



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019**

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: Graham O'Neill, 2nd Vice President

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

MSC that the minutes of the February 19 and March 19, 2019 Regular meeting be adopted.

4. CREDENTIALS: Nil

5. GUEST SPEAKER:

John Irwin, Vancouver Park Board Commissioner

Commissioner Irwin thanked the VDLC for its support during the municipal election. Park Board Commissioners John Irwin and Gwen Giesbrecht began work immediately after the election on issues that would help families. John put forward a motion for no fee access for kids from 2 to 4 years of age, and, hopefully, eventually up to 8 years of age; this only costs the Park Board \$30 to 40,000 a year, but it can go a long way to help low income families access services. They also put forward and had approved an All On Board motion, parallel with city council for 'no fare' transit for youth and children up to 18 years of age; hopefully that will become a reality. Commissioner Irwin is working on motions for active transportation and collaboration with Translink to provide more service to community centres and beaches. A motion to protect some of the smaller neighbourhood pools, as there seems to be a push towards supercenter pools. There is a notice of motion on the books for an extension on Crab Park and better access as well as a collaboration with local First Nations for an aboriginal healing centre. The Board is working toward a ban on single use plastics in parks. With urging from Councilor Jean Swanson, the Park Board has provided washrooms at Oppenhiemer Park; although not permanent facilities, port-a-potties are something and they have established secure storage for people's belongings.

Tessica Truong, Run for Office Campaign

This campaign is for those hoping to run for office, or for those wanting to support a candidate by being a part of the campaign team. The conference is June 5 to 9 on Cortes Island. The intent is to make space for those who have been traditionally excluded from running for office, lend support, and help to build the skills needed to be a successful candidate. Handouts were circulated and information is on the VDLC website.

6. EDUCATIONAL:

Emelia Colman-Shepherd, BC Women in the Trades – Build Together Initiative

Sister Colman-Shepherd presented on the Build Together Initiative: Women of the Building

Trades – Promoting, mentoring and supporting women working in the skilled construction trades. <https://buildtogether.ca/our-focus/women/>

7. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on VDLC activities since the January 2019 meeting.

Political Action

Our Municipal Engagement Committee met on March 15 and came out with plans to set up two meetings with elected officials.

The first is to be with Jody Wilson-Raybould, MP for Vancouver Granville and recently former Attorney General. The purpose of this meeting would be to discuss the Federal government role in the response to the opioid crisis. This meeting has not yet been scheduled, however a meeting has been formally requested with her office. We will give things some time to calm down and then follow up. Three committee members will attend this meeting; myself, Stefan Nielsen - UFCW Local 1518, and Andrew Ledger - CUPE Local 1004.

The second is to be a meeting with progressive Vancouver School Board Trustees and a number of committee members. The attendees and date of this meeting are currently being organized. The intent is to meet with friendly Trustees to address concerns related to bargaining, school closures, and reports we have heard that VSB is not adhering to its own Access Without Fear policy.

The Municipal Engagement Committee is scheduled to meet again April 26.

I will be meeting with Paul Finch, Secretary Treasurer, BCGEU on April 15 to discuss taking the Affordable BC campaign, and in particular Land Value Capture, to the other municipalities in our district (aside from Vancouver).

We are also organizing a lobby of NDP MLA’s in our district in coordination with the BC Federation of Labour’s efforts around the current BC Labour Code review. Please advise if you can participate.

The Employment Standards Act is also under review. I made a written submission keeping with our existing policies and in-line with the BC Federation of Labour and BC Employment Standards Coalition submissions.

Finally, a by-election will be coming for Electoral A, a large electoral district which includes the UBC endowment lands. This is a good opportunity for someone who lives in the area to run and potentially take on an important political role.

Labour Day

The Labour Day Planning Committee met April 2 and is in the early stages of working out the details for Labour Day 2019 at Jack Poole Plaza. An exciting vision for the event is coming together. We will be reaching out to affiliates to begin assembling the funding shortly. A handful of donations have already been received.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

Metro Vancouver Alliance is hosting a training session “Building Power for Community Good” at UBC from May 13 to 17. This is an Industrial Areas Foundation training program with facilitators coming from the foundation to deliver the content.

May Day

May Day is moving ahead under the theme of “the right to strike”. It will be a march and rally starting at 5:30 pm at Richards and Georgia and then marching at 6:00 pm to Victory Square.

Adopt-an-Organizer Program

The Adopt-an-Organizer Program continues, but to date our hopes of new unions joining on have not yet been realized. More work will have to be done on this if we want it to expand. The main issue faced by our friends in the Philippines is the plight of the Hanjin workers which we heard about at last month’s meeting. The petition to support them is still active and collecting signatures. Please sign and share it. They are also currently appealing for donations to help the locked out workers.

