



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2013**

1. LOCATION: Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC

2. CHAIRPERSON: 1st Vice President Terry Engler

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

MSC that the minutes of the March 19, 2013 meeting be adopted.

4. CREDENTIALS:

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

CUPE Local 2278

Molly Campbell

Alexander Hemingway

Glynnis Kirchmeier

Edward Kroc

Lindsay Petley-Ragan

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. GUEST SPEAKER(S):

Michael McCarthy-Flynn, Living Wage Campaign

Michael is a part of the Living Wage for Families Campaign which is focussing on getting as many employers as possible to be paying a living wage. The Vancouver and District Labour Council has shown a huge leadership role since the beginning of this campaign. Joey Hartman sits on the municipalities committee, which is looking at the success of New Westminster and which other municipalities could follow suit. The VDLC has also shown leadership by getting the message out to its membership and more importantly they're practising what they preach and guarantee that they support and use services of other living wage employers. In recognition of that Michael McCarthy-Flynn presented Joey Hartman with a certificate acknowledging that the Vancouver and District Labour Council is a Living Wage Employer.

Jim Sinclair, BC Federation of Labour – Provincial Election Campaign

Brother Sinclair spoke about the importance of mobilizing the labour movement to elect the NDP on May 14. Working people can do this. The worst thing we can do now is assume that we've already won and for the next 29 days not pursue a change in government. The Liberal's platform includes an attack on labour that is just a taste of what we can expect should they maintain government.

Labour needs to be out campaigning about working class issues: poverty, decent wages, employment standards, and the right to organize. We have to be talking to our members, mobilizing and engaging them. Many unions are doing this – talking to members is face to

face, listening to them and asking them what they think. The BC Fed has been training union members so they are comfortable doing just that. Sixteen key ridings have been identified as potential new NDP seats, and everyone is encouraged to throw their energy behind those ridings. There are full time organizers in each key riding, and 5000 union members in each. If half of those members vote it will be a start. If we win this election, then the work starts to maintain the relationship with the new government. We are in a unique moment in BC history. At the end of this we not only need to change the government, but the province, the labour code, and the labour movement so that we are all stronger in the end. This is about basic rights, dignity, and respect for working people.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the March 19, 2013 meeting.

Provincial Election

Gary Jarvis has now completed his 5 week book-off representing the VDLC in helping set up Craig Keating's NDP pre-campaign in North Vancouver Lonsdale. Gary's tremendous contribution was very much appreciated by the campaign.

The March 27 VDLC / BC Fed dinner meeting drew about 40 participants from a range of unions with members in Fraserview (Gabriel Yiu), Fairview (George Heyman), Point Grey (David Eby) and North Vancouver Lonsdale (Craig Keating). Jim Sinclair spoke, as did the NDP candidates for each of those ridings.

Several VDLC executive members and delegates attended the Labour Circle hosted by UA Plumbers on Annacis Island April 5. A large number of NDP candidates were present as well.

The VDLC Young Workers Committee have been organizing "Blitz Monday's" to participate in campaigns on a weekly basis.

April 28 Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job

Posters are now available and VDLC members are encouraged to promote and attend the annual commemoration. It will be held at Garry Point in Steveston starting around 10:30 am on Sunday, April 28.

May Day

Plans are well underway for May Day. The VDLC and BC Fed are co-sponsoring a march and rally May 1. We will gather at Clark Park at 5:00 pm, then march down Commercial Drive with Carnival Band, followed by a short rally at Grandview Park. Joey Hartman will emcee and confirmed speakers are Jim Sinclair (BC Fed), Brigitte DePape (Shit Harper Did) and Lillian Howard (Idle No More). Solidarity Notes will sing the Internationale.

The VDLC purchased 50 copies of the booklet May Day: A Graphic History, at 40% off the regular price. The cost with tax is \$5.00 each.

