



VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, June 19, 2012

1. **LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC
2. **CHAIRPERSON:** Terry Engler
3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the May 15, 2012 Regular meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

BCGEU Local 1203

Diane Winkler

Health Sciences Association

Simone Gruenig

Mohammad Kazemian

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. **GUEST SPEAKER(S):** NIL

6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Joey Hartman reported on activities since the May 15th meeting.

Wine & Cheese Reception for Progressive Municipal Politicians

The VDLC's first open house for delegates to meet with endorsed politicians in a social setting was well received. Fourteen elected officials attended, including Mayor Darrell Mussatto from the City of North Vancouver and Mayor Gregor Robertson from Vancouver.

Labour Day

The September 3, 2012 Labour Day is being coordinated jointly by the BC Federation of Labour, the New Westminster & District Labour Council and the VDLC, along with a multi-union committee. Trout Lake (John Hendry Park) has been booked, and Carnival Band will lead a parade down Commercial Drive to the picnic site.

Protein for People

The community forum was held Saturday, June 16th at McLean Park. Despite a constant deluge of pouring rain, the volunteers gave out about 1,400 hot dogs to about 700 people. Thanks to Bonnie Hammond for coordinating.

Presentations & Activities

Sister Hartman made the following presentations:

- May 22 Panelist for Federal NDP public forum on Bill 38, the omnibus budget
- May 23 Acted as a jury member in a mock trial street theatre in front of the Mexican Consulate where the Mexican government was found guilty of blacklisting migrant workers
- May 24 Lobby meeting with Conservative MP Kerry-Lynne Findlay with CUPE delegate Michael Lanier on retirement security and strengthening CPP
- June 2 Labour history presentations to both the CAW 111 Sisters in Solidarity lunch and People's Voice fundraising dinner

United Way

On June 1 Sister Hartman joined a team of United Way Labour Committee volunteers to paint several rooms in a women's shelter as part of the National Day of Caring. On June 15 she represented the UW board on a tour of several agencies that receive UW funding. The United Way AGM is on June 26 and Sister Hartman has two more years remaining in her term on the board.

VDLC Executive Strategic Planning

The Executive added a strategic planning session to their regular June meeting to consider the roles and responsibilities of executive members and affiliate engagement opportunities.

MSC to adopt the report.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) The following donations were received since the last meeting of council:

<u>May Day 2012 (in order received)</u>	
COPE Local 378	\$ 50.00
MWBIU Local 1	\$ 200.00
<u>Protein for People</u>	
CAW Local 114	\$ 200.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 450.00</u>

MSC that the correspondence be received and filed with appreciation.

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

SUBJECT: Closure of Vancouver Coast Guard Station

BECAUSE the Federal Government is pushing the expansion of oil tanker traffic from BC as a national issue with significant importance; and

BECAUSE the safety of the marine Industry is under attack due to the proposed expansion of oil tanker traffic in the BC coast and Vancouver harbour; and

BECAUSE the citizens of BC are justifiably concerned with the safety of the marine industry and the potential for marine ecological disaster; and

BECAUSE the Federal Government has the responsibility to protect lives at sea as well as to protect the environment; and

BECAUSE the citizens of BC are being asked to agree to allow a significant increase in tanker traffic with its corresponding increase in potential environmental damage; and

BECAUSE we need the federal government to increase regulation, legislation and inspections to give BC citizens the confidence that the marine industry will operate safely; and

BECAUSE for the citizens of BC who work or travel on the water, the Coast Guard is the primary source of direction, assistance and rescue,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL demand that the Federal Government rescind their decision to close the Kitsilano Coast Guard station; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL further demand that the Federal Government increase the funding for the Coast Guard and other federal services related to marine safety to prove to the citizens of BC that the Federal Government takes our lives and the environment seriously.

