therefore reiterate our position in support of public development of not-for-profit housing under Community Benefit Agreements and with certified tradespersons, and the implementation of the AffordableBC Plan recommendations as key components of the way out of this crisis.

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

Subject: Oppose the Right-Wing Coup in Bolivia

BECAUSE Evo Morales, the first Indigenous President in the history of majority-Indigenous Bolivia, was forced to resign by the head of the country's armed forces in a military coup. His resignation comes as his supporters, including many trade union activists, have been the target of violent attacks, with some having their homes ransacked and burned down and some even being shot and killed; and

BECAUSE the military coup has been widely condemned, including by the governments of Cuba, Mexico, Uruguay, and the president-elect of Argentina, international political figures such as the head of the Labor Party in the United Kingdom Jeremy Corbyn, U.S. Democratic Presidential Candidate Bernie Sanders, U.S. congresswomen Ilhan Omar and Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, the President of the AFL-CIO Richard Trumfka, labour organizations including the International Trade Union Confederation, and Canadian MP's such as Matthew Green, Jenny Kwan, Don Davies and Niki; and

BECAUSE the coup in Bolivia is an attack on democratic, Indigenous and workers' rights everywhere. Morales, who won the election by a wide margin, is being painted as undemocratic by governments that support the coup such as Canada and the United States. Despite a lack of evidence that the elections were fraudulent, Morales offered to rerun the elections, but the opposition and the military refused. Trade unionists have a responsibility to oppose our government's support for the military removal of Morales and the crushing of democratic rights in Bolivia; and

BECAUSE strengthening the global labour movement and building relationships with workers around the world is essential to our collective fight for human and labour rights, decent work, strong public services, justice and peace; and

BECAUSE this motion will provide support in solidarity with the working people of Bolivia and the respect for Bolivia's democratic institutions,
THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL condemn the coup in Bolivia; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER condemn that violent repression of trade unionists and Indigenous activists in Bolivia by the coup supporters and armed forces; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER publicly oppose the Canadian government's support for this coup, demand our government withdraw all support for a coup in Bolivia, and support the restoration of democracy and the safe return of Evo Morales; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY call on the Canadian Labour Congress to oppose the coup.

10. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) UFCW Local 1518 – Reported by Stefan Nielsen

UFCW Local 1518 has launched a campaign to ensure that ride share workers are recognized as employees under the Employment Standards Act when ride-sharing comes to BC. Affiliates are encouraged to visit www.ufcw1518.com/fairness_uber to send a letter to the Passenger Transportation Board and the Minister of Transportation.

UFCW Local 1518 has also had 3 organizing wins in November:

1. The Victoria Events Centre; a performing arts venue in downtown Victoria,
2. Mountain Equipment Co-op in Victoria, which will join the MEC Vancouver store in the same bargaining unit. It consists of 100 members,
3. Cineplex Coquitlam which has 200 members. All young workers.

We welcome these new members and look forward to negotiating strong, first collective agreements soon.

b) CUPE Local 389 – Reported by Joyce Griffiths

After being at an impasse in our School District #44 with our employer since the beginning of June, we were able to fight off a concession aimed at taking away EA's rights to post out during the school year. We ratified our contract in October with the provincial government, 2%, 2%, 2% and an employer incentive for EA's to stay in their location for the school year.

We were able to attend the unveiling of the Strength & Remembrance Pole at the North Vancouver RCMP in the Stella Jo Dean Plaza. It is meant as a spiritual beacon for the victims of missing & murdered women, as well as women who are victims of violence. This is a place to grieve, but to also find strength.

The North Vancouver City Council has passed a motion to move forward on being a living wage employer. We await the staff report and look forward to helping them in any way we can.

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

BCTF – VESTA Local 391 – Reported by Allison Jambor

CUPW – Reported by Nick Aubichon

MSC to receive report of unions.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan

We met on November 7 and discussed women's scholarships to the CLC Winter School. Stay tuned; we encourage women to apply. We were able to find one woman to apply.

