



# VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



## REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018

**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:** Terry Engler, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*MSC that the minutes of the June 19, 2018 meeting be adopted.*

**4. CREDENTIALS:**

The following credentials were received since the last VDLC meeting:

(\* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

BCGEU Local 1203

Shirley Shiagetz

CUPW Vancouver Local 846

Rebekah Mahar

Jeannette McConnell

Heat & Frost Insulators Local 118

Ashley Duncan

*MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).*

**5. GUEST SPEAKERS:** Nil

**6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the June 2018 meeting.

Political Action

We are presenting the recommendation of the Multi-Union Vetting Committee at this meeting. This recommendation is the culmination of months of work with municipal parties, candidates, and our affiliates. We are proud of the recommendation we are bringing and excited to get to work supporting the candidates.

We filled the election organizer positions which we had posted. Thanks to generous support from CUPE, we have been able to expand our original plans. We are bringing on two full-time organizers for two-month terms (Bal Sandhu and Tuesday Andrich) and two full-time organizers for one-month terms (Rosanna Hussein and Sonia Paone); Bal and Sonia are members of HEU, Tuesday is a member of CUPE Local 1004, and Rosanna is member of UFCW Local 1518.

A complaint has been filed at Elections BC alleging that our work with the various municipal parties constitutes a violation of the new election law. We are working with the CLC to counter this allegation, which we consider baseless.

Union Protein Project (*former Protein for People*)

I attended the Union Protein Project AGM on June 20. The project continues to do the great work of ensuring those in need have access to protein-rich foods while also advocating for an economy that will eliminate the need for food banks by providing good jobs for all.

UPP has now expanded from salmon to salmon, tuna, and peanut butter. It has also expanded into Alberta and is working on expanding into Ontario. They are currently working on bringing on an additional staff person as part of their succession planning.

Kathryn Prinz has been hired as our Union Protein Project Community Event Organizer for this year. We will be hosting an event in Richmond this year, in addition to our usual event in Vancouver at Queen Alexandra Elementary School. Events will be place in September, details coming soon.

VDLC Labour Education

Our next course will be WCB Intro on September 19 with Sarah O’Leary.

Labour Day

Everything remains on track for Labour Day at the PNE thanks to our planning committee and especially to Michelle Livaja, our Labour Day Organizer. The event will include a rally, private picnic area, and activation area with booths, and more.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

I will be attending the MVA Leader’s Summit, September 8 where we will work to chart the path forward for this important alliance of labour, community, and faith organizations.

Digital Toolbox

We expect to launch the new website this summer.

Events Attended

Young Workers Committee meeting – June 19 and July 9  
Union Protein Project AGM and BBQ – June 20  
National Indigenous Day Celebration – June 21  
Multi-Union Vetting Committee meetings – July 9 and 10  
On vacation – June 25 to July 6

**7. CORRESPONDENCE:**        *Circulated at meeting.*

**8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

Subject: Against Family Separation

BECAUSE the disturbing and inhumane practice of separating detained immigrant children from their families, as implemented recently by the United States government, has drawn condemnation and outrage globally; and

BECAUSE in response to the pressure generated by mass mobilizations across the United States and elsewhere, President Trump signed an executive order on June 20, the effect of which is that children may now be imprisoned with their families rather than separately; and

BECAUSE there are still approximately 2,300 children who have already been detained and held separately from their parents, and there is no guarantee that this number will not continue to climb; and

BECAUSE the racist, anti-immigrant campaign of the Trump government continues despite the partial reversal of one of its most heinous features; and

BECAUSE the controversy surrounding these horrendous practices in the United States has drawn attention to the fact that Canada also engages in the separation of children from detained immigrant parents;

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to President Donald Trump, Democratic Party House of Representatives leader Nancy Pelosi, and Senator Paul Ryan condemning the imprisonment and deportation of immigrants, the separation of families, and the proliferation of racist, anti-immigrant policies and rhetoric by the present government; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER demand an end to such practices in our own country and the reunification of separated families; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER support the call for an end to the Safe Third Country Agreement with the United States; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY support future actions, like the recent March Against Family Separation organized by March on Vancouver.