COPE AGM and Elections

Sister Hartman was again asked to chair the election portion of the AGM for the Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE) held April 7. The meeting passed a motion to run a candidate

for mayor, plus a majority for Council, Park Board and School Board in the 2014 election. The COPE constitution indicates that this decision is to be made at a special meeting in the election year, so it will be revisited at that time.

Plaque Project

Twelve labour history and social justice plaques were installed March 21 by the City of Vancouver on lamp posts in the Downtown East Side. The VDLC worked on this project with the Carnegie Centre Action Project. The VDLC logo is on all twelve and Sister Hartman wrote the text for five dedicated to labour history that are all located on posts around Oppenheimer Park. The themes are:

1. 1912 Free Speech Victory
2. 1938 Sinclair Centre Occupation
3. 1935 Battle of Ballantyne Pier
4. 1902 Foundation of the Japanese Camp and Mill Workers' Union
5. 1900s Aboriginal workers

ESA Coalition

The coalition continues to meet and work on rewriting and lobbying around improvements to the Employment Standards Act rights and enforcement. The issue of temporary foreign workers is the main focus at the moment.

April 26 Queen Alexandra School Fundraiser

Tickets sales are going well but several labour organizations have indicated they won't be able to fill their tables as key activists are busy with the provincial election campaign. They are donating tickets back to the VDLC, which are being offered to the Young Workers' Committee, Check Your Head, and Next Up.

VDLC 125th Anniversary in 2014

The VDLC will turn 125 years old next year. The executive is beginning to think about how to celebrate this landmark anniversary.

Speaking Opportunities

Sister Hartman represented the VDLC as follows:

- Co-op Radio – Wednesday mornings around 7:20 am each week with commentary and event announcements
- April 8 – led a labour history walking tour for Next Up (Youth leadership)
- April 15 - Women Transforming Cities – Panelist at Women and Work Café

7. CORRESPONDENCE: see attached

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Donations and Spending Approvals

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

- Council of Canadians membership renewal for 2013 at a cost of \$100.00
- April 28 Day of Mourning event – up to \$150.00 to assist with BBQ costs

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

Subject: April 28 Day of Mourning

BECAUSE there were 142 workplace death claims accepted by WorkSafe BC for the year 2011, which does not include unreported deaths such as succumbing to illness, or denied claims; and

BECAUSE an additional 3,200 injuries are reported each week and 19 BC workers are permanently disabled every working day; and

BECAUSE the Canadian Labour Congress began a national day to recognize workers killed and injured on the job on April 28 each year, and this day is now observed in over 80 countries; and

BECAUSE the VDLC participates in a ceremony every April 28 to mark this important day, and will be hosting the 2013 event at Garry Point in Steveston at 10:30 am, Sunday, April 28, along with the BC Federation of Labour and the New Westminster and District Labour Council, with a barbecue provided by the Richmond Firefighters; and

BECAUSE COPE 378 is also asking affiliates to encourage employers to respect a moment of silence at 11:00 am on Friday, April 26 as a symbol of remembrance and dedication for renewed safety,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL encourage all affiliates to join as we “mourn for the dead and fight for the living” by:

- 1) encouraging affiliates to ask employers to recognize a moment of silence at 11:00 am on April 26, and
- 2) participating in the labour sponsored ceremony at Garry Point, Steveston at 10:30 am on Sunday, April 28.

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

Subject: We Can End All Violence Against Women Petition in Support of Anti-Violence Programs

BECAUSE the VDLC belongs to and has representation on We Can End All Violence Against Women; and

BECAUSE We Can is requesting support for its petition calling for adequate provincial funding for anti-violence resources and programs, which reads:

Justice Canada has stated that violence against women in relationships costs society \$4.8 billion a year. A minimal portion of this is for anti-violence programs. The figure would be even higher if the costs of sexual and other violence against women and children were included. The government of Canada ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1981, and confirmed their commitment to ending violence against women with the declaration of Dec. 6 as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The BC government has recently committed to developing an action plan to combat domestic violence though this funding is limited and only secure for 2 more years.

