



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

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: 1st Vice President Terry Engler

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

MSC that the minutes of the November 19, 2019 Regular meeting be adopted.

MSC that the notes of the December 10, 2019 Regular without Quorum be received for the information of the delegates.

4. CREDENTIALS:

BCTF Local 41

Krishna Sharma

ILWU Local 400

Ziggy Mangat

CUPE Local 389

Amir Bagheri

Dinesh Kapoor

Tyrone Brown (Alt)

Kwantlen Faculty Association – Local 5

Michael Ma

PEA – HESU

Maria Fe Infante

Lisa Freeman

CUPW Local 846

Condwiramurs McGowan

UNITE Here Local 40

Harley Augustino

Nymchio Calvez

Fe Casas

Teresita Gonzales

Fipe Wong

HEU – St. Paul’s Local 180

Mary Wierzejski

HSA – Health Sciences Association

Gina Choe

Carla Gibbons

Jill Slind

5. GUEST SPEAKERS: Nil

6. EDUCATIONAL: Nil

7. NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD:

1st Call for Nominations (Constitution & By-Laws for eligibility)

Opened by: Ron Stipp, Canadian Labour Congress

President

Name	Union
Stephen von Sychowski	MoveUP

1st Vice President

Name	Union
Bal Sandhu	HEU/PHSA Amalgamated Local 180

2nd Vice President

Name	Union
Graham O'Neill	HEU/North Shore Local 180

Recording Secretary

Name	Union
Karen McVeigh	HEU/Dogwood Lodge Local 180

Treasurer

Name	Union
Stefan Nielsen	UFCW Local 1518

Member-at-Large (12 Positions)

Name	Union
Betty Bi	UFCW Local 1518
Shane Polak	PSAC-UVAE Local 20045
Jason Woods	ILWU Local 400
Frank Warwick	CUPE Local 1004
Crystyna Sawyer	HEU/PHSA Amalgamated Local 180
Jason Sullivan	HEU/St. Paul's Local 180
Keith Stone	BCGEU
Neil Munro	Heat & Frost Insulators Local 118
Russ St. Eloi	UA Local 170
Nick Aubichon	CUPW Local 846
Nikki Koutsochilis	CME Local 30213

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the January 2020 meeting.

CLC Winter School

I spent two weeks at the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School in Harrison during the month of January. The first week I was co-facilitating the "Facing Management Effectively" course with Janet Andrews, Secretary-Treasurer of the New Westminster and District Labour Council. It was a good week with a diverse group of participants from a variety of public and private sector unions. It was also a good opportunity to get to know Janet better, who is my counterpart at NWDLC in terms of being the full-time officer.

The second week I was participating in the Labour Council Officer Development session. This week was also very useful in that it is a rare opportunity for labour council leaders around the province to get together, learn from one-another, plan, and strategize. The week was part planning session and part course. We looked at political action, letter writing, budgeting, election strategy, and more. We also had a very interesting session on archiving which will come in handy this year as our storage room is now over-full and we need to transfer some items to our archive at UBC in order to make space and ensure proper storage of these important records for the future.

Political Action

The main issues on our radar for political action in the past month have been the VSB Culinary Arts Program and, of course, housing. I have been continuing to discuss these issues with elected politicians and others. A letter re: culinary arts that I wrote while in Harrison gained substantial traction on social media and was published by the Georgia Straight and Vancouver Sun.

Our Housing Action Team held its first meeting and has a recommendation on the agenda tonight already. It will meet again on February 26 at 5pm.

I sent a letter to municipal politicians welcoming them to our meetings as guests and inviting them to join us as guest speakers, stay tuned for some of that in the coming months.

Cascade Region Labour Leadership Initiative

Earlier this month I attended the third and final week-long session of CRLLI. This session focused on movement building and, like the others, was a fantastic experience characterized by intensive learning and long days. While this was the final formal session, my experience with CRLLI continues in the form of the project I will be carrying out flowing from the program: strategic planning. There may also be a cross-border action carried out by our CRLLI cohort later in the year. Thank you once again for this great opportunity. I'd be happy to discuss it further with anyone who is interested.

Labour Disputes

IBEW Local 213 is still on strike against Ledcor LTS. Please show your support by stopping by at both picket locations, Port Coquitlam and Vancouver. In the next month they will be in arbitration.

