



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018**

- 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, Tseil-Watuth, and other First Nations people.

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

- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the February 20, 2018 meeting be adopted.

- 4. CREDENTIALS:**

The following credentials were received since the last VDLC meeting:

(* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

Health Sciences Association

Connor McFadden

Lori Willis

TSSU

Lillian Deeb

Ali Najaf

Zachary Williams

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

- 5. GUEST SPEAKER:**

Sgt. Dave Smith, RCMP Labour Liaison

Sgt. Smith has been with the RCMP for 35 years and has been the labour liaison officer since 2006; it is the only position of its type in Canada. Police have no training in labour law and labour is a civil issue. There is no reason for police to show up to strikes or protests. Sgt. Smith's role is to explain to management and labour the difference between civil law and criminal law, and to keep police away from labour issues. If a rally or protest is being planned Sgt. Smith can liaise with the local police to help prevent conflicts. It has helped in the past to have Sgt. Smith's letterhead, which summarizes the rights of protestors, organizers, etc., and provides his contact information; this can be given to police, who aren't familiar with labour law, who can then contact Sgt. Smith who can help educate officers and advise where jurisdiction lies. Prior to job action or social actions, it does help to contact him and he is happy to come out to the unions to talk to members about rights and limitations. He also holds a seminar at Harrison Winter School on how not to get arrested. Ultimately, his job is to prevent police involvement in labour issues; education on both sides and contacting him in advance of an action helps him do this.

Sgt. Smith left his business cards for people to take; the letterhead is available on the VDLC website - www.vdcl.ca/resources

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on VDLC activities since the February 20, 2018 meeting.

VDLC Elections

At February 20 meeting we held our annual elections for executive positions. The following delegates were elected to executive positions:

Stephen von Sychowski – President
Terry Engler – 1st Vice President
Graham O'Neil – 2nd Vice President
Bal Sandhu – Recording Secretary
Joy Tullos – Treasurer

Members at large:

Emilia Coleman-Shepherd
Neil Munro
Karen McVeigh
Frank Warwick
Keith Stone
Nathan Fralick
Russ St. Eloi
Stefan Neilson

Political Action

We are working with affiliates and Organize BC to put together a “Think City” style conference on May 5 involving the political parties, labour, and community. We hope this will get people moving into campaign mode and help to show that we have more in common than what divides us.

We are also in the process of trying to help work out an accommodation between the parties to ensure that we do not have a repeat of the 2017 by-election where the NPA won with a minority of votes due to the progressive vote being split four ways. We have met with all of the parties and are moving toward a more formal mediated process in order to make this happen.

VDLC Labour Education

The Organizing Mini-Conference which had been scheduled for February 24 and 25 was cancelled due to low registration and may be rescheduled for the fall. We suspect the main reason for the low registrations was that the prior week the CLC had hosted an organizing course at Harrison. We were not aware at the time of scheduling that this conflict would exist.

Upcoming courses between now and next meeting are:

- Bullying & Harassment
 - March 24 & 25

- All levels
- Instructor: Conni Kilfoil
- Creative Writing as a Political Act
 - April 4 & 11 (evenings)
 - All levels
 - Instructor: Janet Patterson
- WCB Intro
 - April 10
 - Beginner
 - Instructors: Sarah O'Leary & Niki Schnurr

Miners' Memorial - June 22 to 24

2018 marks the 100th Anniversary of the killing of labour martyr Ginger Goodwin in the mountains behind Cumberland in the Comox Valley. This community has tremendous labour history and holds an annual Miners Memorial weekend to remember their past and celebrate those who struggled for a better life for all. This year the events will be held June 22 to 24 and will be well attended, with the BC Federation of Labour holding their regional conference in the preceding few days. Events will include a re-enactment of the funeral procession held in June 1918 for Goodwin.

Day of Mourning

The Day of Mourning event in Vancouver is proceeding on April 28 at Jack Poole Plaza (Convention Centre) at 11:45 am. Sister Lanzinger from the BC Fed will speak on behalf of labour, I will be MC and am working with Nina Hansen on this. ILWU Local 400 is also arranging for tug boats to be at the event and blow their whistles at the appropriate time.