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

SUBJECT: Privatization of BC Liquor Distribution Branch

BECAUSE the provincial government has announced its intention to privatize BC's Liquor Distribution Branch, starting with the warehouse and distribution system; and

BECAUSE selling off the warehouse and distribution operations to a private, for-profit company is the next step in the complete privatization of BC's public liquor distribution and retail system; and

BECAUSE the LDB is an important public asset that generates almost a billion dollars a year in net income that helps pay for public services like health, education and highways; and

BECAUSE the privatization of the LDB will cost all of us - prices will go up, selection will go down, crime will go up, and long-term revenue will go down; and

BECAUSE the LDB is a profitable, socially responsible and proven network owned and operated by the people of BC, and should be modernized and expanded through extended hours and Sunday openings to increase revenues for public services; and

BECAUSE Patrick Kinsella, who has very deep ties to the BC Liberals, is the primary consultant for the front-running private bidder,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL condemn and work against any actions by the provincial government to privatize the BC Liquor Distribution Branch; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL further call on Premier Christy Clark and Minister Rich Coleman to immediately halt plans to sell-off the LDB warehouse and distribution system.

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

SUBJECT: Maquila Solidarity Network 2012 Membership Renewal

BECAUSE the Maquila Solidarity Network continues to be effective in lobbying for improvements to wages and working conditions for garment factory workers around the world; and

BECAUSE MSN educates Canadians about sweatshop conditions and the activities of Canadian companies abroad,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL renew its membership in the Maquila Solidarity Network for 2012 at a cost of \$100.00.

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

SUBJECT: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives 2012 Membership Renewal

BECAUSE the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives consistently provides credible, well researched and clearly written materials that are invaluable in developing and presenting progressive alternatives,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL renew its membership in the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives for 2012 at a cost of \$500.00.

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

SUBJECT: Philippines Activist Trip to Canada

BECAUSE the VDLC organized a delegation to the Philippines in 2008, which included meetings with the progressive labour central organization called Makabayan; and

BECAUSE Makabayan chairperson, Pete Pinlac, is speaking at a conference in Toronto on August 11 & 12, 2012,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL sponsor a Vancouver tour with Pete Pinlac from the Makabayan labour central organization of the Philippines during the week of August 7, 2012 and will allocate \$200.00 from the VDLC International Affairs budget to assist with airfare from Toronto.

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

SUBJECT: Quebec Students

BECAUSE the Quebec students are continuing their lengthy strike in an effort to stop the plans of the Charest government to implement significant tuition increases which will reduce the accessibility of education for students.

BECAUSE the Charest government has cracked down on the student demonstrators with unprecedented new legislation in the form of Bill 78 which attempts to criminalize public protest without government approval.

BECAUSE the students are fighting this authoritarian and anti-democratic law through the courts as well as a new form of protest called the "casserole" wherein demonstrators gather or march while banging pots and pans.

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL participate in, and encourage its affiliates to participate in, the casserole protests being organized weekly in the Vancouver area; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL donate \$250 to the CLASSE legal defense fund to help fight Bill 78 and encourage its affiliates to donate to the fund as well.

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

SUBJECT: Public Delivery of Publicly Funded Health Care

BECAUSE private businesses with a profit motive are increasingly obtaining government contracts to deliver services in health care such as medical transcription, various surgeries, diagnostic services, and hospital housekeeping and security; and

BECAUSE it is common practice for private, for-profit providers to bill MSP for lab services, medical imaging and surgeries even where they don't have a specific government contract; and

BECAUSE publicly delivered health care systems are safer, more cost-effective, more equitable, and promote healthy local economies,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL oppose all for-profit delivery of publicly funded health care services and programs.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

b) CUPW: Reported by Fuma Sloan

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers made a complaint in March of 2011 to the International Labour Organization (ILO) governing body in Geneva. They just upheld our complaint regarding Section 13.5 of the Canada Post Act which denies contractor access to employee status. ILO said Canada was in violation of ILO conventions in freedom of association. This is an empty victory, but a victory nonetheless.

c) HEU - North Shore Community: Reported by Graham O'Neill

Bargaining continues in facilities where HEU is the chief bargaining union. Bargaining continues in health and social services where our sister union BCGEU is the chief bargaining union.

