



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016**

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

2. **CHAIRPERSON:** 1st Vice President Terry Engler

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the June 21, 2016 meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:** Nil

5. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

MLA Mable Elmore, Justice for All Campaign

The Justice for All Campaign is about fair treatment for all workers and is being kicked off in Vancouver and across BC. Mable started her fight for workers' rights when she was a BC Transit bus driver and went on strike with her union, now Unifor, Local 111 – the longest public sector strike in Canadian history. Since those days, she has been elected to the BC Legislature for the riding of Vancouver Kensington where she continues that fight for all workers. The numbers of temporary foreign workers is increasing. Thanks to the Harper Conservatives, there are more temporary foreign workers coming into Canada than those seeking permanent residence. There are 10's of thousands of temporary foreign workers in BC that do not have labour mobility because they are here on work permits specific to their employer, meaning they can only work for the one employer, leaving them vulnerable to abuses, and limiting their ability to access help. The BC Liberal's provide no oversight of the program or protections to workers. The Justice for All Campaign is about raising awareness and is calling on the provincial government to take action and ensure that all employers are certified to meet minimum standards and are registered so we know where the workers are to ensure that their rights are being protected; and if employers are found in violation that there will be repercussions. BC is one of a few jurisdictions that have no overseeing of temporary foreign workers.

The Campaign is being formally launched in August and is calling for:

- Certification of employers bringing in and hiring temporary foreign workers;
- Cessation of recruitment companies charging illegal recruitment fees;
- providing skills training; and
- employment standards to be upheld for all workers.

All workers deserve to be respected. Mable invited delegates and guests to take information materials and to bring forward resolutions at their locals in support of workers' rights for all.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the June 21, 2016 meeting.

Political Engagement

The VDLC Political Action Committee held an expanded meeting on June 28 to set out a plan for the midterm review of endorsed municipal politicians, the 2018 civic elections and the May 9, 2017 provincial election.

Protein for People – Community Event at Queen Alexandra School

Niki Twaites has been contracted to coordinate the September 28 event. A letter will go to affiliates requesting donations, tabling and volunteers for set up, cooking, games, clean up etc. VDLC executive members are asked to assist as well. The event will be from 3:00 to 6:00 pm.

Labour Day

Planning meetings have been held monthly at the BC Federation of Labour. This free, family-friendly event will be held 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at Swangard Stadium, with music by 54-40.

Employment Standards Coalition

The ESA Coalition met on June 22 for its AGM and meeting. It was agreed that, since government does not intend to consider any changes to the ESA until the results of the BC Law Institute review are known in about a year, the coalition will set up a series of alternative forums for workers in precarious jobs to share their stories to highlight the need to improve both legislation and its enforcement.

United Way of the Lower Mainland

The June 29 retirement “roast” for Mervyn Van Steinburg to recognize his retirement as the Director of the Labour Program at the United Way of the Lower Mainland was very well attended and raised about \$60,000.00. Sister Hartman, as a board member of the UWLM, is part of the selection committee to fill this vacancy.

2015 Financial Report

Lyle Brown met with the VDLC Executive on July 19 to submit and review the VDLC financial report for 2015. This report is accepted by the CLC as meeting their annual audit requirements.

7. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated at meeting

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Expenditure Approvals

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

- Trans Alliance Society, July 29 Vancouver Trans March – Donation of \$100.00
- Dinner for Shanghai Municipal Trade Union Council Delegation – At a cost of \$300.00

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

Subject: Coasting Trade Act of Canada

BECAUSE the *Coasting Trade Act of Canada* (Cabotage) requires that all transportation of goods between two Canadian ports be done by a Canadian company with a Canadian ship and crew; and

BECAUSE many countries in Europe and around the world have given up their Cabotage regulations and that has resulted in the almost complete loss of jobs for those country's citizens in their marine industry; and

BECAUSE sailors on foreign ships, including those hired to replace the previous crews, often earn \$3.00 dollars an hour or less. This will make it impossible for Canadian companies who employ Canadians to compete for this work; and

BECAUSE Canadian sailors earn a good salary that supports their families and Canada has lost far too many good paying jobs already; and

BECAUSE most Canadian sailors work for unionized companies, they have the ability to report or stop dangerous practices that will harm them or our environment. By contrast, foreign workers have very few rights and can lose their jobs for reporting concerns and even be blacklisted so that they never work as sailors again; and

BECAUSE the *Coasting Trade Act* requires that all vessels working in Canada be built in Canada and any vessels built outside Canada must pay duties to enable them to work in Canada, most countries that have a viable ship building industry subsidize their local industry; and

BECAUSE Canada's shipyards now have significant contracts for new coast guard and navy vessels and the *Coasting Trade Act's* duties will require that our ship building industry continue to build vessels into the future, providing good paying jobs;

BECAUSE the Emerson Report to the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) calls for phasing out the *Coasting Trade Act's* requirement for the use of Canadian companies, vessels and crews in our coastal trade; and

BECAUSE the Emerson report to the CTA also calls for a phasing out of duties on foreign built vessels that work in our coastal trade,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on the Federal Liberal Government to reject the Emerson Report to the CTA and maintain and strengthen our cabotage regulations under the *Coasting Trade Act*; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL also call on the Federal Liberal Government to reject the Emerson Report's recommendation to remove the duties on foreign built vessels working in Canada and instead do what is necessary to strengthen and expand our national ship building industry.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

- a) MoveUP – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
BC Nurses' Union has issued MoveUP 72-hour lock-out notice for July 22 at 9:00 am. They intend to re-open doors at 10:00 am and impose their final offer agreement on MoveUP staff. The final offer is being reviewed, as compared to June 30's "final offer". MoveUP members will be meeting Thursday. Stay tuned, MoveUP may need the solidarity of the labour movement against this aggressive employer.

