



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

**1. LOCATION:** W.I.S.E. Hall, 1882 Adanac Street, Vancouver, BC

**2. CHAIRPERSON:** Terry Engler, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> call for nominations and elections to the VDLC Executive.*

**4. CREDENTIALS:**

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

<u>CUPW</u> Caroline Boback * Marie Cuenca Angelito Decena * Edem Etuk * Rebekah Mahar * Jeannette McConnell * Louise (Fruma) Sloan *	<u>CUPE Local 718</u> Norman Kotze Sophia Salem  <u>HEU Broadway Pentecostal</u> Shayla Burke  <u>TSSU</u> Haida Arsenault-Antolick Ivan Drury * Carl Mandy Murray Martin (A)*  <u>Unifor Local 465</u> Aaron Wilson *
<u>CUPE Local 389</u> Amir Bagheri Joyce Griffiths * Dinesh Kapoor * Lawrence Magtoto * Kathy McMahon * Cindy McQueen * Amanda Nichol (A) Carol Nordby * Joel Urbani Tony Volpe Aaron Young *	

*MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).*

**5. GUEST SPEAKER:**

Andy Ross – Better Transit & Transportation Coalition re: Transit Plebiscite

Anyone registered to vote with Elections BC is registered to vote in the Transit Plebiscite and a ballot will be mailed to you. March 16 is the first day to return ballots, May 29 is the last. The question on the ballot asks: “Are you in favour of a 0.5% Metro Vancouver Congestion

Improvement Tax”. It will be applied to all goods that currently get charged the PST and it will only be applied within Metro Vancouver (Lions Bay to Maple Ridge to Aldergrove). The tax would go into effect in 2016.

Mayors came up with the plan to fund improvements and infrastructure over the next 10 years. Improvements include: Arbutus extension, 3 light rail lines to South Fraser and Surrey, 3 added B-Lines, 400 added hours of bus service, Pattullo Bridge crossing, 30% increase to Sea Bus sailings. This is mostly public transit upgrades, but it also includes roads, which impacts the transport of goods, which impacts cost of goods.

The material circulated (see VDLC website) outlines the plans of what will be funded over the next 10 years if the plebiscite passes. There is a vision for 30 years and a funding plan for 10 years. Over the next 30 years, it is expected that the Lower Mainland will grow by 1 million people and 600,000 vehicles.

The majority of labour is in support. It was passed nearly unanimously at the BC Federation of Labour. Many unions have now signed onto the Better Transit and Transport Coalition. With 97 organizations so far, this is the largest coalition to have come together in BC. It includes labour, business, faith groups, community organizations, environmental groups, and more. The BC Fed and affiliates are also doing their own campaigning. Delegates were invited to sign up to get updates from the Coalition and from the BC Fed and sign up to volunteer and get involved. Everyone was encouraged to go back to their workplaces and talk about it.

## **6. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the December 9, 2014 meeting.

### Fire at the Maritime Labour Centre

The January regular meeting was cancelled due to a fire at the Maritime Labour Centre. The restoration company is estimating that the VDLC will be able to return to our office in early to mid-march. In the meantime Keziah and Joey have been working from home and meeting as needed.

### Federal Election Preparation

Delegates are all encouraged to register for the free CLC Election Preparation Conference to be held at the Coast Plaza Hotel March 13 and 14, 2015. Register at <http://goo.gl/M6uwq4>

### VDLC Education

The program outline for 2015 is now available and is posted on the website

### CLC Winter School

Sister Hartman co-facilitated Collective Bargaining I the week of January 25 to 30, and returned to Harrison February 10 to 13 as a participant in the annual Labour Council Leadership Program. The focus for 2015 was preparation for the federal election later this year.

### May Day

There will be a march and rally early evening Friday, May 1.

## **7. NOMINATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

Nominations presided over by CLC Representative Ron Stipp.

