



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020**

1. LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference – 7:00PM

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: 1st Vice President Bal Sandhu

3. NOTICE OF VDLC POLICY ON HARASSMENT: Circulated prior to meeting

4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

M/S/C that the agenda of the July 21, 2020 Regular meeting be adopted.

5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/C that the minutes of the June 16, 2020 Regular meeting be adopted.

6. CREDENTIALS:

CUPE Local 2950

Vladimir Petchkovsky

PSAC – UCTE Local 20088

Kelp Watson

Warren Wulff

IATSE Local 118

Jordan Both

7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES: Pledge of New Delegates

8. GUEST SPEAKERS: Nil

9. EDUCATIONAL: Nil

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the June 2020 meeting.

COVID-19

We will not be meeting in August, per our usual schedule, but will host our September meeting via Zoom. Our office is operating, but not open for drop-in visits or meetings at this time.

Political Action

Since our last meeting all of our political action activities have continued, and some have started back up after a lapse due to the pandemic.

We received a number of responses from government to letters we had sent. Some of these are more substantive than others.

Regular meetings with the Mayor's Office and unions representing city workers have resumed.

Our Housing Action Team met for the first time since the start of the pandemic. The Team is looking to schedule a webinar for delegates who are tenants and want to learn about their rights, or seek help with issues, particularly those related to the pandemic. This would be done jointly with Vancouver Tenants Union. The motion coming later in the meeting also came from this meeting.

Labour Disputes

IBEW Local 213 is still on strike against Ledcor LTS. They reached the nine month mark last month.

Labour Education

Our *Bargaining Basics During COVID-19* course was successful. We had 22 participants to the course and feedback was good even though this was our first try delivering a course via Zoom. This is of course in large part due to excellent facilitation by David Fleming and Linda Schulz as well as great panelists who they invited. I attended the course and took care of running Zoom and dealing with any technical issues.

Our next courses are in September and October. Registrations are happening now. We have rooms booked in case we can do them in person, but that may not be possible. Although delivering courses that are formatted for in-person learning via Zoom is not ideal, the Bargaining Basics course shows that we can make it work if need-be.

Long-term we need to look at reformatting courses for online delivery.

YVR Joint Union Committee

The Committee has written to new CEO Tamara Vrooman (formerly of Vancity) about our call for workers and jobs to be protected in any financial support to Airport Authorities from the Federal or Provincial Governments. We have also requested a meeting and the establishment of a labour roundtable.

Labour Day

As noted last month, we will have to do a virtual event this year. We held our first planning meeting in June and are now working on a joint event with NWDLC which will be an online awards ceremony to mark Labour Day while recognizing rank and file activists.

T-Shirts

Our t-shirts arrived from OneMovement Threads. They look and feel great. We have distributed the shirts to those who ordered them. We have some put aside as gifts for course facilitators as well. I would suggest that we look at a further order of shirts (the same and/or different design) perhaps in early 2021.

United Way

Tonight we will determine the recipient of this year's Syd Thompson Community Service Award. We are proposing awarding it to Adrienne Smith this year. Adrienne is a human rights lawyer and former CLC staffer who has contributed substantially to the community through their work in support of transgender inclusion, workers' rights, and progressive drug policy over the years.

Mountain Equipment Coop

At the time of writing this, we don't yet have any further details of additional voting opportunities that have been announced to be forthcoming for executive positions. The AGM will be held virtually on December 10. You still have the opportunity to purchase a membership and to have the ability to vote for some progressive representation.

Constitution & By-Laws

You will see the changes we made earlier this year taking effect in the coming meetings. This meeting we are introducing the Financial Report to the agenda. In the Fall we will elect Trustees and move toward our new financial reporting methods for 2021 onward.

Events Attended

June 17: United Way of the Lower Mainland Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee
June 17: Meeting with new Living Wage for Families Campaign Director
June 18: Labour Education, Bargaining Basics During COVID-19
June 18: Meeting re: Labour Education Program
June 19: Meeting with Mayor Kennedy Stewart
June 22: Labour Day Planning Committee
June 23: Sustainable Communities Initiative
June 23: DTES Joint Union Committee
June 24: Housing Action Team
June 25: United Way Campaign Cabinet Info Session
June 25: BC Health Coalition webinar: Public Health Care on Trial: Preparing for the Cambie Ruling
June 29: Webinar: Asian Solidarity with Black Lives
June 29: Sick Leave Campaign Committee (BC Employment Standards Coalition)
June 29: CLC meeting re: United Way Partnership Agreement
June 29: Metro Vancouver Alliance Sponsorship Committee
June 29: BC Employment Standards Coalition
June 30: DTES Joint Union Committee
June 30: CLC Labour Council Check-In
July 1: Canada Day Statutory Holiday
July 2-6: Vacation
July 7: Extraordinary BCFED Executive Council Meeting
July 8-9: Vacation
July 10: CLC Financial Training
July 13: CLC Financial Training
July 13: BC Employment Standards Coalition
July 14: DTES Joint Union Committee
July 15: Labour Education Program Meeting
July 16: Meeting with Councillor Boyle
July 16: VDLC Executive Board

July 16: VDLC Table Officers
July 17: Cascade Region Labour Leadership Initiative Zoom
July 20: Meeting with Councillor Greene
July 21: DTES Joint Union Committee
July 21: Regular Meeting

M/S/C to adopt President's report.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the June 2020 meeting.

M/S/C to adopt the Treasurer's Report.

12. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

No Report this evening.