United Way of the Lower Mainland

The United Way Community Spirit Awards will take place April 23. This year the event is taking on a new form. It will be held at the Commodore Ballroom and will be interactive, include diverse food stations and live music. Tickets are \$100 each, or \$85 each in groups of 10 or more.

The Period Promise campaign was hugely popular and a big success. For our part, we helped promote the campaign and also collected a substantial quantity of product.

Affiliate Recruitment Drive

IAMAW Local Lodge 16 is affiliating approximately 100 members who work at BC airports.

Constitutional Review

The committee met for the first time immediately prior to this month’s Executive meeting. A letter has also been sent to delegates and affiliates inviting submissions.

Day of Mourning

We are participating in the joint Day of Mourning event with WCB on April 28, which I will MC, BC Fed President Laird Cronk is among the speakers. The event is at Jack Poole Plaza at 10:30 am. Please attend if you can.

Young Workers’ Committee

The Young Workers’ Committee is organizing a film screening of “Sorry to Bother You” with filmmaker Boots Riley in May at SFU Harbour Centre. They are appealing for donations to help cover the costs.

They are also working with the BC Labour Heritage Centre on their event to mark the 100 year anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike.

Events Attended

March 22 – Meeting with Free Them Now
March 22 – Meeting with UNITE HERE Local 40
March 25 to 29 – Vacation
March 25 – May Day Organizing Committee
April 1 – United Steelworkers Conference
April 2 – BC Poverty Reduction Coalition
April 2 – Labour Day Planning Committee
April 3 – United Way Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee
April 4 – United Way Labour-Senior Management meeting
April 4 – Meeting with James Docherty, IAFF Local 18
April 4 – Meeting with Max Gardiner, Sustainable Communities Initiative
April 8 – May Day Organizing Committee
April 9 – Metro Vancouver Alliance Strategy Team
April 11 – Constitution Review Committee
April 11 – VDLC Executive Board
April 15 – Meeting with Paul Finch, BCGEU
April 16 – VDLC 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:

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

Subject: Spending Authorizations

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

- Ruling Class Roadshow - Donation of \$100.00
- Canadian Labour International Film Festival - Donation of \$100.00
- Community Legal Assistance Society - Donation of \$100.00

b) *MSC to accept the application of IAMAW Local Lodge 16 (International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers) to affiliate 100 members, employed at the Richmond airport, to the Vancouver and District Labour Council.*

c) *MS Tabled that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Vancouver School Board Seismic Mitigation Program

BECAUSE current rules set out by the Ministry of Education in the Vancouver Memorandum of Understanding require school boards to submit Seismic Mitigation Program funding separately from Capital Funding, require use of the “lowest cost option” and state that deferred maintenance cannot be included, thereby preventing a holistic approach to the question of seismically upgrading British Columbia’s schools; and

BECAUSE the Long Range Facilities Plan currently being adopted by the Vancouver School Board will not ensure an effective roadmap to seismic upgrading since the Seismic Mitigation Program must follow these rules; and

BECAUSE failure to address this will mean that the seismic upgrade priority list will essentially be a school closure list, with the schools at the bottom not getting updated until at least 2030; and

BECAUSE this will also mean a continued deferred maintenance crisis; almost all the schools that will undergo seismic upgrade will still not be built to new standards, leading to sub-standard learning environments and greater overall cost to the taxpayers, and more ongoing cost pressure on the school board for maintenance,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on the Ministry of Education to amend the Memorandum of Understanding that governs the Vancouver Project Office which is largely unchanged since 2014, to mirror the Richmond Project Team Memorandum of Understanding which was updated in 2018. This would include the following amendment to the Vancouver Memorandum of Understanding:

- Elected Trustees should not be excluded (revise Section 2.5 to “*The existence of the Vancouver Project Office and Steering Committee does not negate the responsibilities and authorities of either the Vancouver Board of Education or the Ministry of Education as defined in the School Act*”)

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

Subject: #LostVotesYVR Campaign for Permanent Resident Voting

BECAUSE permanent residents share the same responsibilities as citizens; they work, live, own homes, rent, use public services, and are otherwise fully participating members of our communities; and

BECAUSE despite this, permanent residents can't vote, including in municipal elections, where representatives who will determine the course of the communities they live in are elected; and

BECAUSE excluding permanent residents from voting wrongly suggests their voices are less valuable, and can cause disengagement, which is a loss to our municipalities; and

BECAUSE the advocacy group Fresh Voices has launched the #LostVotesYVR campaign for permanent resident voting; and

BECAUSE Vancouver City Councillors voted unanimously to study permanent resident voting in April 2018, but to date no changes have been made and the 2018 municipal election passed without permanent residents having the opportunity to vote,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the #LostVotes2018 campaign, supporting the call for voting right to be extended to permanent residents.

