



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2014**

- 1. LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC
- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** Treasurer Paul Sihota
- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
MSC that the minutes of the May 20, 2014 meeting be adopted.
- 4. CREDENTIALS:**
The following credentials were received since the last meeting: (* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

BCGEU Local 1703
Megan Washington

CUPE Local 2278
Catriona Gold

CUPE Local 1004
Kristen Daub *
Frank Lee *
Mike McGahey *
Sandy Ross *
Sarah Silvester *
Brenda Wall

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. GUEST SPEAKER:

Gwendolyn Reischman, Vancouver Co-op Radio

Gwendolyn is a volunteer at Co-op Radio and a member of their Board. Vancouver Co-op Radio has been providing their diverse programming for 40 years. They are a cooperative, non-profit model supported by a small staff of Unifor members with programming reflecting the lives of ordinary working people. Co-op Radio listeners tune in to hear news and thoughtful analysis from the perspective of working people, the poor, and the left – views not always reflected in the mainstream media. They offer radio shows that talk about labour issues on a regular basis with programs like Redeye (Saturday mornings), Union Made (Wednesday night), and Media Mornings (weekday mornings). Recent programs explored issues including: the truckers strike (Unifor), BC Teachers' negotiations, bus driver safety (Unifor), temporary foreign workers, Ikea lock-out, and they were one of the few media outlets in BC to cover the CLC and BCGEU elections. Co-op Radio has been recognized nationally for their high quality programming and for their ability to successfully sustain themselves.

Co-op Radio has had to relocate as BC Housing is renovating the building they have called home for the past 12 years. The cost of the move, including the building of a new studio has come in just under the budgeted \$100,000. Their new home is just around the corner from the VDLC at

the corner of Wall Street and Powell. As some may recall, Co-op Radio had to move once before and at that time labour organizations and union members stepped up in a big way and hope to be able to count on that support again to again build stability and add to the ongoing success of the station.

The labour movement and Co-op Radio are more than partners; union members are their staff, they volunteer at the station, they are programmers and operators, program hosts, and special guests.

Labour issues are often presented in a certain frame by major media outlets or ignored all together. Co-op Radio is proud their labour oriented public affairs programming provides one of the few opportunities to get an unfiltered voice out to listeners. Tune in to CFRO 100.5 fm; become a member, support people powered radio.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the May 20, 2014 meeting.

Political Action – Municipal Elections

Candidate surveys are beginning to come in and the VDLC multi-union municipal candidate vetting committee met on June 10 to set out the next steps and to take away copies of the completed surveys. The committee will present its recommendations for which candidates the VDLC should endorse at the September 16 VDLC meeting.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

The CLC Pacific Region has joined MVA, which significantly helps to build the labour participation in this coalition of labour, faith and community organizations. There are four research groups working on the issues that have been decided upon as priorities for action: housing, transit, poverty, and social isolation. A large assembly will be held in advance of the November civic elections to put concrete and achievable proposals on each issue to municipal candidates.

Solidarity In Action

The VDLC joined workers at several Teacher`s picket lines, as well as IKEA this month.

International Affairs

We hosted a solidarity lunch on June 6 with Pete Pinlac from the Philippines. He talked about the labour central Makabayan that he is president of, as well as an overview of the economic, political, and labour situation. Makabayan believes the Philippines should end their policy of exporting labour and relying on remittances to support the economy (approx. 50% of the GDP), and instead develop a manufacturing base and develop natural resources. This would enable workers to stay in their home country, keep families together and stimulate the national economy.

Delegation to China

Sister Hartman will be in China from June 18 to July 3 as part of the joint VDLC and BC Federation of Labour delegation hosted by trade union federations in Beijing, Shanghai and Shandong Province.

Summer Institute for Union Women

The annual school is being held in Victoria July 8 to 12. Sister Hartman is teaching collective bargaining as one of the core courses.

Pacific Northwest Labour History Conference

The conference was held in Cumberland in association with the Miners' Memorial weekend June 13 to 15. Sister Hartman presented with Jim Sinclair on the history of attacks on public sector workers and their unions, and also with the Re:Sisters musical group to present "Bread and Roses", a visual and musical history of women in labour.

Protein for People

Nicole Twaites is coordinating the VDLC public forum this year. The bbq will be held on the afternoon of Thursday, September 25 at Queen Alexandra School; school staff is involved in the event. Volunteers are needed to make this event a success.