While the 2013 provincial budget includes an additional \$5 million to address problem gambling and an additional \$52 million for increased RCMP costs including costs associated with gang activity, there are no increases to ensure victims of domestic and sexual violence have access to life saving support services and no funds for safe housing, to assist abusers to change their behaviour or for Primary Prevention programs. For the past 15 years both the present government and the previous government have cut funding for all of the programs and services which help women, children and families.

We, therefore request that the Provincial Government live up to their commitment to end discrimination and violence against women and provide on-going sufficient funding for all levels of anti-violence and prevention programs including Stop the Violence Programs, Transition Houses and other initiatives until such time as their commitments have been met.

Such programs, interventions or strategies consist of but are not limited to Primary (universal) prevention: aimed at stopping violence events from taking place and targeted to society and the general public; Secondary (targeted) prevention: which provides interventions for abusers; and Tertiary (indicated) prevention: which provides assistance to individual victims of violence with the goal of ending the violence in their lives; and

BECAUSE this petition will be sent on April 30, 2013 to the leaders of the major provincial political parties in advance of the May 14, 2013 election,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL will add its name to the signatories on the We Can BC petition for adequate funding of anti-violence resources and programs in BC.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS: (in order reported)

a) ETEA Local 1 – Reported by Charles Boylan

ETEA has organized two new schools within the last two weeks: one with 100% vote for certification. The ETEA has registered as a third party advertiser to work in Point Grey to mobilize UBC students in residence to vote in Point Grey from April 16 and before they leave residence on April 27. Brother Boylan circulated the campaign leaflet.

b) BCGEU Local 303 – Reported by Stephen Wagner

The union held a ratification vote for Community Social Services. In addition, BCGEU is running member-to-member campaigns in all ridings to get out the vote.

c) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Michael Lanier

Ratification votes continue in Community Social Services. Count is due for CSSBA on April 22 and will be announced the same day.

Their national childcare campaign is underway. They have asked Vancouver to proclaim May as Child Care Month. The campaign is multi-union – rethinkchildcare.ca

CUPE BC held their 50th Convention in Victoria. Barry O'Neill retired as President and Mark Hancock was elected President and Paul Faoro, Secretary Treasurer. Brother Lanier was re-elected as Regional Vice-President for Metro Vancouver area. The full list of Executive is on the CUPE BC website.

- d) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis
E-voting is going to be used to elect Local 391's new executive.

CUPE BC is starting phone banks for the provincial election.

The CUPE Convention was great. It was brilliant to hear the stories of members from around the province.

- e) CUPW – Reported by Fruma Sloan
The employer is trying to implement a new policy called "Personnel Security Investigation Practice" which will require all workers to undergo a security screening process. The corporation will require employees to consent to criminal background checks and verification of other personal information. The investigation process will also force employees to provide fingerprints on request. This is a violation of members' rights. It's also a violation of their collective agreement. The union has filed a national grievance to fight it.

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

- a) Women's – Reported by Agnes Jackman
The committee hosted the Women's Transforming Cities Café, Work and Women at Britannia Community Centre. They had 3 speakers – Gillian Crease, Professor of Sociology at UBC; Nadine Chambers, Coordinator of SFU Student Society Women's Centre; and Joey Hartman for the labour perspective. They looked at what are issues facing women and girls in the workforce (paid and unpaid) and what should be done to make governments and policy makers make the changes needed. There were approximately 50 women from a diverse cross section of society. Despite the diversity of the group there was strong consensus on the main issues: childcare, safe public transit, affordable housing, gender equity, and senior care. They are holding a conference at the end of May as a finale to the Cafés at which time they will have a summary of the 8 cafés from which they hope specific actions will be settled on.
- b) Young Workers' – Reported by Erin Searle
April 12 the committee participated in a BC Fed Young Workers' sit-in at Mac's convenience stores in protest of the watering down of Grant's Law. This year there were 3 separate locations – Vancouver, Nanaimo and Victoria. There were approximately 42 volunteers. They received excellent media coverage, especially from Global. They've received a lot of positive feedback on how they're continuing to try to keep Grant's Law in the news.