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

Subject: #BuildSchoolsRight Campaign

BECAUSE many communities in BC, including here in our District, desperately need new schools to replace old, seismically unsafe ones, those containing health hazards like asbestos and lead, and to replace portables where communities have outgrown existing schools; and

BECAUSE new schools are being built on average 30% smaller than those they are replacing, and are lacking important learning spaces, due to the Ministry of Education's policy (the "Area Standards") that sets out how schools are to be built in BC and determines the amount of money that will be budgeted for construction of a school; and

BECAUSE this policy does not allocate space for art rooms, music rooms, adequate hallway space, washrooms, staff rooms, sufficient gymnasium space, and other necessities for successful inclusive learning; and

BECAUSE the Ministry of Education has responded to concerns about this policy by stating that it plans to review the policy but, in the meantime, districts have "flexibility" to design schools as long as they stay within budget. This does not provide an adequate solution to the lack of funding for important spaces in new schools,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the #BuildSchoolsRight campaign; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER write to Minister of Education Rob Fleming, Premier John Horgan, BC Liberal leader Andrew Wilkinson, and BC Green leader Andrew Weaver in support of prioritizing the Ministry's review of its Area Standards policy and ensuring that review is consultative and addresses the concerns raised.

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

Subject: Free Parking at Hospitals for Patients, Families, Loved Ones, and Workers

BECAUSE HospitalPayParking.ca is campaigning and advocating to uphold the Canada Health Act which states, "to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of residents of Canada and to facilitate reasonable access to health services without financial or other barriers"; and

BECAUSE hospital parking fees pose a barrier to health care, the charges amount to "parking-centred health care," and the practice of charging patients for parking, claiming that such costs contravene the Canada Health Act because they constitute indirect user fees; and

BECAUSE patients should not have to avoid seeking care or cut appointments due to high parking costs; and

BECAUSE Canada's Healthcare is socialized medicine; everyone shares in the cost to provide the service. Our province's Health Authorities are entrusted with multi-billion dollar operating budgets. In comparison, the ill-gotten gains from hospital pay parking contribute a pittance. Adding up to less than one-third of one percent of their total budget, these funds are obviously not a financial necessity and have no place in our publicly funded system; and

BECAUSE pay parking is a user fee that discriminates, patient care should not dependent on pay parking, pay parking is a financial barrier, and patients, family, and loved ones should NOT be subjected to unnecessary stress and/or burdens,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the HospitalPayParking.ca campaign and promote it and its objectives. The VDLC will reach out/write letters to all levels of government, municipal, provincial, and federal to express our

concerns and issues with hospitals and/or their privately contracted companies who charge patients, family, and workers fees for parking.

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

Subject: Seniority is No Joke

BECAUSE in January of 2018 negotiations for the re opener of the Safeway collective agreement began and from the beginning Sobeys has been clear that their only interest is in concessionary demands; and

BECAUSE after months of fruitless meetings negotiations reached an impasse and the Minister of Labour appointed Vince Ready as a Special Officer under Section 106 of the BC Labour Code. In December of 2018 Special Officer Ready handed down his final decision of the Safeway/Sobeys re-opener which contained a number of concessions; and

BECAUSE this decision included a requirement for Sobeys to offer a buyout to senior employees. These "bought" hours may be used at the company's discretion. Many Safeway members have accepted this offer; and

BECAUSE Sobeys has made it clear that they intend to use these hours without respect to seniority. Long service Safeway members, who have given their lives to the company and continue to work hard day after day to keep it going will face cuts to their hours and benefits as a result of this,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to Sobeys President Michael Medline to call on him to protect the hours and benefits of Safeway's long service employees; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL urge affiliates to support UFCW Local 1518 members at Safeway through their "Seniority is No Joke" Campaign to send messages to Medline and Sobeys.

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

Subject: Climate Strike

BECAUSE the next Canada wide focused climate strike is May 3; and

BECAUSE the main goal of these student-organized actions is to join the global call to support our youth's demands for governments to start acting to combat climate change; and

BECAUSE Trade Unions for Energy Democracy bring unions from all sectors together so that we can collectively find a way to become strong, independent agents of progressive change. Some of their goals are to:

- help build and strengthen a global trade union community for energy democracy. TUED is a platform for trade unions from all sectors and countries to debate, develop, and promote real solutions to the climate crisis, land grabs, energy poverty, and pollution generated by fossil fuels — solutions that can build unions, worker and community power, and advance social and environmental justice,
- develop high-impact union educational materials, distribute an electronic bulletin, and convene meetings and working retreats that encourage debate and help create a shared analysis of key energy and climate issues,
- connect the energy democracy agenda to union struggles and campaigns in ways that

build broad membership engagement, increase worker power, and facilitate solidarity across movements that share similar goals; and