Labour Education

Our 2020 Spring program is now available and registrations have begun. Of special note is the fact that the Decolonization workshop filled up its 50 seats within less than a week. We expanded it to 65 and it filled again in a couple of days. It is now at its maximum capacity. This massive interest should give us pause to consider what other education we can offer along these lines. I anticipate that the Reconciliation course with Conni Kilfoil and Tammy Simonds will be big success again this year as well.

YVR Joint Union Committee

The next meeting of our YVR Joint Union Committee is scheduled for February 27.

CLC Convention

We have a young worker credential which is open to a delegate who is 30 or younger. If you are interested please let me know. The convention is May 3-8.

United Way Period Promise Campaign

There is a collection box out front. We'll be collecting at next month's meeting as well as the IWD Dinner on March 8.

Terry Engler

I want to take a moment to note that our 1st Vice President, Terry Engler, is not running again in our elections tonight. Terry has been a long-time delegate to our labour council and an even longer-time activist in his union, ILWU 400, and elsewhere. He joined our Executive Board in 2004 and became 1st Vice President in 2011, serving in that role throughout the entire Presidency of Joey Hartman and myself.

Terry has always brought a thoughtful, principled, and progressive analysis to the work of the Executive Board and has thereby not only played an important part in literally steering our work via his role as chair, but in politically steering it as well. He is a trusted source for good advice and a wealth of information.

I know I speak on behalf of the entire Executive Board in saying that you will be missed, and we are very grateful for all of your contributions over the years. We wish you all the best in your coming retirement.

Events Attended

January 12-17 – Facilitating at CLC Winter School
January 19-24 – Attended Labour Council Officer Development at CLC Winter School
January 28 – Blue Community meeting
January 28 – Worker Action Centre meeting
January 29 – Housing meeting
January 30 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Communist Interest Research Group
January 30 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Board of Directors
February 3-7 – Cascade Region Labour Leaders Initiative
February 10 – Culinary Arts Program meeting
February 11 – May Day Organizing Committee
February 12 – One-on-One Metro Vancouver Alliance meeting
February 13 – Executive Board

February 13 – Queen Alexandra Elementary School donor appreciation event
February 18 – Working Group on Prevention of Violence in Hospitality Industry
February 18 – Regular Meeting

MSC that the President's report be adopted.

9. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAW'S REVIEW

Article 1 – Jurisdiction
Article 2 – Declaration of Principles and Objective
Article 3 – Affiliation and Duties
Article 4 – Will be adopted at next meeting
Article 5 – Regular and Special Meetings
Article 6 – Executive Board Representation
Article 7 – Duties of Officers
Article 8 – Executive Board
Article 9 – Revenue
Article 10 – Rules of Order
Article 11 – Ombudsperson
Article 12 – Amendments

MSC that the Constitution and By-Law's be adopted. Article 4 to be adopted at next 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: *January items carried forward to February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting.*

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

Subject: Affiliation of PSAC Local 20088 (Union of Canadian Transportation Employees)

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the request for affiliation of eighteen members of PSAC Local 20088 UCTE.

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

Subject: Affiliation of IATSE Local 118

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the request for affiliation of four hundred and twelve members of IATSE 118.

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

Subject: Safer Supply Saves Lives

BECAUSE despite the immense efforts from community organizations, drug user groups and government since the overdose crisis was declared a Public Health Emergency on April 14, 2016, every day 4 British Columbians die as a result of the poisoned illicit drug supply; and

BECAUSE every community in BC is impacted by the crisis, with a disproportionate impact on First Nations people, people living in poverty and those struggling with chronic pain and mental health issues; and

BECAUSE establishing a public health, regulatory approach to psychoactive substances is recommended by the Health Officers' Council of BC, the BC Centre on Substance Use, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, BC's Provincial Health Officer, and Vancouver Coastal Health's Chief Medical Health Officer;

BECAUSE in April 2019, the BC Government rejected calls by the Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry for policy changes that would prevent people who use illicit drugs from facing jail time or a criminal record for simple possession, despite support from the Victoria and Vancouver police departments and legal mechanisms under the provincial Police Act to set policing priorities,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the City of Vancouver's Safe Supply Statement and support its efforts to advocate for a safer supply of drugs in order to protect and prevent further loss of our family members, friends, neighbours and loved ones; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER urge the BC Government to work with the Solicitor General to immediately decriminalize personal possession of drugs to reduce the stigma of substance use disorder and support engagement in harm reduction and treatment, and press the Federal Government for the same; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY write to the BC Federation of Labour, and the Canadian Labour Congress, enclosing a copy of this recommendation and asking them to press for action from the provincial and federal governments respectively.