A reminder that December 6 is a national day of remembrance on Action on Violence Against Women. On December 6, 1989, thirteen female students and a female administrator at L'Ecole Polytechnic were murdered because they were women. Thirty years on this day is about remembering victims and is also a time of action. It is about creating a culture of respect.

There are various events on this day; Thorton Park in Vancouver at 4:30pm, Holland Park in Surrey Candlelight Vigil at 6:00pm and UBC Chan Centre Beam of Light Ceremony at 1:30pm.

And lastly, and the most exciting, mark your calendars for Sunday, March 8, 2020, IWD Dinner "Joy & Justice." We have an outstanding line-up. April Sims, from the Washington Labour Council has agreed to speak for International Women's Day. She is the first woman of color to be elected to the Washington State Labour Council. Vanessa Richards will be there for the music portion.

Please join us for our next meeting which will be at 6:00pm on Tuesday January 14, 2020 at the VDLC. We encourage all women to attend and it will be a potluck.

MSC to receive report of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

BC Forum – Reported by Agnes Jackman

There was a meeting of the BC Forum Board November 19, 2019. A large focus of the meeting was on the current financial status of the BC Forum; where we can save money with the least reduction of effectiveness, where we can get more money to work with in the way of increased union support and increasing the membership of BC Forum. Another important focus was on the new Assisted Living Regulations that will come into effect on December 1, 2019. BC Forum and COSCO Health and Wellness Institute, an organization that BC Forum belongs to, were instrumental in making changes to the regulations that were initially proposed to the benefit of seniors that require Assisted Living services. One major change was the removal of the limit of only 2 Assisted Living services being allowed.

BC Forum is also active with the BC Health Coalition. The Dr. Day court case that has taken a lot of the BC Health Coalition's attention, is having its last day in court at the present before the judge goes away to deliberate before making judgement.

The winter issue of the Advocate is being put together. BC Forum will be having its 25th Anniversary in 2020 and so is considering ways to celebrate.

Some stats that the Gwen Farrell from the MoveUp shared with the Board from a presentation that Isobel Mackenzie, the BC Senior's Advocate gave at the Provincial summit on Aging held November 7 & 8, 2019:

- Seniors have the lowest income of any age group,
- 28% of BC Seniors are on Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS),
- 94% of Seniors live independently (74% if 85+),
- 23% of Seniors live alone,
- 26% of Seniors age 65-69 are employed and,
- 80% of Seniors live without dementia.

Challenges to healthy aging are:

- Sufficient income,
- Access to appropriate housing,
- Access to affordable services
- Caregiving,
- Mobility and,
- Engagement (isolation, loneliness and mental health)

CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Sheryl Burns

Please mark your calendars for the BC Federation of Labour event; December 3, 2019, International Day of Persons with Disabilities: The Future is Accessible event. It will be at the Vancouver Public Library, Downtown location in the Alice McKay Room from 6:00 to 9:00pm. Doors open at 5:30pm. Speakers will include Laird Cronk, President, BC Federation of Labour, Minister Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction. There will be a joint presentation by Sandra Case, Port of Vancouver and Darcy Le Seur, Acting President of the International Longshore Warehouse Workers Union.

MSC to receive the other reports.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

13. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

14. NOTICE OF MOTION:

Stephen von Sychowski presented notice that in January at the regular meeting that the Constitution and By-Laws review will be brought back. It will include items from feedback from last meeting. It will be sent out as soon as possible for review.

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Lisa Kreut, HEU VGH Local 180 – Spoke of the work being done in the community with Sex Worker Organizing. Lisa has been involved with a collective for the last 2 years that has slowly grown, collected funds and has of 2 weeks ago officially incorporated into a member funded society. Current membership is 95 dues paying members. They have entered into negotiations with The Review Board, an advertising company. They have suddenly become very interested in negotiating in order not to lose the revenue generated monthly. They have begun talks with a credit union which is exciting. They have their own constitution and by-laws.

Lisa is hoping to gather support from the labour community for help with courses in labour financing. Any support from the community would be helpful.

- A moment of silence for Transgender Day of Remembrance, November 20

16. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:31 pm.*

17. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019**, 7:00 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

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