The committee in coordination with the BC Fed Young Workers has also been active on the political front with phone banks and door knocking; they are rotating ridings with primary focus on the key ridings mentioned.

The committee will be sending 4 committee members to the BC Fed Young Workers' School at Camp Jubilee this June, they will sending non-union members or union

members who don't have financial support from their union; the Camp Jubilee school is an excellent opportunity to learn about activism.

The committee's bottle drive to raise funds for their trip to the World Festival of Youth and Students is on-going, so please hold onto returnable bottles and cans and the committee will come and pick them up. There are more fundraisers planned. The next planning meeting is April 24 at the BC Fed office.

c) Education – Reported by Joey Hartman

The Spring Anita Yan Labour Law Series has been finalized. The courses being offered are How to Run a Union Election, June 22, with Mike Dumler and Collective Bargaining, July 13, with Chris Foy from Kestrel Law. (Please note: the Advocacy at Labour Board and Arbitration course announced has been postponed until the fall)

President Joey Hartman advised the council that this is the time of year when VDLC committees get re-constituted. She advised all delegates and guests that anyone wanting to be involved is welcome.

Current active committees of the labour council are: Young Workers', Women's, Strike Solidarity, Labour Arts & Culture, International Affairs, Education, and Political Action.

Anyone interested please contact Joey at the VDLC.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp
See attached.

b) BC FORUM – Reported by Sandy Bauer
“Advocate” election issue has been distributed. BC FORUM is open to union members 50 years and up, there is an application form on the last page of the *Advocate* as well as in their pamphlet.

c) COPE – Reported by Matt Damarico
COPE held their AGM and elected Tim Louis as Internal Chair and Paul Houle Treasurer. They announced their intention of running a mayoral candidate and full slates for council, school board and parks board in the next municipal election, which will be revisited at a later meeting. They've created 3 new committees: finance, youth, and women's. COPE endorsed Homeless Dave's Hunger Strike.

MSC to adopt the other reports.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

12. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- *MSC to allow guests Wendy Pedersen and Homeless Dave, Hunger Striker to speak.*
They were seeking a pledge of solidarity with their actions to push for action on the gentrification and housing crisis in the Downtown Eastside. Chair Terry Engler advised that as the issue was not brought to the Executive in time for them to bring it to the membership, but the membership could look into it and bring it to their unions and the VDLC Executive would do the same.
- Caitlin Gilroy, North Vancouver Lonsdale Riding – Craig Keating’s Campaign, was pleased to hear so much about the political action. They are very shorthanded. Any help would be hugely appreciated.
- BC Health Coalition – the BCNU was a founding member of the BC Health Coalition and has had a place on the steering committee since the beginning. Due to BCNU’s on-going raiding, the steering committee asked the BCNU to leave voluntarily, which they did without protest. However, BCNU contributed approximately 1/3 of the Health Coalition’s budget which they are no longer receiving. They need unions, not currently a part of the Health Coalition, to join (there is little representation from the private sector) and/or donate – membership for a group is \$30/year, or \$3000/year to have a seat on the steering committee. Individuals are also welcome to join and/or donate. The BC Health Coalition would like to be able to continue their work on behalf of public healthcare for all British Columbians.
- The Morgan Centre for Labour Studies is looking for evidence that the Temporary Foreign Worker Program is being used to break strikes or for decertification drives. We probably won’t see a lot of this in BC (although BC uses approximately 1/3 of the approximately 5000 temporary foreign workers in Canada) as BC law prohibits the use of scabs – although it could be happening in companies that are regulated federally. If anyone has any information please contact Murray Martin.
- Earth Day Event, Saturday, April 20 at 11 am – march and rally from Broadway and Commercial to Grandview Park
- Delegate Peter Marcus is a candidate in the upcoming provincial election for Vancouver Mount Pleasant for the Communist Party of Canada
- 50/50 proceeds of \$35.00 to benefit the Young Workers’ Committee fundraising to attend the World Festival of Youth and Students in Ecuador, December 2013.