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

Subject: Canadian Labour Congress Convention

BECAUSE the Canadian Labour Congress has issued the Convention Call for its 2020 convention; and

BECAUSE as a Labour Council chartered by the Congress, the Vancouver and District Labour Council is entitled to send two (2) delegates to this convention,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL appoint President Stephen von Sychowski and Neil Munro to attend the convention as delegates.

e) *MST that the following recommendation be tabled for further discussion by the executive:*

Subject: No War with Iran

BECAUSE the United States military, on the order of President Donald Trump, launched a drone attack on January 3rd which killed several, including General Quassem Suleimani, Iran's top military figure; and

BECAUSE this strike, which was in violation of international law, was a reckless provocation which appears to be leading toward further conflict including military conflict between the United States and Iran; and

BECAUSE this conflict has the dangerous potential of expanding into a regional or even global war causing untold loss of life, and massive environmental and climate impacts; and

BECAUSE the VDLC has a long history of standing in solidarity with the people of Iran, and with those fighting for human rights and workers' rights, however we recognize that war with Iran will only bring death and destruction to the Iranian people and is not a path to liberation from its current repressive regime; and

BECAUSE it is working people who pay the price for war, whether as soldiers or civilian casualties, while a small number of wealthy individuals and corporations reap the war profits and the spoils; and

BECAUSE the Canadian government issued a statement in response to the attack which was wholly unsatisfactory and neither clarified its position with regards to war with Iran, nor satisfactorily condemned the aggressive war mongering actions and rhetoric emanating from the United States government and particularly from President Trump; and

BECAUSE over sixty persons of Iranian descent have already been detained at U.S. border crossings without cause and other instances of racism aimed at persons of middle eastern descent and other racialized people are again on the rise,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL condemn the January 3rd attack, as well as the ongoing war mongering actions and rhetoric that threatens to lead to military conflict; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER oppose war with Iran and call upon the Canadian government do to same and to remain neutral in any conflict that should break out and withdraw Canadian forces from the region; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY reiterate its opposition to Islamophobia and racism and xenophobia of all kinds, oppose the profiling and racist treatment of people of Iranian descent and other racialized people and communities, and stand for solidarity of the workers and people of all nations against war.

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

Subject: Spending Authorizations

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

- Renewal of membership to the BC Health Coalition at a cost of \$75.

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

Subject: Fix Vancouver's Renter Protections

BECAUSE the City of Burnaby has recently adopted renter protections which have been hailed as the strongest in the region, and possibly in the country; and

BECAUSE the City of Vancouver is the epicenter of the current housing affordability crisis, and thousands of Vancouver renters face renoviction or demoviction as the city continues to rapidly densify,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon the City of Vancouver to implement stronger renter protections in line with those adopted by the City of Burnaby, which include:

- Improved right of first refusal wherein tenants would be given first right of refusal to new or renovated suites at the same rent, as opposed to at 20% of market rent as is presently in place; and
- Improved tenant compensation wherein tenants are provided a rent “top up” until a new unit is created in the same neighbourhood, as opposed to a one-time pay out based upon tenure (between 4-24 months’ rent).

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER support the campaign of the Vancouver Tenants Union on this issue.

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

Subject: Support fixing public car insurance in British Columbia

BECAUSE public car insurance ensures everyone has fair and equal access to insurance; and

BECAUSE public car insurance does not discriminate on the basis of age, gender, or marital status; and

BECAUSE the BC Liberals used ICBC as an ATM and left our Crown Corporation nearly insolvent while intentionally misrepresenting the finances of the Crown Corporation to the public; and

BECAUSE public car insurance is not profit-driven unlike private car insurance; and

BECAUSE private car insurance would result in drastically higher insurance premiums on average for drivers under the age of 45; and

BECAUSE ICBC invests in our communities through road safety initiatives, driver licensing, delivery of insurance and claims services; and

BECAUSE ICBC provides stable, reliable unionized jobs across the province for people whose focus is on taking care of British Columbians,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL send an email to delegates encouraging them to visit DrivingPublic.ca and to sign the Letter to the MLA; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL send a letter to all local mayors and local MLAs within its area, as well as to the BC Attorney General and the ICBC critic outlining its support for fixing our public car insurance system and speaking out against allowing private insurance companies to enter the basic car insurance market.

- i) *MSC that the following amended recommendation be adopted:*

(Paragraph's 4 and 5 Amended during the meeting, Paragraph 6 added).