BECAUSE the Canadian Labour Congress is already a member of TUED; and

BECAUSE the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has reported that if we stay under the temperature increase of 1.5 degrees, we will be able to mitigate the disastrous effects of climate change, including the eventual extinction of our species and most other species. This will only occur with drastic, immediate global action,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL join the Trade Unions for Energy Democracy initiative, a global, multi-sector initiative to advance democratic direction and control of energy in a way that promotes solutions to the climate crisis, energy poverty, and the degradation of both land and people, and responds to the attacks on workers' rights and protections; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL recognize that climate change:

- presents an existential threat, being a “global emergency” according to the 2018 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report; and
- has already had negative impacts both internationally and in Canada, as evidenced by the breaking of heat records, prolonged and more aggressive forest fire seasons, and increased extreme weather patterns; and
- is a product of inequality, with 70% of the world's global emissions caused by 100 of the world's largest companies; and
- will have the biggest impact on working-class people and developing countries; and
- requires immediate and wide-reaching action within the next decade to avoid disaster and therefore:
 - i. endorse all future strikes by the climate student strikers;
 - ii. express our solidarity with climate student strikers fighting for real climate action; and
 - iii. offer practical support for the strike, including, but not limited to: promotion of the strike and encouraging members to attend.

10. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) BCTF VSTA – Reported by Treena Goolieff

BCTF and BC Public Schools Employers' Association (BCPSEA) are currently in negotiations. BCTF is concerned with employer proposals that look to negate teachers' hardly fought and won class size and composition contract language; the Supreme Court of Canada returned these rights to teachers in November 2016.

At the local level, Vancouver Teachers' Federation (VSTA+VESTA) are in negotiations with the Vancouver Board of Education.

b) UFCW Local 1518 – Reported by Stefan Nielsen

UFCW Local 1518 has welcomed 170 new members from Mountain Equipment Co-op, who voted more than 70% to join. The union looks forward to opening negotiations for a first collective agreement soon.

- c) CUPW Local 846 – Reported by Jeannette McConnell
Rural and Suburban Mail Carriers are in their ninth day of meetings with the arbitrator. CUPW's national convention will be in Toronto from May 13 to 17.

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

- a) UA Plumbers Local 170 – Reported by Russ St. Eloi
b) UNITE HERE Local 40 – Reported by Harley Constantino

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Bal Sandhu
MoveUP still has 9 members on strike at the New Westminster Savings Credit Union in Coquitlam, any support is appreciated. If you can't get to their picket line, visit the website – corporategreed.ca – and tell the CEO how you feel.
- b) Women's – Reported by Emelia Colman-Shepherd
Next meeting is April 17 at the VDLC office at 6:00 pm.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp
Provincial Labour Code lobby of MLAs - there are four asks: 2 for Employment Standards: 1) job protected leave for individuals facing intimate partner violence and survivors of sexual violence; a minimum of 10 days paid leave for all employees per year, regardless of length of service, and access to up to 15 weeks of unpaid leave – there is legislation coming down on this, but not for paid leave; and 2) ensuring that employment standards apply to all workers – no exceptions; there are currently collective agreements that are lower than employment standards. Labour Code asks are: 1) restoration of 1 step certification process (what was called 'Card Check'); and 2) legislation ensuring successorship rights and expanding it to include all industries, including food services and forest industry. Delegates, affiliates, and friends will be receiving an email with a link to Green Party Leader Andrew Weaver, Labour Minister Harry Bains, and 2 Green MLAs – everyone is asked to contact them and tell them this is what you want for workers.

MSC to receive the other reports.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Delegate nominated at the March 19 meeting is not currently eligible to run.

CLC Representative Ron Stipp opened the floor for nominations: no nominations received. Still 1 vacancy on Executive Board for a member-at-large.

13. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Conservatives achieved a majority government in Alberta.

- Left Coast Labour Chorus will be having a concert in memory of the Winnipeg General Strike on May 12 at the Russian Hall, tickets are \$20 on Eventbrite and at the door.
- May Day at the Russian Hall, food and entertainment, 6:30 to 9:00 pm May 1.
- Raffle tickets - \$5 each – proceeds to benefit Queen Alexandra Elementary’s Wishing Tree free store – 5 prizes to be won: Guided Labour History Walking Tour, donated by Joey Hartman; Bulova Women’s 98L163 Watch, donated by Cavan Advertising; Labour History Book Collection, donated by the VDLC; Coffee Enthusiast’s Gift Basket, donated by Commercial Street Café; and handmade Dreamcatcher, donated by Chris Shelton.

16. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:18 pm.*

17. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2019**, 7:00 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

No Pizza Educational

The VDLC will not be holding pizza educationals. An educational component has been added to the meeting. Guests are always welcome to attend VDLC Regular meetings to observe.

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