



## VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, JULY 16, 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 June 18, 2013 meeting be adopted.*
- 4. CREDENTIALS:**  
The following credentials were received since the last meeting: (\* = recredentialled, A = alternate)  
CAW Local 4275  
Debra Elless  
Christian Guerino  
  
UA Plumbers Local 170  
Barb Tetu (A)  
  
*MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).*
- 5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**  
Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the June 18, 2013 meeting.  
Protein for People  
The VDLC community forum funded by Protein for People will be held at, and in collaboration with, Queen Alexandra School. The date is Wednesday, September 25 in the late afternoon.  
  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bloody Sunday  
On July 19, Sister Hartman and Jim Sinclair from the BC Fed spoke at a commemoration of Bloody Sunday 1938 when over 1000 unemployed men were violently evicted from the main post office (now Sinclair Centre) ending a month long occupation.  
  
Labour Day 2013  
The annual Labour Day picnic will be held again at Trout Lake (John Hendry Park) with union and community tables, music, and children's activities. The CLC campaign "Together Fairness Works" will be launched across the country on Labour Day so that will be a major focus.  
  
Summer Institute for Union Women  
Joey Hartman co-instructed Collective Bargaining at the week-long SIUW in Seattle. The BC Fed will take the lead in organizing the school next year, which will be held at the University of Victoria July 8 to 13, 2014.

### Stop Harper Rally

Sister Hartman addressed a rally on July 1, 2013 with the theme Stop Harper.

### Labour History Walking Tour

A booklet that was developed in 2001 is now out of print and out of stock. Sister Hartman is working with Ken Novakowski and researchers Robin Folvic and Dale McCartney to produce an updated and more comprehensive version. It should be launched by the end of the year.

### Living Wage Campaign

The campaign is making steady progress and the Living Wage has been recalculated for the Vancouver area to \$19.48 per hour. This presumes two parents both working 40 hour weeks and both making a living wage, and supporting a day-care age child and an elementary school age child. The calculation assumes a modest lifestyle: 2 bedroom apartment, one car, one meal out a month. It also assumes no employer paid benefits, so if an employer does pay for benefits their value is deducted from the living wage amount. (e.g. extended health and dental plans worth \$3.00 per hour would mean a living wage of \$16.48 for that employee).

Work is now being done to approach municipal unions with a view to seeking municipalities willing to be model employers.

### Labour Law Classes

Mike Dumler taught a one day course on how to run effective union elections on Saturday, June 22, and Christopher Foy from Kestrel Law taught a collective bargaining course on Saturday, July 13. These were both part of the VDLC Anita Yan Memorial Labour Law series.

*MSC to adopt the report.*

**6. CORRESPONDENCE:** see attached

**7. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

Subject: Spending Approval

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

- Rabble.ca on-line news – a donation for 2013 at a cost of \$100.00
- Vancouver Multi-Union Pride – a donation for 2013 of \$200.00

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

Subject: CLC Resolution to Canadian Council March 1, 2013

BECAUSE the CLC is embarking on a major national campaign to reinforce the value of union membership, to build union pride and to create the necessary conditions for members to head-off and resist legislative attacks on unions across Canada; and

BECAUSE the VDLC, as a chartered body of the CLC, will have an important role in this campaign,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the CLC campaign “Together Fairness Works” and will promote and coordinate activities that support the campaign and advance its objectives at the regional level.

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

Subject: Expression of Solidary with Workers in Alberta

BECAUSE the severe flooding in southern Alberta has caused significant damage and closed many workplaces; and

BECAUSE displaced workers who were unable to be redeployed temporarily are depending on EI until they can return to their regular jobs,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL send letters of solidarity to the labour councils in southern Alberta to express our concern and solidarity, and best wishes for a speedy resolution to the crisis caused by the floods.

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

Subject: Tragedy in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec

BECAUSE on July 8 a tragic accident occurred in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec when a run-away train loaded with crude oil derailed and exploded, killing about 50 people; and

BECAUSE Edward Burkhardt, CEO of Montreal Maine & Atlantic Railway Inc., has accused the train engineer, Tom Harding, of having failed to properly set the train brakes in preparation for a crew change, and also of lying to the company; and

BECAUSE the United Steelworkers union, which represents 75 MM&A workers, has said that Brother Harding is a longtime employee with an exemplary safety record, and

BECAUSE the investigation into the disaster is far from conclusive, and any speculation is a desperate attempt to scapegoat a worker; and

BECAUSE it has also been revealed that MM&A is one of only two rail companies that have received permission from the Canadian federal government to operate with a single engineer, which compromises safety every day,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL send a letter of support to the United Steelworkers to express our solidarity, and to call for an end to speculation as to the cause of the Lac-Mégantic disaster and allow the investigators to complete their work; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL send a letter to the federal government to call for an end to any new approvals for trains to operate with just one engineer, and a revocation of those permits that have been issued.