MSC to adopt the report

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:

- Council of Canadians – donation of \$100.00

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

Subject: Vancouver Co-operative Radio

BECAUSE Vancouver Co-operative Radio (CFRO, 100.5FM) is a non-commercial, non-profit, co-operatively-owned, listener-sustained, supported by a small staff of Unifor members, community radio station; and

BECAUSE Vancouver Co-operative Radio has been broadcasting for 40 years throughout British Columbia; and

BECAUSE Vancouver Co-operative Radio is a voice for the voiceless that strives to provide a space for under-represented and marginalized communities; and

BECAUSE Vancouver Co-operative Radio through diverse public affairs programming such as Redeye, Union Made, Media Mornings, and Discussion provides uncensored coverage of labour news and issues; and

BECAUSE Vancouver Co-operative Radio is reaching out to the community and unions to assist the radio station in its time of financial need, (\$100,000.00 to relocate the station),

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL will assist Vancouver Co-operative Radio by mailing out an appeal for support letter to VDLC members and affiliates.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS: (*in order reported*)

a) BCGEU Local 1203 – Reported by Matt Damario

BCGEU had their Triennial Constitutional Convention May 28 to 31 where they elected new leadership. Stephanie Smith was elected as BCGEU's first female president, Paul Finch (from Victoria) was elected Treasurer, and Vice Presidents elected were Brenda Brown, Mike Clarke, Mike Nujens, and Susanne Skidmore. There were nearly 80 resolutions passed.

The BCGEU has been fighting the closure of Victoria youth custody services, more than 60 workers will lose their jobs and youth services will move to the Mainland.

They have launched "Children at Risk" a campaign to highlight cuts to the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation.

b) HEU Dogwood Lodge Local– Reported by Karen McVeigh

They have reached a tentative 5 year agreement that includes 5.5%, return of 2 vacation days that were lost in 2004, and a cap on contracting out. At this time the union is taking votes and will know the outcome June 23. HEU Sodexo workers at Abbotsford Hospital reached a tentative agreement June 17.

c) Unifor Local 464 – Reported by Jack MacDermot

Thank you for the efforts in support of BC's public school teachers: visiting picket lines, writing letters, huge social media efforts, talking to friends/neighbours/family, and the honouring of and joining in on picket lines (CUPE, BCGEU, Building Trades, IUOE, and more). The continued support is very much valued. On Thursday, June 19 "All Together for Public Education" rally, everyone is encouraged to out. Regional rallies are being organized all over, quite a few successful rallies have already been held.

After considerable movement by the union teachers were hopeful, but after waiting for 48 hours the government came back with a worse offer than before (down from 7.3% increase to 6.5%); there was nothing on class size and composition and it included a new provision that if appeal on court case is not supported by "either side" the collective agreement can be eliminated within 60 days.

d) ETEA Local 1 – Reported by Charles Boylan

On May 22 at the Local's general meeting regarding difficult collective bargaining a resolution was passed to "make a line in the sand" – no reduced entry level wage and no increase in class size for academic programs. Regrettably the negotiating committee signed off on a contract with a lowered entry level salary and increased academic classes to 15 students up from 14. This created a split in the local. The majority did accept the proposed agreement on May 26, leaving many members dispirited which has a negative impact on everyone's morale. Local 1 had a 96% strike vote and that strength was not used to defend their demands.

At the May 30 AGM, ETEA Local 1 passed a strong resolution in support of quality public education, and the struggle of BCTF to improve class size and class composition. Members have been participating in several BCTF picket lines.

e) TSSU – Reported by Murray Martin

TSSU members at SFU Burnaby have been complaining of air quality issues for years. This spring, the administration closed off a large section of the education wing due to mould being discovered. Apparently the university has known about this for some time and has not taken the air quality complaints seriously. Members were told this type of issue is not worth going to WorkSafe BC about. The SFU unions and the Joint Health and Safety committees were denied access to reports and other information in regards to the mould related health problems of students and workers in the education wing.

TSSU's contract has expired and they are in bargaining but SFU seems to be stalling. The union is determined to pressure the university and mobilize their membership to reach a deal by the end of the year.

f) CUPE Local 1004 – Reported by Frank Lee

Local 1004 have moved back into the Maritime Labour Centre as of May. Unfortunately the union is still under administration. They have gone through a number of by-law changes to update the structure and processes of the Local and with enough changes and improvements the Local can proceed to the next phase of executive elections. The success of the executive in leading the Local will speed the phasing out of the administrative process. The Local administration has trained about 60 stewards and they represent the core of the Local's activists.

The local held an open house at their newly built offices at the Maritime Labour Centre and will be holding a golf tournament on July 26 at the Musqueam Golf Centre, \$55 entry, call the office to register – 604.324.2440

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

- a) ILWU Local 400 – Reported by Terry Engler
- b) Unifor Local 2002 – Reported by Tim Cheung
- c) CUPE Local 2950 – Reported by Karen Ranaletta

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: *(in order reported)*

a) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

Committee continues to support Ikea workers in Richmond, in their 13th month of lock-out. Teamsters picket lines continue to be up 24 hours, a rally is being planned. BCTF support is, a priority, lend your support on the picket line and everyone is encouraged to be at Thursday's rally at Canada Place.

b) Young Workers' – Reported by Erin Searle

Young Workers' are planning a support picket at Ikea Richmond, July 6 at 12 noon. July 14 Young Workers' meeting will be a Labour History Walking Tour, any young workers interested can gather at Victory Square at 6 pm. There will be no August meeting, a young workers' social is being planned. Next meeting is Monday, September 15 at 6 pm in the VDLC office. Camp Jubilee BC Fed Young Workers' Labour School weekend is June 21, 22 – courses being offered are Labour History, Austerity 101, Anti-Aggression Training, Mobilizing and Campaigning, and Equality and Discrimination.