The mail-in vote on the LPN raid continues the votes should be finished around the end of June and the Labour Relations Board will report by the middle of July.

d) VESTA: Reported by Nancy Hawkins

Teachers are heading into summer pretty demoralized and discouraged. Dr. Jago who was the government appointed mediator is finishing up his narrow mandate of net zero, no improvements to benefits, no limits to class size, no provisions for integrating students with special needs, and contract stripping regarding seniority, professional authority and teacher evaluation. He will submit his recommendations to the government at the end of June and the government will deliberate and considering legislating an agreement by the end of the summer.

Teachers' action plan is withdrawing extra curricular activities and restricting meetings with management to minimum and this will end at the end of June.

In Vancouver teachers did four Thursdays of street corner rallies. This was to help the public become more informed and aware of the dispute. Thanks to the VDLC for their support. The poster out on the table shows the three locations where teachers will be congregating tomorrow to show a Provincial Action against the legislation.

The BCTF meets towards the end of August at their Summer Conference in Kamloops and will be strategizing then on how to proceed depending on what happens during the summer months. On the back of the poster is the “Message from Vancouver Teachers” we’ve been handing out with the usual actions of the support that we ask from the public.

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

1. Strike Solidarity Committee - Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

The committee will be supporting Teamsters Local 31 who will be protesting at Rocky Mountaineer on June 22, 2012 at 4:30 – 6:30 am. It has been one year since Rocky Mountaineer locked out their employees.

2. Education – Reported by Joey Hartman

The program of all Fall 2012 offerings will be distributed by the end of June. This will include:

- Anita Yan Labour Law Series – 4 weekend offerings (Surveillance, Human Rights, Stress, An Advocate’s Toolbox)
- Series of 6 night classes titled “Occupy This: A short course on class, power, and the possibilities of social change”
- CLC weekend school October 27 & 28 with 5 or 6 options
- Women’s Committee 2 night workshop on public speaking for women

5. Young Workers’ - Reported by Bonnie Hammond

The committee is currently working on several fundraising activities including a Craft Fair and Bake sale at the July regular meeting, calendars for 2013, t-shirts, and a “tear a strip off” which will be leg waxing for men and half the proceeds will go to support prostate cancer.

6. Women’s - Reported by Agnes Jackman

The committee met on May 28, 2012 and mapped out ideas for IWD 2013 and the fall education series. The next event is the Potluck for Women on July 9, 2012.

7. International Affairs – Reported by Joey Hartman

The VDLC hosted a visit from 7 representatives of the Guangdong Provincial Trade Union Council from China on June 5th. Cathy Walker, CAW retiree, presented a power point review of the Canadian Labour Movement.

OTHER REPORTS

BC Forum: Reported by De Whalen

At BC Forum’s recent AGM in June the following resolutions were passed:

- Strengthening public health care including corrections to deficiencies in the Canada Health Act and implementation of a National Pharmacare Plan.
- “Aging in Place” demanding an increase in funding for home support services and affordable housing for seniors.
- Old Age Security and Guaranteed Income Supplement demanding improvements to Canada’s pension system and preventing the increase of OAS eligibility to 67.

BC Forum represents retired union members and are active on many social justice issues. Encourage your union to enroll retiring members in BC Forum.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

SUBJECT: UNITED WAY SYD THOMPSON AWARD

BECAUSE the VDLC sponsors the Syd Thompson Community Service Award each year to present at the annual United Way Labour Appreciation dinner, which will next be held on December 6, 2012,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL name Rachel Tutte, a longstanding and dedicated labour and community activist, VDLC delegate and co-chair of the BC Health Coalition, as the recipient of the 2012 Syd Thompson Community Service Award.

12. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 proceeds will go to support Quebec students for legal assistance

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 8:40 pm*

16. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, [July 17, 2012](#), 7:30 pm, Maritime Labour Centre.