



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2016**

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 February 16, 2016 meeting be adopted as amended.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

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

CUPW Vancouver

Nathan Fralick

Rebeckah Mahar

Marion Pollack (A)

Michael Seney

Louise (Fruma) Sloan *

CUPE Local 391

Aliza Nevarie

CUPE Local 2950

Rey Astronomo *

Susanne Lester *

Shehnaz Motani *

Stephen Ramsay

Karen Ranalletta *

Harry Young

FPSE Local 14 – Langara Faculty Assoc.

Lynn Carter *

Noel Currie *

Bradley Hughes (A)*

Darrell Kean

Scott McLean

Stephen Phillips (A)

Jessie Smith

Paul Sunga (A)

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Jason Hjalmarson and Ryan Chapot, BC NDP

BC is almost 1 year out from the 2017 election. Recently the NDP won 2 by-elections; in Vancouver Mt. Pleasant voters elected the first First Nations woman to the BC legislature, Melanie Mark; in Coquitlam Burnaby Mountain, Jody Wickham's election was a huge win, as until now it's been a Liberal seat. The win of the Coquitlam Burnaby Mountain seat by the NDP sends a message that British Columbians are tired of the Liberal agenda. The election of these 2 incredible candidates makes the BC caucus 43% women.

It is important that the BC NDP win the next provincial election. The BC Liberals have provided billions in tax breaks to their wealthy friends; MSP, hydro, and ICBC rates have all

skyrocketed; housing costs are out of control; and BC still has the most child poverty and highest consumer debt levels in the country. British Columbians can't afford another 4 years of a Christy Clark government.

The NDP has targeted 25 'battle ground' ridings which they will focus on exclusively. The platform will be released earlier and will be simpler. They intend to be much more critical of the Liberals record this election. They are preparing to hold their 2nd skills building conference to build their election campaign arsenal.

The BC NDP relies primarily on individual support. They ask that people get involved with their local NDP and consider monthly donation plans. Forms were made available to delegates and guests.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the February 16, 2016 meeting.

VDLC Executive Vacancies

Following the February Annual General Meeting there remain several vacancies for Member-at-Large on the VDLC Executive. Meetings are usually held at noon on the third Tuesday of each month so organizational support to attend is appreciated. The VDLC executive has the authority to appoint eligible individuals to fill these vacancies. Interested delegates should contact the VDLC office to determine if they are eligible (one year as a delegate in good standing plus attendance at 50% of the meetings held in the previous 12 months) or for further information.

Political Engagement

Sister Hartman participated in a BC Federation of Labour all-woman labour leaders lobby in Victoria in conjunction with International Women's Day 2016. Meetings were held with Green Party MLAs, members of the NDP Caucus and two Liberal Ministers. The issues focused on sexual assault services in BC (only 14 hospitals in 9 communities are properly equipped with "rape kit" equipment and protocols); the \$10/day child care plan for affordable, accessible care, birth to grade one; and the need for a \$15 minimum wage.

Climate Justice

The VDLC is working with individuals from climate change groups to coordinate a public forum. The tentative date is the evening of May 5 at the Maritime Labour Centre and the working title is Jobs, Justice, and the Climate: What do we mean by a just transition?

May Day

Carnival Band is confirmed to lead the march down Commercial Drive, leaving Clark Park at 1:30 pm followed by a rally at Grandview Park on Sunday, May 1. Theme and speakers are yet to be decided.

Queen Alexandra School Fundraiser

June 8 is confirmed as the date. Keynote speaker will be newly elected NDP MLA Melanie Mark. Ms. Mark will talk about her personal journey and the importance of child protection and security.

Summer Institute for Union Women

The institute will be held at UCLA, Los Angeles the week of August 9 to 13, 2016.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Circulated at meeting

8. **EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

Subject: Spending Approvals

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

- Witness for Innocence to assist with costs of Magdaleno Rose-Avila tour to Vancouver to campaign for abolishment of capital punishment in the USA – Donation of \$100.00
- Disability Alliance BC's Swing Into Spring Fundraiser Thursday, April 7 – Purchase 2 tickets at \$90.00 each for a total cost of \$180.00
- Rabble.ca to assist with costs of expanding into British Columbia – Donation of \$100.00

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

Subject: Sexual Assault Services for BC Women

BECAUSE there is no system-wide sexual assault policy in BC, largely because the Sexual Assault component of the comprehensive Violence Against Women and Children Policy was never implemented; and

BECAUSE only 14 hospitals within 9 BC communities (Abbotsford, Kamloops, Nanaimo, Prince George, Surrey, Terrace, Vancouver, Vernon, and Victoria) have sexual assault protocols and procedures in place; and

BECAUSE such protocols, commonly referred to as “rape kits” require properly trained staff to provide intake counselling, evidence collection, and a dedicated freezer to store evidence samples for up to 6 months; and

BECAUSE only samples collected by trained staff using the proper procedures and equipment can be entered as evidence in a legal case, meaning that the lack of opportunity results in offenders avoiding prosecution and likely to reoffend, often associated with escalating violence; and

BECAUSE the necessary training to collect and store samples that are admissible as evidence can be achieved in one week of education; and

BECAUSE the BC Liberal Government exacerbated the vulnerability of women and girls to sexual and other forms of violence by withdrawing funding to women's advocacy centres and shelters soon after their election in 2001,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call for a comprehensive BC-wide policy and protocol on sexual assault services across the province that includes training of key personnel from every hospital in BC along with the

provision of the necessary “rape kit” and dedicated freezer to collect and store evidence;
and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL participate in efforts to restore provincial funding to women’s centres and shelters.