- c) Education – Reported by Joey Hartman
There are still openings in courses being offered for the rest of the year, the next course is July 5, WCB Introductory Level with Sarah O’Leary. Courses are \$60 for a full day, includes lunch – scholarships are available. Fall offerings include: in September, Bullying and Harassment; in October, Duty to Accommodate and Introduction to Research; in November, Stress in the Workplace; and in December, Effective Grievances. A Spring Labour Education is in the works now too. Also the Labour Council has lined up Professor Mark Leier for an evening series on Labour History.
- d) Women’s – Reported by Fruma Sloan
The committee promotes awareness of women’s issues including equality, equity, and social justice and has been active in the Women Transforming Cities cafés. They encourage women of all ages to get involved; women interested should contact the VDLC office or see Fruma at any meeting.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) CLC – Provided by Ron Stipp
Together Fairness Works initiative is going well and is being expanded. We are starting to see ads on television, on bus stops, and some people may have seen the Fairness Works projections on buildings late at night downtown. We will soon see ads on YouTube; they are purchasing ad time that runs before videos, aiming at reaching a younger demographic. The CLC held a poll after the first round of ads and there was a 16% jump in the overall positive feeling about the trade union movement, that is a significant and encouraging for them to go forward.

The CLC’s per capita has increased with the hopes that it will allow them to increase programming across the country and hopefully add a few more staff to help deliver programming to more rural areas.

As most everyone knows, the CLC has a new president, Hassan Yusseff from Unifor, and a new Secretary Treasurer, Barb Byers, from the Grain Workers. The two Vice Presidents are Marie Clarke Walker from CUPE (re-elected) and Don Lefleur, CUPW. Shortly after election Hassan was in BC and attended the BCGEU convention as well as visited picket lines for both the BCTF and Teamsters Local 213 at Ikea.

Municipal elections are a big focus. Endorsement committees are active around the province. New Westminster and District Labour Council are endorsing upwards of 100 candidates. There are more people applying for endorsement than ever before. The first candidate training started in Victoria, the next is in Vancouver with 20 people registered (that is 20 brand new candidates).

The CLC will relaunch the Canada Pension Plan campaign Labour Day. They will be making a big effort to improve the CPP on the run to the next federal election.

Both Bill 377 and 525 are stalled. The government has indicated that they will not be proceeding with these two pieces of legislation until at least the fall, meaning it won't be brought up until October, if at all, which is good news for labour.

b) BC FORUM – Reported by Sandy Bauer

BC FORUM held its AGM on June 11, it was very well attended. President Diane Wood delivered the annual report from the Board of Directors. The full report is available on their website – bcforum.ca. It's well worth reading for a comprehensive understanding of the importance of the work done by BC FORUM.

Several motions were debated and passed unanimously including:

- A demand that the provincial government eliminate Medical Services Plan premiums, recognizing that it's a regressive tax that no other province has; and demanding that the government fund quality public health care from general revenues raised by fair progressive taxes.
- Supporting the BC Health Coalition and Canadian Doctors for Medicare in the fight to protect Canada's public health care system in the court case that's been launched by Dr. Brian Day and his for-profit clinics.
- Actively opposing Canada Post's five-point plan to eliminate door-to-door delivery, drastically increasing postal rates, closing public postal counters, and the elimination of thousands of jobs.
- An emergency resolution supporting BCTF in its struggle for a fair contract and decent learning conditions for our children.

Copies of the latest edition of the Advocate were made available. It contains a number of excellent articles on the threat to Medicare, the federal government's refusal to improve the Canada Pension Plan, and making the case for postal banking. I urge everyone to take copies back to their workplace.

Everyone over the age of 50 is encouraged to take out a membership at BC FORUM. They need support today so that they can be there for those that need them tomorrow.

c) Adhoc VDLC 125th Anniversary Planning – Reported by Joey Hartman

The VDLC, originally the Vancouver Trades and Labour Congress, held its first meeting November 21, 1889. To mark the event the VDLC will be holding an event Friday, November 21, 2014 at the Maritime Labour Centre.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

12. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 draw proceeds to benefit the Solidarity in Action Committee's
- There is concern that information about the Dr. Day court case isn't getting out as widely as needed. The BC Health Coalition continues to fight, but need to raise more money to be able to bring the case to Supreme Court. Delegates were encouraged to help get the word out

about the case and need for support. Sister Tutte provided information pamphlets from the BC Health Coalition, to help get that word out, the website is a great source, delegates were encouraged to visit their social media sites to help amplify the message. Both Unifor and COPE Local 378 have now joined the steering committee. Sister Tutte has recently stepped down as Chair of the BC Health Coalition but will now have more time for presentations should locals be interested.

- Everyone was invited to the WISE Hall (unionized venue at Victoria Dr. and Adanac) for social time
- Delegates and guest were also invited to stay for a historical perspective on the On-to-Ottawa Trek
- Reminder there is no July Pizza Educational

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:08 pm.*

16. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, JULY 15, 2014](#), 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street.

NO Pizza Educational
Tuesday, July 15