Subject: A Negotiated Settlement to the Situation on Wet'suwet'en Territory

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL adopt the following statement with regards to the ongoing conflict on Wet'suwet'en territory:

The Vancouver and District Labour Council is alarmed by the ongoing conflict taking place on the Wet'suwet'en territory. While the recent discussions between the Provincial Government and the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs was a hopeful development, it unfortunately did not lead to a resolve of the dispute.

Since that time, the RCMP have renewed their actions on Wet'suwet'en territory to enforce Coastal GasLink's court injunction, including several arrests of peaceful demonstrators. We respect the diversity of opinions that exist amongst our affiliates with regards to the project in question. We also commit ourselves to the process of reconciliation, and to respect for the rights of Indigenous nations as outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

We are therefore calling for Premier John Horgan, the Provincial Government and Coastal GasLink to urgently return to the table with the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs, and for all parties to renew efforts to find a mutual, peaceful solution which respects and upholds the UN Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous People, which the Provincial Government recently adopted with Bill 41, specifically Article 10 which states, "Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return." We also call on the Provincial Government to order the RCMP to withdraw from Wet'suwet'en territory and allow for this to take place.

We have often rejected the narrative that workers must choose between jobs and the environment. Similarly, we must reject the narrative that there is a choice to be made between jobs and Indigenous rights. We must demand both.

We also urge that other labour unions and labour organizations, including the Canadian Labour Congress and the BC Federation of Labour adopt this motion, and that union members recognize protests as picket lines and refuse to cross these picket lines either digitally or physically.

10. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) IBEW Local 213 – Emelia Colman-Shepherd

The Leducor LTS (Leducor Telecommunications Services) strike is still ongoing; it is now in its 6 month. We're very thankful to the unions and labour councils and other organizations that have offered financial support, including UA Local 170, the BCTF, the NW & DLC, and Community Savings Credit Union.

There are three ways you can help:

- Offer picket line support at either corner of Broadway and the Mary Hill Bypass (Port Coquitlam), or downtown at 1055 W. Hastings (business tower).
- Send a message to Telus that you're very unhappy with this labour dispute situation and you'd like Leducor LDS to negotiate a 'fair' agreement.
- If at your home or workplace you're going to have a Telus subcontractor do some work please ensure that they are not a worker from Leducor.

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

USW Local 2009 – Reported by Cassandra Cordero

HEU / Dogwood Lodge Local 180 – Reported by Karen McVeigh

CUPE Local 391 – Gary Jarvis

MSC to receive report of unions.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

a) Women's – Reported by Karen McVeigh

Sunday March 8 is the IWD Dinner at the Fraserview Banquet Hall. We need volunteers and we'd like to see you there.

MSC to receive report of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

The Harrison Winter School is now over. We did put through we the largest group this year; approximately 1300 people. It was a great 5 weeks.

Parliament is back. We do have a Parliament Hill lobby, it starts next Tuesday. We have approximately 325 lobbyists coming along with us to lobby as many Members of Parliament as possible. We are doing a follow-up lobby out of this labour council in March and April. When Stephen calls please say yes. We need riding lobby's for all the Members of Parliament in your region. The four issues are Universal Prescription Drug Plan, Bankruptcy Laws and Mandatory Pensioner's Insurance, Minimum Wage to \$15.00 per hour, and ratifying ILO Convention 190/Violence and Harassment in the Workplace. We want to be the first country to ratify this and have it done by the end of this year.

If you're on the lobby on Parliament Hill we'll see you next Tuesday. Please help us out at the local level with our local members of Parliament.

MSC to receive the other reports.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

UA Local 170 – Russ St. Eloi

It hasn't been brought up lately as unfinished business, but there has been several articles in the paper recently about equal pay for our sisters. It's been around for the last 20-25 years. Sisters are getting less pay in our industry than our brothers. Somewhere along the line we need to stop talking about it and get equal pay for our sisters.

13. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- United Way Period Promise Campaign: Accepting donations of menstrual products or cash donations for the campaign.
- Thank you from Jonny Sopotiuik, President, of the IATSE Local B778, Arts and Cultural Workers Union (ACWU), to the VDLC for their support in starting up a new IATSE B local. Paperwork has been filed to the VDLC for affiliation.
- Peter Marcus / HEU – Something that we omitted to mention the Western Forest Products strike is over. Congratulations to the Steelworkers.

16. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:19 pm.*

17. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020](#), 7:00 pm
Maritime Labour Centre.

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