13. CORRESPONDENCE:

Circulated prior to the meeting.

M/S/C that the correspondence be received and filed for the information of the delegates.

14. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

a) *M/S/C that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Protecting Tenants and Homeowners During COVID-19

BECAUSE the COVID-19 pandemic has devastated working people and their incomes, with 37% of renters across Canada losing their jobs and another 9% seeing reduced hours according to The Toronto Star; and

BECAUSE the many tenants have been left unable to pay their rents and have used their savings and/or accumulated debt in order to get by; and

BECAUSE the absence of rent control tying rent to the unit rather than the tenant means that evictions of tenants will also mean reduction of affordable rental stock and a deepening of the housing crisis; and

BECAUSE the Vancouver Tenants Union launched a petition at NoRentDebt.ca which has over 1,000 signatures calling for:

1. Immediately extending the ban on evictions and rent increases until the end of the pandemic,
2. Laying out a plan to cancel existing eviction notices and rent debt accrued before and during the pandemic; and

BECAUSE the VDLC Executive Board issued statements on March 16 and March 24 calling for emergency measures to protect workers and tenants during COVID-19, including an eviction moratorium and cancellation of rent debt; and

BECAUSE the Provincial Government has lifted the ban on evictions, with the exception of evictions for non-payment of rent; and

BECAUSE the majority of renters are workers, including members of our affiliated unions, and are being placed in positions of housing precarity. The current situation threatens to inflame the housing affordability and homelessness crises in the region, and must be addressed,

BECAUSE the current situation also impacts many homeowners, who rely upon rental income to make their mortgage payments. These homeowners, faced with the potential of mounting mortgage debt, could find themselves in jeopardy of foreclosure, which would jeopardize both their own housing and that of their tenants,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the Vancouver Tenants Union petition NoRentDebt.ca, and its calls for the extension of a ban on evictions and the cancellation of eviction notices and rent and mortgage debt; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER endorse the March 16 and March 24 statements of the VDLC Executive Board; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY support the VDLC Housing Action Team in hosting an event in collaboration with the Vancouver Tenants Union with the intention of providing education to VDLC delegates about their rights as tenants, linking those facing housing issues to assistance, and connecting those wishing to take action on housing issues to opportunities to do so.

b) *M/S/C that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Syd Thompson Community Service Award

BECAUSE each year the Vancouver and District Labour Council designates a recipient for the Syd Thompson Community Service Award, which is presented at the United Way Labour Appreciation Dinner; and

BECAUSE Adrienne Smith is a human rights lawyer with an exemplary record of service to labour and community through their work for human rights, transgender inclusion, progressive drug policy, and worker rights,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL designate Adrienne Smith as the 2020 recipient of the Syd Thompson Community Service Award.

15. REPORT OF UNIONS: Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes.
Shane Polak, PSAC – UVAE Local 20045

We have good news on two fronts for us. The Program and Administrative table or PA table has reached a tentative agreement with the Treasury Board of the Government of Canada. This is a no concessions agreement. Some details are:

- A 6.35% wage increase over the past three years (2018, 2019 and 2020). Which is inflation or more.
- Increase in maternity related reassignment or leave qualification from 52 to 78 weeks following the birth of a child.

- Several leave improvements including for a person who stands in place of a relative for:
 1. Leave without pay for the care of the family.
 2. Bereavement leave
 3. Leave with pay for family-related responsibilities
- A new leave provision for members elected to union leadership
- Renewal and update of a memorandum of understanding on a Joint Study on the Work Environment for Employees Working in Call Centres.
- New provision that provides call centre employees with training on crisis intervention and coping.

Alongside negotiations for the PA group, PSAC bargaining teams for the TC, EB and SV groups also joined talks to reach a settlement for Treasury Board issues common to all groups. Some of the key improvements include:

- A one-time payment of \$500 in recognition of the extended collective agreement.
- 10 days of paid domestic violence leave.
- Better language on return to work following a maternity or parental leave, giving more flexibility to parents who wish to change positions within the federal public service.
- Improvements to parental leave pay.

PSAC successfully negotiated a Phoenix damages settlement that is significantly better than the employer's deal with other federal bargaining agents. Last year, PSAC rejected the government's meagre offer of 5 days cashable leave, which was too little and would have rewarded those who earn more while punishing workers who make less. The current agreement provides PSAC members with a fair and equitable lump sum payment of \$2,500.

M/S/C to adopt the report of unions.

16. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Stephen von Sychowski, President, VDLC

Women's committee has just finished debrief of the Women's Day dinner this year. They are thinking of hosting a committee meeting in conjunction with our next regular meeting in September. If we do have any information about this we will circulate this information with the regular meeting information in September.

Also, there has been a few young workers from a few different unions who have contacted me about the Young Worker's Committee. It is unfortunately not operating at the moment. I hope to once again relaunch the Young Worker's Committee in the next few months. If you are a young worker, 30 years of age or younger, or if you know of any who might be interested in this in your unions, we would really like to get this committee back up and

running. It is a very important committee and provides a space for young union activists to get involved and take action. It's also important for us to link up with younger workers and get them involved in the labour council.

M/S/C to receive report of committees.

OTHER REPORTS: Nil

17. REPORTS OF LABOUR COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES: Nil

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

19. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: Nil

20. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

21. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

22. GOOD AND WELFARE:

Just a reminder that there is no August meeting. We will meet again in September. Don't forget Labour Day and don't forget your nominations for the Elsie Awards.

23. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:14pm.*

24. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020** at 7:00 pm
Zoom Video Conference.

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