- b) Unifor Local 114 – Reported by Maurice Mills
Unifor was prominent at the Better Transit and Transportation Coalition (BTTC) Annual General Meeting July 18, 2016 at the Anvil Centre in New Westminster. There seems to be a move by the business community to take over what was designed to be an apolitical body concerned with improving transit formed during the transit referendum. The elected directors will maintain the status quo for now.

Anyone who has not yet signed the petition in support of Bill C-285 an Act to Provide for the Development of National Standards for the Transport of Currency and Valuables by Armoured Car is encouraged to do so.

The Canadian Labour Congress and Unifor have made it a priority to expose the flaws in the Trans-Pacific Partnership and ensure the Canadian government does not ratify the TPP. It is important to meet with politicians, particularly the governing party, and express our views. Simon Lau, Unifor Political Action and Membership Mobilization Coordinator, and Brother Mills met with Ken Hardie, Liberal MP for Fleetwood–Port Kells on July 18, 2016. Need to show strong opposition to this in order to prevent ratification.

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

- a) CUPW Vancouver – Reported by Nathan Fralick
- b) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- a) Political Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
Committee met June 28 with a number of affiliate representatives. Affiliates will be asked to provide feedback on elected VDLC endorsed candidates; and feedback on candidates that weren't endorsed but were elected and whom should be looked at next time. The committee is planning a wine and cheese for municipal politicians in October. The committee also began discussions about the 2017 provincial and 2018 municipal elections. Anyone interested in participating in the Political Action Committee can contact either Joey Hartman or Stephen Von Sychowski.

- b) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
The committee has been keeping its eye on a couple of situations: CUPW; transit workers – Unifor members have a tentative agreement, MoveUP members at Coast Mountain are still bargaining; and the staff of BC Nurses' Union. There is currently no call for support actions, but the labour council will keep everyone posted.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a) *MSC that the following recommendation, served as a Notice of Motion at the June meeting, be adopted:*

Subject: Queen Alexandra School Wishing Tree

BECAUSE low ticket sales forced the VDLC to cancel the 23rd Annual Fundraising Dinner for Queen Alexandra Elementary to support the Wishing Tree free store that was scheduled for June 8; and

BECAUSE virtually all unions, credit unions, and individuals who had committed to purchasing tickets offered to donate the value, or more, upon learning of the cancelation, resulting in over \$7,300,00 in donations to the Wishing Tree; and

BECAUSE this amount still falls short of the 10-year average of \$9,650 raised by the VDLC,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL authorize an extraordinary expenditure of \$1,000.00 as a donation to the Wishing Tree free store at Queen Alexandra Elementary School to bridge some of the shortfall in funds for 2016 as a result of cancelling the June 8, 2016 – 23rd Annual Fundraising Dinner.

12. NOMINATION TO VDLC EXECUTIVE:

There are 4 openings for Executive Member-at-Large. Nominations were opened by Chair Terry Engler, no nominations were made.

13. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

14. TABLE TALK:

Metro Vancouver Alliance list of priorities for provincial election.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Proportional voting website – www.VoteBetter.ca
- Is the Trans Community talking to the Pride Community about participation in the Pride Parade? The Trans March, while separate from Pride, is heavily supported by the Pride Community and vice versa. Trans March, July 29 – 5:30 pm Clark Park; Dyke March, July 30 – 11:00 am; Pride Parade, July 31 – 12:00 pm.

<i>MSC to allow Eric Lescarbeau speak</i>

- International Socialists in support of CUPW, meeting July 26 at Spartacus Books and at City Centre Skytrain gathering event July 20
- Raffle to benefit Queen Alexandra Elementary School – 2 prizes drawn, 4 passes to Science World and a \$50 gift certificate to the Keg – Winners Jason Singh (Science World Passes) and Debra Elless (Keg gift certificate) - \$110 raised for Queen Alexandra Elementary

16. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:10 pm.*

17. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street

Next Pizza Educational
Tuesday, September 20, 2016
6:00 pm

Fairness for All Campaign
Campaign in support of Temporary Foreign Workers, ensuring that they laws
protecting workers, are afforded to all.
with Mable Elmore, MLA Vancouver Kensington

For lists of happenings please see our website events page.
www.vdlic.ca/events/



PROTEIN FOR PEOPLE

Wednesday, September 28, 2016
3 to 6 pm

QUEEN ALEXANDRA ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

1300 E. BROADWAY @ CLARK

A free event sponsored by the
Vancouver & District Labour Council
with support from Protein for People

www.vdlic.ca

www.proteinforpeople.ca

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