



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

- 1. LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC
- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** Terry Engler, 1st Vice President
- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
MSC that the minutes of the January 21, 2014 meeting be adopted.

MSC that the regular order of business be suspended immediately following the President's Report in order to conduct the 2nd call for nominations and elections to the VDLC Executive.

4. CREDENTIALS:

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

<p><u>CUPW</u> Caroline Boback * Angelito Decena (A) Edem Etuk Luc Julien Cindy Lee Jeannette McConnell * Marion Pollack (A) Harvey Ripley Louise (Fruma) Sloan *</p> <p><u>CUPE Local 389</u> Joyce Griffiths * Dinesh Kapoor * Lawrence Magtoto (A) Kathy McMahon * Cindy McQueen * Carol Nordby * Rod Smele * Clay White * Aaron Young *</p>	<p><u>IUOE Local 115</u> Frank Carr * Bob Higgs *</p> <p><u>PSAC Local 20044</u> John Dixon (A) Terri Lee * Jamey Mills *</p> <p><u>Unifor Local 464</u> John Ehinger * Jack MacDermot *</p>
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MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. GUEST SPEAKERS:

a) Imtiaz Popat – February 22’s Holding Hands for Queer Equality Around the World

Imtiaz Popat is a coordinator of Salaam, an advocate group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Muslims; he is also a part of Rainbow, an organization for refugees seeking asylum from persecution in their home country due to their sexual orientation. While the LGBT community has gained significant strides in their rights here in Canada, we know that is not the case around the world. We have become aware of the anti-gay laws enacted in Russia, but similar laws have also been enacted in India and countries in Africa. On Saturday, February 22, 11:00 am they are holding an event at Davie and Burrard in Vancouver, to bring awareness to the abuses of the human rights of gay, lesbian, and transsexual people around the world. Information pamphlets were made available.

b) Deborah Litman, Metro Vancouver Alliance – March 19 Founding Assembly

Deborah Littman made a presentation about the Metro Vancouver Alliance. Modeled on the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) as an effective tool for broad based community organizing, Deborah explained that IAF was created by Saul Alinsky in the 1940s as a way of building political and bargaining power for people working and living in the Chicago meat packing district. By bringing leaders from faith, labour and community organizations to speak with one voice, Alinsky helped workers there to win a very difficult strike.

Since the 1940’s, IAF organizations have been effective in many cities throughout the USA and other parts of the world, including one in Edmonton, and now Vancouver.

The model first brings organizations together to build trust and relationships before deciding on any campaign issues. Listening campaigns are then conducted to identify issues, followed by a discernment process to decide which few issues have broad interest and 100% support for being advanced. Once issues are identified, research is conducted and a specific “ask” is decided. It has to be supported by all member groups so that the focus stays on what we can agree on rather than (as often happens) what divides us. The next step is to carry out the campaign, followed by an evaluation and identification of the next issue(s).

The VDLC was a founding organization of MVA and has participated in its development. The MVA is now ready to hold its founding assembly which is scheduled for March 19 at the Maritime Labour Centre. VDLC delegates are invited and can sign up to attend.

6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the January 21, 2014 meeting.

Harrison Winter School

Sister Hartman spent two separate weeks at the CLC Harrison Winter School.

The first week, February 2 to 7, was spent teaching Collective Bargaining I.

The short week, February 11 to 14, was spent as a participant in the Labour Council Leadership Program. Matt Damario was there on the CLC scholarship, and the two labour council classes worked together for most of the week.

There was an emphasis on:

- The next stages of Together Fairness Works (listening campaign and new TV ads)

- Municipal elections – understanding the role of councils and school boards, mapping communities, identifying good candidates, vetting processes etc.
- Media interest – thinking outside the box to get coverage of our events and issues
- CLC Task Force on Labour Councils – a review of the resolution

Political Action

Affiliates are beginning to submit appointees for the VDLC's multi-union municipal candidate vetting committee. Sister Hartman will follow up with those that have not yet provided a committee member and set up the first meeting in March.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

Preparation for MVA's founding assembly on March 19 is well underway. Working committees are meeting weekly to coordinate outreach, guest invitations, floor management, registration, publicity, and related tasks. The hope is to have about 600 people in attendance. It is hoped that the VDLC will be represented by up to 40 executive members and delegates. A sign-up sheet is on each table.