The following nominations were accepted

<b>Executive Position</b>	<b>Nominee Name</b>	<b>Union Represented</b>
<i>President</i>	Joey Hartman	Unifor Local 468 W
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i>	Terry Engler	ILWU Local 400
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i>	Stephen Von Sychowski	COPE Local 378
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Paul Sihota	IAFF Local 18
<i>Treasurer</i>	Tim Cheung	Unifor Local 2002
<b>Members-at-Large (12 positions)</b>  - In order nominated	Louise (Fruma) Sloan	CUPW
	Carol Nordby	CUPE Local 389
	Jason Singh	BCGEU Local 1203
	Graham O'Neill	HEU North Shore Community Local
	Agnes Jackman	HSA
	Heather Allison	BCTF - VESTA
	Caitlin Davidson King	Unifor Local 3000
	Sylvia Metzner	BCTF – VSTA
	Russ St. Eloi	UA Plumbers Local 170
	Keith Stone	BCGEU Local 503

The following delegates were acclaimed as VDLC's 2015 Executive:

<b>Executive Position</b>	<b>Nominee Name</b>	<b>Union Represented</b>	
<i>President</i>	Joey Hartman	Unifor Local 468 W	
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i>	Terry Engler	ILWU Local 400	
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i>	Stephen Von Sychowski	COPE Local 378	
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	Paul Sihota	IAFF Local 18	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Tim Cheung	Unifor Local 2002	
<b>Members at Large (12 positions)</b>  (in alpha order)  2 positions remain vacant	Heather Allison	BCTF – VESTA	
	Caitlin Davidson King	Unifor Local 3000	
	Agnes Jackman	HSA	
	Sylvia Metzner	BCTF – VSTA	
	Carol Nordby	CUPE Local 389	
	Graham O'Neill	HEU North Shore Community Local	
	Jason Singh	BCGEU Local 1203	
	Louise (Fruma) Sloan	CUPW	
	Russ St. Eloi	UA Plumbers Local 170	
	Keith Stone	BCGEU Local 503	
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**8. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Nil

**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:

- CCPA Annual Fundraiser, April 16 with Grand Chief Stewart Phillip – 5 tickets at a cost of \$90.00 each for a total of \$450.00
- BC Health Coalition – membership renewal at a cost of \$75.00
- People’s Voice – May Day ad at a cost of \$90.00

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

Subject: VDLC 2015 Budget

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council has a fiscal year of January 1 to December 31 of each year,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the proposed VDLC 2015 operating budget as circulated. (see attached)

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

Subject: Transit Referendum

BECAUSE there will be a mail-in ballot between mid-March and late May 2015 regarding the Mayor’s Council proposed infrastructure improvements and revenue source for a comprehensive regional transit and transportation plan (known as the transit referendum) for Metro Vancouver; and

BECAUSE delegates to the BC Federation of Labour convention in November 2014 unanimously supported a resolution calling for a “yes” vote on this referendum; and

BECAUSE affordable, comprehensive and public transit is critical to working people and their families who rely on transit, as well as the impact on reduced congestion for those who rely on the roads; and

BECAUSE the BC Federation of Labour and numerous individual unions have joined a broad based organization of labour, community, environmental and business organizations called “The Better Transit & Transportation Coalition” (BTTC) formed to advocate for a “yes” vote; and

BECAUSE the Better Transit & Transportation Coalition invites organizations and participants to join the coalition and/or sign onto the following pledge:

*“One of the most important decisions facing Metro Vancouver for the next generation is the 2015 Referendum on transit, transportation, and goods and people movement. A positive outcome is a crucial step to expand transportation options, reduce pollution, improve the health of our communities, strengthen our economy, and help make this region a more affordable place to live”,*

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL join the Better Transit & Transportation Coalition and sign onto the pledge to advocate for a positive outcome on the referendum; and

FURTHER, THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL will engage in activities designed to promote a “yes” vote on the referendum; and

FINALLY, THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL will continue to work within the Metro Vancouver Alliance to advance improved public transit and demand accountability from political and governance bodies.