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:06 pm.*

16. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2013](#), 7:30 pm – Location TBA

NOTE MAY 21 MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO FIRE IN THE MLC

Pizza Educational
We Can End All Violence Against Women
www.wecanbc.ca
JUNE 18, 2013 - 6:00 pm

Correspondence List April 2013 VDLC meeting

All correspondence is available with Joey Hartman for review at the meeting.

FROM	REGARDING	ACTION (if any)
1. Alberta Federation of Labour	List of accelerated Temporary Foreign Worker approvals reveals widespread abuse. Between April and December 2012 over 2,400 guest worker permits, intended for high-skill work, granted to fast food outlets, convenience stores and gas stations	
2. BC Fed	Package: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Disputes April 5 • PNLHA conference • Hupacasath First Nation FIPA appeal • News release re: TFW • April 28 Day of Mourning ceremonies 	
3. BC Fed	We Vote campaign materials order form & stickers	
4. BC Fed	Our Turn 2013 Camp Jubilee	Joey Hartman facilitating advanced labour history
5. BC Fed	What`s your big reason to vote for change	
6. BC Forum	The kids are not alright ... and neither are their parents	
7. BC Forum	Advocate March 2013	
8. BC FORUM	Unions Make Us Strong – membership pamphlet	
9. BC Lions	Offering VDLC group tickets	
10. Between the Lines books	May Day: A Graphic History of Protest – offering 40% discount on orders of 50+	Purchased 50 copies at \$4.17 plus tax each
11. Canadian-Cuban Friendship Association	Newsletter April 2013	
12. CCPA	Package of recent publications	
13. CCPA	Calendar for Social Change 2013	
14. CCPA - Marc Lee	Update on Combating Climate Change initiative	
15. CCPA Monitor	April 2013	
16. Christy Clark – Premier	Response to VDLC letter re: allowing social assistance while attending school	
17. CLC – Amber Hockin	Thanks to Joey Hartman and VDLC for facilitating at Harrison Winter School February 2013	
18. CLC - The Canadian Council	Resolution March 1, 2013 re: comprehensive campaign to reinforce the value of union membership and unions	
19. CoDevelopment Canada	Thanks for VDLC membership renewal	
20. CUPE 15	The Members`Voice March 2013	
21. CUPE Counterpoint	Winter 2013	
22. DOXA Film Fest	Program with VDLC ad	
23. Edmonton & District Labour Council	Minutes and notices	

24. Globe and Mail March 27	Article `Do unions have a future` profiling Bonnie Hammond, Stephen Von Sychowski, Matt Damario and Cassandra Cordero	
25. Jane Tyler Fund - Marion Malcolmson	Thanks for support of campaign to allow social assistance while attending school	
26. Ken Novakowski	Labour History Project Update – March 2013	
27. NDP – Shane Simpson	Invitation to campaign kick-off April 19 at 7:00 pm and request for donations	
28. NDP Richmond – Gian Sihota	Events and fundraising	
29. Our Times	Annual Women`s Issue	
30. PNLHA	Brochure for May 3 – 5, 2013 conference in Portland	
31. People`s Voice	April 2013	
32. People`s Voice	March 2013	
33. PNLHA	Conference brochure and letter confirming VDLC is entitled to one complementary registration	Canvas executive and delegates to see if anyone interested. Sister Hartman registered
34. Senator Mobina Jaffer	Responding to VDLC message to all BC Senators re: vote no on Bill C-377	
35. Stewart Acuff	18 Essential Qualities that Every Organizer Must Have	Copies for VDLC meeting
36. United Way & CLC	2013 Labour Appreciation Night scheduled for December 5 th . Need VDLC award nominee by June 28, 2013	
37. Vancouver Community Laboratory (CoLab)	Opening a block from VDLC – invitation to opening	
38. Workers`Advisers	2013 Education Symposium	