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

Subject: 2016 Census

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL applaud the return of the long-form census and will encourage its delegates and affiliates to support the census, which is used to develop a statistical portrait of the country and its people to inform important decisions for our communities; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL further inform its affiliates of temporary job opportunities between March and July 2016 to conduct the 2016 Canadian Census.

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

Subject: Pressure to close public schools in Vancouver

BECAUSE the Ministry of Education has used political pressure in an attempt to force the Vancouver School Board into closing community schools through their unrealistic 95% capacity utilization expectations; and

BECAUSE the Ministry of Education has further made it clear that the release of funding for the sorely needed and long delayed seismic upgrade of over 50 elementary and secondary schools in Vancouver is tied to compliance with those capacity expectations,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL will support the VSB in its efforts to hold firm in their vision for safe and accessible schools in all Vancouver neighbourhoods and its resistance to the non-educational agenda of 95% capacity utilization; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL will call on the Minister of Education and the Premier to honour their Liberal government's promise to complete all seismic upgrading of schools by 2030 (original promise date 2020).

9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) HEU Dogwood Lodge Local – Reported by Karen McVeigh

The week of March 14 to 16, private sector contract workers have their bargaining conference.

Sister McVeigh was re-elected as Chair of Dogwood Lodge Local.

HEU has lost laundry worker members in the Interior Health Authority through contracting out.

b) UA Plumbers Local 170 – Reported by Barb Tetu

UA Plumbers will have a presence at the upcoming events:

- March 30 at the Croatian Cultural Centre – panel for ITA (Industry Training Authority) from 4:30 to 7:00 pm, geared at encouraging employers to hire women. Sister Tetu is on the panel.
 - April 13 at the TradeX in Abbotsford; Skills Canada BC competition with women’s conference – 100 high school students circulate with questions for women in trades.
- Negotiations for Local 170’s three contract agreements
- Industrial – deferred raise already agreed upon to accommodate for economy, tentative agreement went out for vote
 - Commercial/Institutional – negotiations are ongoing, may go to arbitration
 - Service Agreements – negotiations are ongoing, may go to arbitration

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

- a) CUPW – Reported by Fruma Sloan and Angelito Decena

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

- a) Women’s – Reported by Fruma Sloan

Last Friday, March 11 members of the committee attended a fundraiser for Attira Women’s Resource Society from the Downtown Eastside; Strong Women Strong Music is a yearly jazz gig which was sold out 2 nights in a row.

The VDLC International Women’s Day dinner was a full house of about 400 people, mostly women. The theme this year was *Women in Trades*. There were 3 speakers: Judy Doll, a retired carpenter, and 2 women from IBEW Local 213, Ticha Albino and Rebecca Delmage. When Judy was on the job, men assumed she got the job by sleeping with the boss; today, while attitudes towards women in trades are shifting, women still only make up 3% of people working in the trades. Feedback is that this was of one the best IWD dinners yet.

- b) Education – Reported by Joey Hartman

Education program flyers were made available, the orange ones being labour law classes and the blue, non-law education. Courses are affordable and accessible.

- c) Political Action – Reported by Joey Hartman

VDLC is preparing for lobbying of Liberal MP’s in VDLC jurisdiction – Vancouver, West Vancouver, North Vancouver, and Richmond (7 MPs in total). Constituency offices have been approached to set up meetings to discuss the CLC issues. If delegates, or guests, live in the VDLC jurisdiction and have a Liberal MP, they are asked to participate. It has so much more impact on MPs when they are meeting their constituent. The first scheduled meeting is May 6 with MP Hedy Fry.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

Further to Sister McVeigh’s report, on the laundry situation in the Okanagan, there was a real effort, not only by the HEU but affiliates of the labour councils in the Okanagan, to

save HEU laundry services. There were demonstrations and presentations to city councils. It was a great effort and now a lot of disappointment. Why did this happen? The organization building this laundry facility is one of the BC Liberal's largest donors in the Okanagan – and in Christy Clark's riding. City councils stated that while the provincial government may dictate the outcome, city councils support the HEU.

MP Lobby will be a priority for the CLC and labour councils for the near future. Please get involved. It's a lot of fun.

A list of top 10 things labour wants to see in the federal budget was circulated. This is the first budget for this government. The Liberals have said a lot of good and interesting things, but this budget will be the first time to see what kind of action is being taken.