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

Subject: Pacific Blue Cross Board of Directors

BECAUSE VDLC past-president Sister Joey Hartman, and CUPE BC Secretary-Treasurer Trevor Davies are candidates for the executive board of the Pacific Blue Cross, which provides health benefit coverage to thousands of unionized workers across British Columbia through their collective agreements; and

BECAUSE the VDLC supported the members of CUPE Local 1816 who work for Pacific Blue Cross when they were locked out by the employer for two months in 2017; and

BECAUSE the objectives and decisions of the organization are shaped by the executive board, and Sister Hartman's and Brother Davies' extensive governance experience would be valuable to the board,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse Sister Joey Hartman and Brother Trevor Davies as candidates for the Pacific Blue Cross board of directors in the elections to be held at the 2018 AGM, and will encourage its affiliates who are eligible to vote to attend the meeting and support Sister Hartman and Brother Davies. The AGM will be held at 6:00 pm, Tuesday July 24, 2018 at the Metrotown Hilton Hotel in

Burnaby. Voting eligibility applies to members with Pacific Blue Cross benefits who are the primary card holder (not their dependents).

## 9. MUNICIPAL ELECTION CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS

*MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*

a) Subject: 2018 Municipal Endorsements

BECAUSE the VDLC coordinated and participated in an inclusive and extensive vetting process that was made clear to affiliates, municipal parties, and

BECAUSE a cooperation agreement was reached with the municipal parities in the City of Vancouver, allowing candidates to seek endorsement if they were so inclined; and

BECAUSE candidates from the other 3 cities in the VDLC's jurisdiction (City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, and Richmond) were also invited to apply for the VDLC's endorsement,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL, after receiving those applications, endorse the following candidates:

### City of North Vancouver Council

Angela Girard	Independent
Mack McCorkindale	Independent

### City of North Vancouver Mayor

Linda Buchanan	Independent
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### City of Vancouver Council

Christine Boyle	OneCity
Diego Cardona	Vision
Adriane Carr	Green
Heather Deal	Vision
Pete Fry	Green
Derrick O'Keefe	COPE
Jean Swanson	COPE
Tanya Paz	Vision
Brandon Yan	OneCity
Wei Qiao Zhang	Vision

### City of Vancouver Mayor

Kennedy Stewart	Independent
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### City of Vancouver Parks Board

Dave Demers	Green
Camil Dumont	Green
Gwen Geisbrecht	COPE
John Irwin	COPE
Stuart MacKinnon	Green
Shamim Shivji	Vision
Cameron Zubko	Vision

City of Vancouver School Board

Erin Arnold	Vision
Carrie Bercic	OneCity
Janet Fraser	Green
Estrellita Gonzalez	Green
Erica Jaaf	OneCity
Aaron Leung	Vision
Barb Parrott	COPE
Jennifer Reddy	OneCity
Allan Wong	Vision

**10) REPORT OF UNIONS:**

a) ILWU Local 400 – Reported by Jason Woods

Votes are out for SMIT Rupert contract, if ratified this collective agreement will make them the highest paid deckhands on the West Coast. The union will be able to use this precedent in negotiates in Vancouver and Port Alberni, where they are currently in bargaining with Pacific/FMW, and then throughout the industry. Ledcor/CLAC raid still at the Labour Board, although ILWU lost the Section 18 application they are appealing and still have the raid application before the Board. Local 400 will keep the Labour Council posted as to the outcome.