Labour Law Classes and other VDLC Education

The first course of the year is a labour law class on privacy issues with James Baugh. It will be held on Saturday, March 22 at the Maritime Labour Centre. (flyer enclosed)

Outreach

On January 28, Sister Hartman joined Irene Lanzinger in a presentation about the labour movement to students at Eric Hamber School's Social Justice 11 class. On January 29, Sister Hartman was a guest lecturer at Langara's Women's Studies program with about 90 students in attendance. These are great opportunities to introduce students to trade unionism and answer their questions about unions, workplace rights, and other issues.

125th Anniversary

The VDLC's 125th anniversary is November 21, 2014. We need volunteers to coordinate activities.

May Day 2014

We need a small planning committee to coordinate activities for May Day, which falls on Thursday, May 1, 2014.

International Solidarity

Dates for a BC Fed and VDLC delegation to China are firming up, probably June 22 to July 5, 2014. As with previous international delegations, the VDLC will not be responsible for any costs or wage loss for labour council participants. Please let Sister Hartman know if you are interested.

Doug Evans

Sister Hartman attended a memorial for former VDLC president Doug Evans, who served in that position from 1985 to 1991, including the 100th Anniversary in 1989.

7. NOMINATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

The following nominations were accepted at the January 21, 2014 regular meeting of council:

Executive Position	Nominee Name	Union Represented
<i>President</i>	Joey Hartman	Unifor Local 468 W
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Terry Engler	International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 400
<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Stephen Von Sychowski	Canadian Office & Professional Employees' Union Local 378
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Georgi Bates	United Steel Workers' of America Local 2009
<i>Treasurer</i>	Paul Sihota	International Association of Fire Fighters Local 18
<i>Members-at-Large (12 positions)</i>	Fruma Sloan	Canadian Union of Postal Workers
	Carol Nordby	Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 389
	Agnes Jackman	Health Sciences Association
	Russ St. Eloi	United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 170
	Sylvia Metzner	BCTF – Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association
	Matt Damario	BC Government & Service Employees' Union Local 1203
	Graham O'Neill	Hospital Employees' Union North Shore Community Local

2nd call for nominations to the VDLC Executive, Ron Stipp, CLC Representative presiding.

The following eligible delegates were nominated:

Executive Position	Nominee Name	Union Represented
Member-at-large	Tim Cheung	Unifor Local 2002
Member-at-large	Murray Martin	Teachers' Support Staff Union
Member-at-large	Mike Clarke	BC Government & Service Employees' Union Local 303
Member-at-large	Heather Allison	BCTF – Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Union
Member-at-large	Keith Stone	BC Government & Service Employees' Union Local Local 503

The following delegates were acclaimed as VDLC's 2014 Executive:

Executive Position	Nominee Name	Union Represented
<i>President</i>	Joey Hartman	Unifor Local 468W
<i>1st Vice President</i>	Terry Engler	International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 400

<i>2nd Vice President</i>	Stephen Von Sychowski	Canadian Office & Professional Employees' Union Local 378
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Georgi Bates	United Steel Workers of America Local 2009
<i>Treasurer</i>	Paul Sihota	International Association of Fire Fighters Local 18
<i>Members at Large (12 positions) (in alpha order)</i>	Fruma (Louise) Sloan	Canadian Union of Postal Workers
	Carol Nordby	Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 389
	Agnes Jackman	Health Sciences Association
	Russ St. Eloi	United Association of Plumbers' and Pipefitters Local 170
	Sylvia Metzner	BCTF – Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association
	Matt Damario	BC Government & Service Employees' Union Local 1203
	Graham O'Neill	Hospital Employees' Union North Shore Community Local
	Tim Cheung	Unifor Local 2002
	Murray Martin	Teachers' Support Staff Union
	Mike Clarke	BC Government & Service Employees' Union Local 303
	Heather Allison	BCTF – Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association
	Keith Stone	BC Government & Services Employees' Union Local 503

The new Executive Council was sworn in by CLC Representative Ron Stipp.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

See attached list

9. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Spending Approvals

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

- PNLHA – donation to 2014 labour history conference in Cumberland of \$200.00
- People's Voice – May Day issue ad – at a cost of \$90.00 (plus tax)
- DOXA Film Festival – program ad – at a cost of \$118.13
- CCPA Fundraiser March 13 with Kevin Page – 2 tickets @ \$90.00 each, for a total cost of \$180.00

- Pacific Immigrant Resources Society – donation of \$50.00 to IWD lunch for immigrants
- b) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*
Subject: New Affiliate – CUPE Local 2950
BECAUSE the VDLC has received an application for affiliation from CUPE Local 2950,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the application from CUPE Local 2950, representing administrative, library and other support staff at the University of British Columbia, effective immediately.