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

a) CUPW – Reported by Fruma Sloan

Canada Post is continuing its privatization by stealth and strategy. They are closing or downsizing their own retail counters and replacing them with private postal counters in drugstores, etc. For instance, at the same time Canada Post is reducing their counter service in the downtown core, they are opening up a brand new private post office in the

West End. The union feels this will result in poorer postal service for all. Canada Post is also restructuring letter carrier routes. The restructuring for those working downtown, in the west end, Yaletown, and Strathcona were just implemented yesterday. Looking at Yaletown and Strathcona there are new buildings going in rapidly, which means more points of delivery for letter carriers, however, Canada Post has cut letter carrier positions in these areas. CUPW lost 24 full-time and 10 part-time positions. No one lost their jobs, but services are declining. CUPW is concerned about where all this leading to.

The Royal Mail in Great Britain is being privatized. The union is supporting their brothers and sisters in the British Communications Workers' Union as they fight against privatization.

b) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Sheryl Burns

Ministry of Community and Family Development (MCFD) is telling MCFD funded community service agencies that they must find efficiencies and cost savings within their organizations to pay for previously negotiated wage increases. The Community Social Services Bargaining Association has responded to the MCFD Deputy Minister indicating wage increases were already negotiated within a cooperative gains mandate and this is a potential indicator of bargaining in bad faith. Employers are gathering the day after tomorrow to discuss this situation. The Employers' Association is also indignant about this development.

c) BCGEU Local 303 – Reported by Stephen Wagner

Executive elections are currently being held at BCGEU. Under the General Services contract some of the agencies are refusing to implement the latest wage increase from the last round of collective bargaining. The employers claim that the Ministry of Community and Family Development refuses to release an increase of money so they are looking at cost-saving by cutting back in other areas of service.

d) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis

The Vancouver Public Library has completed this stage of the reorganization. Essentially the information desks have been removed from Levels 3 through 6. The information staff, including librarians, are still present and the new system has the potential to work if well-staffed. However, patrons and staff alike are critical of the new set up. It's difficult to gauge how much opposition there is from library staff, given there's been no general meeting of the Local since May and there won't be a meeting until late August. People are voicing their concerns and some (one) has been disciplined for being vocal about the difficulty in doing their jobs with the new system.

The following verbal report was presented but not submitted for the minutes:

a) COPE Local 378 – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

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

a) Women's – Reported by Ingrid Kolsteren

The committee is planning some educational sessions for the fall: Public Speaking for Women, November 7 and 14 and Intersectionality, October 8.

- b) Education – Reported by Joey Hartman  
The spring session ended with Collective Bargaining on July 13. The program received a lot of positive feedback. The fall program has been set and will be starting with Advocacy at Arbitration and the Labour Board with Leo McGrady and Lesley Burke O’Flynn, October 19 and 20, the course fee will be \$70; the second session is Effective Grievances with Megan Ashbury, November 16, the fee will be \$50.
- c) Labour Arts & Culture – Reported by Joey Hartman  
September’s Labour Cabaret on the 10<sup>th</sup> will feature the Ruffians, at the Prophouse café. The cabaret needs to find a new venue – September may have to be rescheduled if venue has to change by then.
- d) Young Workers’ – Reported by Erin Searle  
The committee continues to fundraise for the World Festival of Youth and Students with their craft fair, bake sale and raffles. Tonight’s craft and bake sale was a success and they will be drawing for a handcrafted wooden box at the end of the meeting. The raffle for 5 Young Workers to work for a day will be drawn in November and they hope to hold another craft and bake sale, likely in November. The committee has been doing a lot of outreach and have seen some new faces as a result. Joey led the committee on a Labour History Walking Tour.
- e) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski  
Lock-outs at IKEA Richmond and the North Shore Winter Club continue. Support actions are on-going, watch for VDLC emails for updates.

*MSC to adopt the reports of committees.*

## **10. OTHER REPORTS:**

- a) EI Board of Reviews – Reported by Russ St. Eloi  
There are no further sittings of the EI Board of Review – workers’ no longer have this avenue to pursue EI reviews.
- b) BC FORUM – Reported by Russ St. Eloi  
BC FORUM met Tuesday, July 9 and endorsed the CLC’s “Together Fairness Works” campaign.

*MSC to receive the other reports.*

## **11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:     NIL**

## **12. NOMINATIONS / ELECTION FOR BY-ELECTION:**

Terry Engler opened the nominations for 1 position for VDLC Executive member-at-large to replace Sister Kassandra Cordero. Brother Mike Clarke, BCGEU Local 303 was nominated at the June 18, 2013 meeting. There were no further nominations.

Congratulations to Brother Mike Clarke, elected by acclamation to the VDLC Executive as a member-at-large.

**13. NEW BUSINESS:** NIL

**14. NOTICE OF MOTION:** NIL

**15. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- Coop Radio has to relocate after 10 years; the building's owner is planning an extensive renovation.
- Young Workers' drew their raffle for a handmade wooden box, Sister Erin Searle won.
- Everyone invited to stay after the meeting for a social
- **REMINDER – THERE IS NO MEETING IN AUGUST**

**16. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *MSC to adjourn at 8:20 pm.*

**17. NEXT MEETING:** [TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 7:30 pm](#)  
at the Maritime Labour Centre

**Pizza Educational**  
**SEPTEMBER 17, 2013 - 6:00 pm**

**We Can End Violence Against Women**

**Pizza available by donation**



**HAVE A GREAT, SAFE SUMMER**