The ILWU International Convention was held in June. ILWU updated their constitution to be gender neutral and inclusive. The convention affirmed their union's left wing militant tradition, their drive to continue organizing and fighting for social causes, and their desire to lead their union into the future.

b) FPSE Local 5 – Kwantlen Faculty Assoc. – Reported by Rob Scharff

It was reported at the June meeting that management had over enrolled their courses at Kwantlen University in violation of their collective agreement and the union had filed a grievance. Despite, the Local's best efforts to come to an agreement with the employer, the issue has not been resolved. The Local will be advancing the grievance to FPSE for arbitration. The employer claims that the over enrolment was an accidental breach of contract, but have not committed to making sure that it does not happen again. Brother Scharff will keep the Labour Council abreast of the situation.

c) BCGEU Local 803 – Reported by Richard Consalvi

Component 8, Community Health Services, reached a tentative agreement. Ratification meetings and 2 telephone town hall meetings have been held. Major points of the new agreement include: 3 year agreement with a 2% general wage increase each year; \$40 million low wage redress; \$750,000 for OHS; and up to 3 days leave for domestic violence. The union is happy to report that there were no concessions or benefits lost. Votes will be counted July 27.

d) CUPW Local 846 Vancouver – Reported by Nick Aubichon

CUPW filed for conciliation process 2 weeks ago, which hopefully puts pressure to negotiate. The union's goal is to achieve a new, fair collective agreement that includes both urban and rural workers. Earliest day of job action would be September 25; CUPW would be in legal position to strike, and the Corporation to lock-out. This can be extended by mutual agreement.

Finance Minister Bill Morneau found not in conflict in regards to Bill C-27.

- e) UFCW Local 1518 – Reported by Abby Leung  
Summer Institute on Union Women at Sonoma State University, 1 week conference from July 9 to 14; educationals on organizing, leadership training, campaign, bargaining, messaging on political education, events, etc. There were 225 participants and 45 facilitators from Canada. Action on Friday was a rally for Hyatt Hotel workers, where housekeepers earn \$11 per hour to clean 23 rooms daily. Everyone should take the opportunity to attend SIUW next year in Victoria.
- f) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Sheryl Burns  
Community Social Services reached a tentative provincial settlement on Saturday, June 16. They achieved a 3 year deal with a 2% wage increase per year, additional low wage redress, and improvement to health and welfare benefits. The union is currently in the middle of ratification votes; votes will be completed by August 13 and results announced August 22.

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

- a) UA Plumbers Local 170 – Reported by Russ St. Eloi
- b) FPSE Local 15 VCC Faculty Assoc. – Reported by John Demeulemeester
- c) CUPE Local 389 – Reported by Cindy McQueen
- d) MoveUP – Reported by Annette Toth

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

#### **11. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

- a) Young Workers' – Reported by Stephen von Sychowski  
Committee elected Alex Braidek, CUPE Local 1004, as Chair and Adam Kirk as Co-Chair. They will be participating in the BC Fed Young Workers' BBQ.

*MSC to adopt the report of committees.*

#### **OTHER REPORTS:**

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman  
Elections were held, they elected: Danny Bradford, Treasurer; Sam Wiese, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; and Gord Savard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Discussion regarding resolutions to send to the National Pensioners Convention being held in Regina, Saskatchewan November 25 to 27. CURC (Congress of Union Retirees of Canada) Convention is in Toronto from December 19 to 21. BC FORUM has requests from 500 people to give a Retirement Planning course, this is a course that they provide which has had a lot of good feedback.

International Day of Older Persons, October 1 – COSCO is asking organizations to raise the United Nations IDOP flag or make a declaration, or proclamation in support of the IDOP. The province has been approached to make a declaration.

The latest copy of the Advocate is out, the centre portion breaks down the benefit plan and membership form. To be a member one has to have been a union member at some point in their working life and be over 50 years of age. Membership is open spouses even if they have never been a union member.

b) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

Labour Councils are being called upon to lobby their Liberal MPs on Pharmacare before the middle of September when they go back to Ottawa. There are a number of Liberal MPs in our region. Pharmacare is facing opposition from Ontario, who was in support, but the new Doug Ford government is not.