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

- a) Michael Lanier – CUPE Local 1936
Community Services Sector has ratified a new 5 year collective agreement. The agreement includes 11.5% wage increase over the 5 year term and small improvements in other benefits. The agreement received an 85% yes vote. More details will be released in the bulletin. The local will now be concentrating on building local activism, “Unite for Fairness”, and union education and training. The CUPE BC Convention is April 9 to 12 in Vancouver at the Bayshore Inn.
- b) Unifor Local 464 – Reported by John Ehinger
The union has just ratified a new collective agreement that will be in effect until December 31, 2015. It is a 2 year deal, with a total salary increase of 2.5%. They also achieved an increase, for many members, by 5 days of vacation time, bringing parity amongst their members. The collective agreement will also include term assignment extensions to natural breaks in the school year, a joint committee on benefits, use of 5 days sick leave for compassionate care, shingles vaccinations, and a 25% increase to their personal/professional development training budget.
- c) BCTF – VSTA – Reported by Sylvia Metzner
On January 27, Supreme Court Justice Susan Griffin re-affirmed her 2011 decision that Bills 27 & 28 were unconstitutional and ruling that the subsequent Bill 22 was also unconstitutional. This ruling restores the union’s collective agreement provisions on class size and class composition that were illegally stripped in 2002. These provisions were deemed restored as of 10:00 am, Monday, January 27. It also fined the government \$2 million for its continued interference in teachers’ bargaining rights. Most disturbing was that the Liberals were found to have followed a deliberate strategy to provoke a full strike in order to gain public support for legislating teachers back to work, rather than bargaining in good faith. Government has now chosen to appeal the decision (yet again) and have applied for a stay of the ruling. They are aggressively engaging the media and the public in their denial of the facts proven in court and in pleading poverty, saying they have no money to restore the contract provisions. Currently, BC spends \$1,000 per student less than the national average. The recent budget makes it clear that money is available in their surpluses and a contingency fund. They are choosing to waste dollars on endless legal challenges rather than supporting students and teachers.

Sister Metzner provided flyers available with talking points.

- d) HEU North Shore Community – Reported by Graham O’Neill
The Pulp and Paper Workers’ Union had applied to the Labour Relations Board to raid VGH, Children and Women’s Hospital, and Lions Gate Hospital. The application was denied on the issue of appropriate bargaining unit.

North Shore Community Local of the Community Health Bargaining Association voted on January 22, 64% against the new agreement. The overall provincial outcome was 78.8% in favour.

- e) CUPW – Reported by Fruma Sloan
Two city councils, the City of Vancouver and City of Burnaby have unanimously endorsed a motion to oppose plans to end door-to-door delivery and Canada Post’s lack of consultation in making this decision. CUPW has been participating in Town Hall meetings across the province to discuss the proposed postal cuts. The next town hall is at Trout Lake Community Centre with MPs, Libby Davies Vancouver East and Don Davies Vancouver Kingsway on February 22 at 11:30am. Petitions are available.

The following written report was submitted but not presented orally:

- a) HEU Dogwood Lodge – Submitted by Karen McVeigh
The Facilities Bargaining Committee went back to the bargaining table February 11. They have been meeting for the last 2 weeks and talks are going well. Facilities Bargaining Committee also covers CUPE Local 873, ambulance paramedics, some members of BCGEU, and other unions in the sector.

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

- a) COPE Local 378 – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
- b) CUPE Local 389 – Reported by Joyce Griffiths
- c) BCGEU Local 503 – Reported by Keith Stone
- d) Unifor Local 2002 – Reported by Tim Cheung

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

11. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

- a) Young Workers’ – Reported by Erin Searle
The trip to the World Festival of Youth and Students in Quito, Ecuador was fantastic. Thank you to everyone for the support leading up to it. The committee is putting together their report on the Festival and hope to have it ready for presentation in March. The committee meets Monday, February 24 at 6:00 pm in the VDLC office, committee chair and co-chair will be elected at that meeting. They will also be holding an educational on how to be an effective chairperson.