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

Subject: Adult Education is a Basic Right

BECAUSE the provincial government has cut funding to graduated adults who currently make up about one third of all adult education students,

BECAUSE these cuts will negatively impact some of the most vulnerable members of our society, namely at-risk youth and members of immigrant and aboriginal communities,

BECAUSE Adult Education students seek to upgrade their skills to allow them access to better jobs to support themselves and their families,

BECAUSE the government solution of downloading costs to individuals will be financially prohibitive to many of these students, will limit access to education and will ultimately keep people in poverty,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on the provincial government to restore Adult Education funding, including funding to graduated adults; and

FURTHER, THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL encourage member affiliates to attend the public forum, *Adult Education is a Basic Right*, presented by a joint advocacy coalition of adult educators, opposing the cuts to Adult Education on March 5, 2015 at the Croatian Cultural Centre, from 7:00-9:00 pm.

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

No reports submitted.

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

- a) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Michael Lanier
- b) HEU Dogwood Lodge Local – Reported by Karen McVeigh
- c) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

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

- a) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan  
IWD Dinner, Friday, March 6 is underway - please help to circulate the information. March 4 is the next committee meeting; any women interested in attending are welcome.

- b) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski  
MWBIU Local 1 remain on strike against SSAB Hardox on Annacis Island for their first collective agreement. CUPE employees at Southern Rail are still locked out. Teamsters strike against CP Rail was brief as both parties agreed to binding arbitration, however, CP Rail will be going into negotiations with Teamsters in the US soon.
- c) Young Workers – Reported by Erin Searle  
The fire at the MLC has also impacted their meetings. Young workers interested in joining the committee can visit the committee's Facebook page for meeting updates.

*MSC to adopt the reports of committees.*

**OTHER REPORTS:**

- a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp  
Election preparation conferences are underway to build activism for the upcoming federal election. Winter School is wrapping up, it was a very successful year with over 1,100 participants. (see attached)

*MSC to adopt the report.*

**12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**     NIL

**13. NEW BUSINESS:**            NIL

**14. NOTICE OF MOTION:**

*The following recommendation introduced at the February 2015 meeting:*

Subject: Constitutional Amendment

(note the version on the VDLC web is from 2011 and does not include amendments adopted Jan 2014)

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL adopt the following amendment to the VDLC Constitution & By-Laws, subject to approval by the Canadian Labour Congress:

*Election of Officers – amend Article 6, Section 2 to add a requirement for attendance at 50% of the executive meetings in the previous twelve (12) months in order to be re-elected as an executive officer, and re-write the full section for clarity.*

The existing Section 2 reads:

*“Each Officer shall be a member in good standing of an affiliated organization. No delegate shall be eligible for election to office unless they have at least twelve (12) months’ previous experience as a delegate, and have attended at least fifty percent (50%) of the Labour Council meetings in the twelve (12) months up to and including the meeting where the election will be conducted. However, if a candidate did not attend fifty percent (50%) of the meetings during the previous twelve (12) months because they have been absent due to a prohibited ground for discrimination in the BC Human Rights Code, their eligibility will be determined by the period one year prior.”*

The revised Section 2 would read:

*“To be eligible for election to a position on the VDLC executive a member must have:*

- a) Served at least twelve (12) months as a delegate to the labour council as a member in good standing of an affiliated organization; and
- b) Have attended at least fifty percent (50%) of the Labour Council meetings in the twelve (12) months up to and including the meeting where the election will be conducted; and
- c) In the case of re-election, have attended at least fifty percent (50%) of the Labour Council Executive Board meetings in the twelve (12) months up to and including the meeting where the election will be conducted.

However, if a candidate did not attend fifty percent (50%) of the meetings during the twelve (12) month eligibility period specified in (b) and (c) because they have been absent due to a prohibited ground for discrimination in the BC Human Rights Code, their eligibility will be determined by the period one year prior.”

#### 15. SWEARING IN OF NEW EXECUTIVE

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

#### 16. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Fundraiser, February 21 – NDP
- Bill C 51, leaflet made available
- CUPE Metro District International Women’s Day, Friday, March 6, free lunch, Chief Mathias Centre in North Vancouver
- Invited to join at the W.I.S.E Hall lounge for social after the meeting

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

18. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2015](#), 7:30 pm,  
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street.

**Pizza Educational**  
**Tuesday, March 17, 2014, 6:00 pm**  
**Workers` Theatre – Vancouver 1930s with Trish Everett**