CLC is happy with the VDLC's action towards being involved in the climate change and labour discussions. With the *Jobs, Justice, and the Climate* public forum May 5, it is a good movement on labour involvement. Labour can't be left out of this movement.

Day of Mourning is coming up – April 28. Look for local events and do your best to be involved.

Trans Pacific Partnership – this is very important for the labour movement to stay abreast of. Both parties in the U.S election say they will scrap the TPP should they be elected. If the U.S. doesn't sign on the partnership won't be ratified.

Amandeep Nijjar is the CLC's newest rep in the Pacific Region. Amandeep was an NDP candidate in the last federal election. She will assume her position at the CLC, April 18. Another temporary rep position will also be filled.

MSC to receive the other reports.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

12. NEW BUSINESS:

Delegates and guests were asked to have a 10 minute table conversation about their local union, issues, activities, and challenges.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- March 19, rally to end Canada's mission in Iraq
- BC Fed Minimum Wage working group – April 1, 7:30 am – demonstration at Broadway and Commercial, *Living on Minimum Wage Ain't No Joke*.
- Left Coast Labour Chorus – Spring Fling Labour Cabaret – Saturday, April 23 at the W.I.S.E Hall, 7 pm – event will include Gram Partisans, Fraser Union, Re:Sisters, and more. The Left Coast Labour Chorus will be at the VDLC's April meeting to introduce themselves
- Change.org petition regarding the MSP
- CLC Young Workers' Summit in October, registration is now open, encourage young

workers to attend

- Basic income concept, which is being adopted in Finland, is an idea worth looking into as a labour council. It ties into the minimum wage increases and living wage ideas.
- 50/50 Draw to benefit the Greater Vancouver Food Bank

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: MSC to adjourn at 8:56 pm.

16. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2016**, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

Pizza Educational

Tuesday, April 19, 2016

6:00 pm

Postal Banking & Delivering Community Power

with Monica Judd, CUPW

For copies of posters for these events, please visit website – www.vdvc.ca

Vancouver & District Labour Council
2016 Labour Education
Anita Yan Memorial Law Series

Mark your calendars and watch for details about the labour law courses being offered by the VDLC this year.

Courses	Instructors	Dates
Stress in the Workplace (All levels)	Michael Prokosh * McInroy & Co.	March 12 Saturday
WCB Appeals and Advocacy (All levels)	Seah O'Leary & Hilary Henly * Rush Crane Guenther	April 2 Saturday
Organizing (All levels)	Leo McGroddy, John Roges, & Organizer * McGroddy & Co. with EIU Labour Studies	April 16 & 17 Saturday & Sunday
Duty to Accommodate in the Workplace—UPDATED (Intermediate—Advanced)	Conni Kilfoil * Consultant	April 19, 20, & 21 Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
Bullying & Harassment (All levels)	Conni Kilfoil * Consultant	May 14 & 15 Saturday & Sunday
Pension Law (Advanced—for administrators, trustees, & negotiators)	Susan Philpott & Simon Ancher * Koskie Minsky LLP—Toronto	May 25 Wednesday
Promotions: How to Organize Language and Written Selection Processes (All levels)	Suzanna Allevato & Rachel H. Roy * Allevato, Quail, & Worth	June 18 Saturday
BC Labour Code (All levels)	Jonathan Harwell & Jennifer O'Leary * Barrister & Co.	September 17 Saturday
Effective Grievances (Introductory)	Jennifer Arnold * BCUCO	December 3 Saturday

To register, please contact Vancouver & District Labour Council
625-1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1S3
office@vdvc.ca or phone 604.254.0703

Vancouver & District Labour Council
2016 Labour Education

Mark your calendars and watch for details about courses being offered by the VDLC this year.

Courses	Instructors	Dates
Book Study "They're Bankrupting Us! And 30 other myths about unions" - Bill Fletcher Jr. (All Levels)	Joey Hartman * VDLC	April 26, May 3, & May 10 Tuesdays—3 consecutive evenings
Media Training (Intermediate)	Nancy Knickerbocker & Rich Overgaard * BC Teachers' Federation	May 7 Saturday
Domestic Violence as a Workplace Issue (All levels)	Canadian Labour Congress held in collaboration with New Westminster & District Labour Council	October 1 Saturday (tentative - date may change)
Parliamentary Procedure and Effective Meetings (Introductory)	Joey Hartman * VDLC	October 15 Saturday

All New

To register, please contact Vancouver & District Labour Council
625-1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 1S3
office@vdvc.ca or phone 604.254.0703

The Vancouver & District Labour Council co-presents a public forum on.....

JOBS, JUSTICE, AND THE CLIMATE:

What do we mean by a just transition?

Thursday, May 5

7 to 9 pm

Maritime Labour Centre
1880 Triumph Street
(parking available in lot behind the building)
Admission by donation
no one turned away

Panel Speakers:
Ken Smith, President
Unifor Local 707A
Fort McMurray

Monica Judd, CUPW,
Delivering Community Power

Melina Laboucan-Massimo
Lubicon Cree First Nation

For lists of happenings please see our website events page.