Labour Day

We are receiving indications that the affiliates are behind our PNE proposal and prepared to fund it. A meeting of the Labour Day Planning Committee is scheduled for March 21, 5:00 pm, at the VDLC office.

Just Transition on Climate Change

The full executive is invited to a public event on the evening of Thursday, April 5 at Creekside Community Centre at 5:00 pm. The roundtable on April 6 will be a smaller group of labour, business, government, environmental, and First Nations' organizations.

Anti-Racism Day March – March 24

We are one of the organizers of a march and rally occurring this Saturday the 24th, 2:00 pm at Thornton Park to mark International Day Against Racism. This has been co-organized with affiliates and local anti-racist groups.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

The MVA will be holding a 2 day Leadership Institute May 15 and 16, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, registration begins at 9:30 am. Register on the MVA website.

May Day

We have re-launched our ad-hoc May Day organizing committee. Currently it includes representatives from ILWU, BCGEU, HEU, UCFW Local 1518, and the VDLC. We have put out two notifications to delegates and affiliates inviting them to join.

The general outline of the event is that we will gather at 2:00 pm at Canada Place and march to the Bentall Centre for a rally and a statement will be delivered to the Canada Infrastructure Development Bank. The theme of the event will be “Economies that Work for Workers” and will take aim at Federal government plans to privatize assets such as airports, as well as address issues of automation, job security, etc. Left Coast Labour Chorus will also be in attendance to perform some songs.

We will be working to make this a more affiliate centric event, although the broader community will, of course, still be welcome.

Joey Hartman Retirement

We are planning a social to celebrate the contributions of Sister Joey Hartman to the labour movement and mark her retirement on March 23 at the Maritime Labour Centre. This will involve a small program featuring Left Coast Labour Chorus and a few brief speeches, but will be an informal event and will be open to the public. Snacks and refreshments will be available.

Digital Toolbox

The CLC is offering labour councils a free digital toolbox which includes a modern website and Nation Builder database. We have begun moving towards implementing these new tools, at a responsible pace as we all recognize that this will be a substantial change.

Nonetheless, this is an exciting step in modernizing the way we operate as a labour council. In relation to this, we will also be looking at our social media presence and ways to begin to improve upon it. This will also be integrated with the website.

The VDLC is now on Twitter @vancouverdlc

Labour Code, Section 3

The BC government is performing a review of the BC Labour Relations Code. Deadline for written submissions was March 20. We have emailed to request a spot at the community consultation meeting in Vancouver on March 28 to make a verbal submission. We are currently awaiting details of scheduling for that.

7. CORRESPONDENCE: *Circulated at meeting.*

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Spending Authorizations

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

- As co-sponsor of Just Transition, April 5 and 6 events in Vancouver – Donation of \$1000.00

- CoDevelopment Canada Winter Appeal – Donation of \$100.00
- Annual People’s Voice May Day ad – At a cost of \$90.00
- BC Health Coalition membership renewal – At a cost of \$75.00, plus Donation of \$125.00 – For a total cost of \$200.00

9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) UFCW Local 1518 – Reported by Abby Leung and Stefan Nielsen

Local 1518 will co-host with Living Wage for Families a community meeting on poverty in BC. Members, families, and friends who earn \$15 or less, or work part-time are invited to share how they manage financially. Their input will inform BC’s Poverty Reduction Strategy on transportation, groceries, childcare, rent, recreation, etc. This will be March 26 at the UFCW Local 1518 office.

UFCW’s submission to the Labour Relations Board on how employee’s right to communicate is unfair in organizing drives where workers first language is not English.