- b) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
Richmond IKEA is still locked-out. At one point they did go back to the table, but talks broke down around the issue of scabs and how that would be dealt with. The committee is planning several support pickets. Anyone interested should see Stephen about getting put on that contact list.

- c) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan
The next Women Transforming Cities café is February 19 and will be on “Why it is important to reflect women’s lives in public space”. This is especially relevant in Vancouver, with so many missing and murdered women, where are the monuments to their lives. IWD Dinner at the Fraserview Hall, March 7, tickets \$45 or \$30 low-waged. The evening will include buffet Indian dinner, 2 guest speakers from Idle No More, and entertainment by the No Shit Shirleys.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) COPE – Reported by Matt Damario
Upcoming 2 day policy conference March 29 and 30; anyone can submit policy via the COPE website. COPE has formed a labour committee again. At their last meeting they discussed how municipal politics should be involved in the building trades, living wage, and how to get labour’s issues into the upcoming municipal election.

- b) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp
The federal budget came down, it doesn’t have much to offer. Concern now is whether or not the Conservatives will introduce an omnibus bill. Bill C-525 (certification), looks like it will be amended, we are waiting and Bill C-377 is on the backburner at the senate and doesn’t appear like it will go anywhere. The CPP campaign will continue despite Minister Flaherty saying no – the majority of provinces are in favour so the push will continue.

The Together Fairness Works initiative is underway, March 29 will see another session on how to engage members and how to listen.

Federal election could be sooner than anticipated, in the spring of 2015. Federal working groups will start their organizing this fall.

Harrison over 1,200 participants, the biggest ever. A great year with new courses, it will be even bigger and better next year.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

13. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Moment of Silence for Brother Doug Evans
- 50/50 Proceeds to benefit May Day committee
- Taxes Forum at the Centre for Socialist Education, Thursday, February 27, 7:30 pm
- CoDevelopment Canada – Just Film Festival, February 28 to March 2 – Social Justice, Human Rights, Environmental films – pamphlets available
- Friday, February 21 – History of Women in Trades at the Vancouver Public Library
- Vancouver Sun article about the Adopt-a-School program and Queen Alexandra Elementary School – VDLC has been supporting the program and Queen Alex for approximately 26 years. Despite the fact that it should not be necessary for schools to seek charitable aid, nor should there be children needing support for meals, the VDLC funded the school's breakfast program for 20 years until a couple of years ago when a private donor asked to fully fund the program. The school asked the labour council to continue its relationship with the school in a different capacity; this is how we developed the Wishing Tree free store. The store provides families in need with the necessities they require: household items, toiletries (including diapers), seasonal clothing, and food hampers. While these programs are necessary to close the gaps, the work to bring about a living wage so families can provide for themselves and for proper taxation and funding of schools is so needed. Until these programs are no longer needed, we will continue to fundraise and provide support. Our 22nd Annual Fundraising Dinner for Queen Alexandra is April 11. The special guest speaker is Kent Wong, UCLA Labor Department and founder of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (poster enclosed).
- A story about how labour councils work. Brother Masoud Aminzavvar, BCGEU Local 403 delegate, works at the Look-out Centre in the Downtown Eastside. The centre frequently has men looking for steel toe boots; these men often look for jobs as day-labourers but require the boots to go to job sites. Masoud came to the VDLC with the issue and Sister Hartman spoke to Rob Ashton, ILWU Local 500, who is now a Vice President at ILWU Canada. Brother Ashton took the issue to their Executive who approved a call-out for a collection of boots that are used but wearable to be donated and has been successful in collecting donations. If anyone can contribute it would be appreciated.
- Unifor Local 2002 has reaped the rewards of the VDLC labour law education series. Thanks to skills learned they have been successful in a number of grievances. The local will be sending all their elected officers, they've sent 6 so far. The value is incomparable. If you haven't had the chance to attend, do.
- Young Workers' held a raffle for hand woven scarves, a hand painted bookmark, and a clay wall-hanging brought back from Ecuador. Thanks to everyone for affording the delegation with the opportunity to be a part of the festival.

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:03 pm.*

16. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2014](#), 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street.

Pizza Educational
Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 6:00 pm

\$10 Child Care
with Sharon Gregson