SENT BY VDLC

April 2	Affiliates & Friends of VDLC	Request for Silent Auction items for QAS fundraiser
April 3	PM Stephen Harper	Canadian mining companies in Guatemala
April 4	Minister Vic Toews	Reality TV Raid
April 9 – 11	Ticket Confirmation ltrs	Letters for QAS
April 11	MetroVancouver Alliance	Request for reimbursement of invoice paid on their behalf for leaders meeting
April 11	Amnesty Int`l	Request for reimbursement of 50% of cost of Int`l Solidarity lunch with Lolita Chavez
April 11	Women Transforming Cities	(Women`s Committee) VDLC Support for Engaging Women the \$10 a Day Child Care Solution Nomination for Women Transforming Cities Best Practice Awards 2013: Cities that Work for Women and Girls
April 15	CUPE 2278 Delegates	Welcome ltr

CLC Report To Labour Councils April 2013

Attack on Workers' Rights

It's clear that trade unions are under attack and the shots have been escalating with the recent passing of Bill C-377 and the discussion around the attacks on workers' rights. Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) affiliates have been working on a coordinated response to this growing antiunion agenda. Many affiliates have already started to do their work internally and there is much more to come on the coordinated response very soon.

This response will be about having a conversation with co-workers, neighbours, friends, and family. It will be about reintroducing the labour movement to the public. It will be about promoting the values of being a union worker; how unions stand for fairness, bring social values to the table, how we protect health and safety and human rights, and much more.

If we cannot change public opinion about what unions are, the Harper Conservatives have the public support they need to bring about changes that will attack unions. This is an exciting campaign that is needed now more than ever. Contact your CLC representative for more information and to schedule a presentation for your local executive.

The Carol McGregor CLC Disability Rights Award

The Canadian Labour Congress is pleased to announce the inaugural recipients of the Carol McGregor CLC Disability Rights Award. This award recognizes the outstanding contributions of workers who have made an impact in their union and/or the community by promoting and defending the rights of persons with disabilities. This year, the CLC is recognizing the contribution of three exceptional people: Érik Desjardins (Teamsters Local 931), Derek Fudge (National Union of Public and General Employees), and Conni Kilfoil (Canadian Union of Public Employees).

What the Federal Budget Did to Employment Insurance

Fewer than 40% of the 1.4 million unemployed workers in Canada today are receiving regular Employment Insurance (EI) benefits, a record low. The improved regular and training benefits that the Canadian Labour Congress fought for during the recession have long since expired.

Many unemployed workers have run out of EI benefits and many workers who were hit by the recession, as well as many young workers, women, and recent immigrants, have been able to find only part-time or temporary jobs, which do not provide enough hours to qualify for benefits when they become unemployed.

Changes in the 2012 and 2013 budgets are focused on a quick return to low-wage work.

To view the CLC's full analysis of the 2013 Federal Budget please visit:
<http://www.canadianlabour.ca/news-room/publications/2013-budget-analysis>.

To view the video “The story on employment insurance in Canada”, please visit:
<http://www.canadianlabour.ca/news-room/publications/employment-insurance-2012>.

Political Action Conference - March 22-24, 2013

This year, the CLC hosted its first-ever National Political Action Conference. The conference took place on March 22-24 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto. The objective was to attract a large and diverse group of the labour movement’s political activists and the next generation of campaigners, organizers, and leaders. The sold out conference far surpassed our expectations with over 1,400 activists in attendance! This conference served as the launching pad for our political campaigns that will frame the upcoming municipal and federal elections in 2014 and 2015. To view a video of the conference and photos from the event, please visit: www.canadianlabour.ca

Day Of Mourning – April 28, 2013

This year, the CLC, our affiliates, federations of labour, and labour councils across the country will once again pay tribute to those who are injured or lost their lives at work. Please consult the CLC website (www.canadianlabour.ca) for locations and times for Day of Mourning ceremonies across the country as well as the CLC’s statement for Day of Mourning 2013. Thanks to all of the labour councils in the province who continue to