UFCW has continued to meet with Sobeys on and off through March. The company continued to focus exclusively on the concessions they introduced on the first day of negotiations. The union countered Sobeys’ concessionary demands with proposals that would bring cost savings, efficiency, and flexibility without eroding their members’ hard earned wages and benefits. Sobeys has refused to respond to the proposal, or in fact, any of the union’s proposals, including cost-neutral proposals and housekeeping items. Sobeys discontinued negotiations, proposing two days of non-binding arbitration at the LRB, after which Sobeys would file for final offer selection arbitration. Because Sobeys has shown no real interest in negotiations, the union has applied to the Minister of Labour, under Section 106 of the Labour Code to appoint a special officer; this officer would have the power to investigate, mediate, and, if necessary, arbitrate. The union believes this would be the best way to achieve meaningful dialogue, which has been completely absent in negotiations so far.

b) UA Plumbers Local 170 – Reported by Russ St. Eloi

UA Plumbers International union, headquartered in Washington, DC, has sent an appointed representative of the UA International President to BC unannounced and met with some disgruntled employers and some executive board members who were not in a quorum. The employers complained that the Local’s wage structure was too high and that the Local was not training its members adequately in health and safety matters. Consequently, the International sent Local 170 a letter stating that they wanted to instigate a hearing to put the Local in trusteeship and reduce their wage package. The Local told them not to bother, as their wages and conditions were negotiated at a bargaining table with certified employers under the umbrella of the BC Bargaining Council for construction unions and that health and safety issues were the responsibility of the employer under BC legislation. The International would not listen to the Local’s empirical evidence and insisted on pursuing a hearing to put Local 170 into Trusteeship. Local 170 insisted that no hearing take place and applied to the Labour Relations Board to stop the International. The Labour Board granted the local a hearing that was held March 1 and 2. The Local presented their case to the Board and the International presented their arguments. The Labour Board concluded that the International could not proceed with their intentions without some formal charges and Local 170 being found

guilty. Local 170 has written to the International requesting they stop their foolishness to proceed with a hearing; to-date they have not replied. This, in UA Plumbers Local 170's opinion, is a blatant attempt to try and impose American Company Union ideology on Canadian workers, to our detriment.

- c) CUPW Vancouver Local 846 – Reported by Rebekah Mahar
CUPW is currently negotiating for postal banking; until 1969, Canada had national postal banking. There are 2 million people in Canada who desperately need an alternative to payday lenders. Thousands of towns in Canada do not have a bank, but have a post office; Canada has more post offices, than Tim Hortons. Canadian banks charge some of the highest fees in the world and payday lenders take 35% cut of cash borrowed.

Internal review of harassment, bullying, and intimidation.

Rural suburban and urban mail carriers' contracts are in negotiations.

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

- a) HEU North Shore Community Local – Reported by Graham O'Neill

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

- a) Women's – Reported by Joulene Parent
IWD Event was a success! It was a full house for the "Women on the Waterfront" event. Thank you to everyone who came out to support the event and to all the volunteers who made the event possible.
- b) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen von Sychowski
Brother Bal Sandhu is the new chair of the committee.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Russ St. Eloi
FORUM will be sending out email regarding the support of proportional representation. People can sign up in support via the BC FORUM website.

MSC to receive the other reports.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

12. NEW BUSINESS:

If anyone is interested in putting themselves forward for the 4 vacant positions on the VDLC Executive, check with the VDLC office for eligibility.

Nominations will be revisited until all positions are filled.

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

MSC to allow guest Connie Hubb, Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE), to speak.

- Any policy motions that wish to be brought forward to the COPE AGM can be submitted to the policy committee in advance of the April 7 meeting; they can also be brought to the floor if not submitted in advance. More information at www.cope.bc.ca
- Community meeting, Saturday, March 24 and rally at the Joyce Skytrain Station regarding the Trudeau government's cutting of the pathway for permanent residency status for caregivers.
- March 23, 7:00 pm –*The Politics of Passion: Norman Bethune's Writing and Art*, book launch at Vancouver Community College
- Sister Joey Hartman announced that March 21 will officially be her last day in the VDLC office. It's been great to work side by side with Stephen for the past month; the VDLC is in good hands.
- 50/50 Proceeds to benefit member of ILWU Local 500 who was grievously injured on the job.

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:13 pm.*

16. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2018](#), 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

NOTE THAT MEETING WILL BE THE 4TH TUESDAY IN APRIL

Pizza Educational
Tuesday, April 24, 2018
6:00 pm

Live in Caregivers Campaign

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

[For lists of happenings please see our website events page.](#)