Brother Stipp congratulated VDLC President Stephen von Sychowski and everyone who worked on putting together the municipal party agreement and candidate endorsements. It took an incredible amount of work. CLC candidate training is underway across the province. The CLC will be producing cards that will be sent out with labour council endorsed candidates. Last election, between 75% and 85% of labour council endorsed candidates were elected; if we can do that again with the over 300 progressive candidates being endorsed, we can change the face of municipal politics.

*MSC to receive the other reports.*

**12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

The VDLC Policy on Inclusivity and Solidarity that was referred back to the Executive at the June meeting is being worked on. We have received some feedback and are working to address it. Please submit any feedback to the VDLC so that the Policy can be revisited in September.

**13. NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

Nominations opened by CLC Representative Ron Stipp for 4 Member-at-Large positions.

Three nominations received:

<i>Nick Aubichon</i>	<i>CUPW Local 846 Vancouver</i>
<i>Abby Leung</i>	<i>UFCW Local 1518</i>
<i>Jody Polukoshko</i>	<i>BCTF VESTA</i>

All 3 nominees were acclaimed and sworn in.

**14. NEW BUSINESS:** Nil

**15. NOTICE OF MOTION:** Nil

**16. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

*Moment of silence for young activist Carmen Rogers from Victoria who passed away suddenly and young worker Brendan Stokes from Kamloops, who died on the job.*

- August long weekend, Vancouver Pride – everyone is encouraged to come out and enjoy.
- August 15, New Westminster Pride
- August 4, Ladner is holding its first Pride event, a community picnic at Ladner Memorial Park
- August 10, a commemorative walking tour is being held in honour of Operation Solidarity 35 years ago. There will be theatrical presentations along the way. Cost is \$10 if possible, no one turned away. Gather at the Vancouver Art Gallery.
- With the closure of Greyhound bus lines, conversations have arisen about the need for a nationalized driving program that could hire drivers now being laid-off and provide service

to the areas that lack public transport between communities. The lack of transportation forces people to seek unsafe alternatives, like hitchhiking.

- August 7, ILWU Canada presents Thomas Mayor, Custodian of the Sacred Uluru Statement from the Heart. Brother Mayor is Zenadth Kes man from Australia and elected Branch Secretary for the Northern Territory Branch of the Maritime Union of Australia and President of the NT Trades and Labour Council. The Uluru statement is adopted by the indigenous people of Australia calling for a place in their constitution and a means for reconciliation. See ILWU Canada website or VDLC Events page for more information
- The Vancouver Peace Council is now active, they are affiliated to the Canadian Peace Congress
- July 29, Canada Cuba Friendship Association celebrates Moncada Day at the Chilean Co-op
- 50/50 Proceeds to benefit the Solidarity in Action Committee Fund


17. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 8:45 pm.*

18. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018](#), 7:30 pm,  
Maritime Labour Centre.

**Pizza Educational**  
**Tuesday, September 18, 2018**  
**6:00 pm**

**VDLC Endorsed Municipal Candidates**  
**Meet & Greet**

*Light refreshments available.*



**COMMUNITY BBQ**

FAMILY FUN & GAMES

BBQ HOTDOGS AND SNACKS

KIDS ENTERTAINMENT & MUSIC

INFORMATION BOOTHS & FREE GIVEAWAYS

**Union Protein Project**


The Union Protein Project is a community partnership to address the shortages of protein at BC's food banks and the shortages of an economy that leaves people vulnerable. We are working to ensure that no child, family or community needs food banks. People need real choices and good jobs that feed them, their families and their community.

**Community Event**  
Thursday, September 27, 2018  
2:30 to 5:30 pm

**QUEEN ALEXANDRA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM**  
**1300 E. BROADWAY @ CLARK**

A free event sponsored by the Vancouver & District Labour Council with support from Union Protein Project

www.vdlc.ca  
www.proteinproject.ca



**Join the**  
**Vancouver & District**  
**Labour Council**  
**for**

**LABOUR DAY**  
**AT THE FAIR**

**Monday, September 3, 2018**  
**10 am Rally—Pacific Coliseum**  
Registration from 8:30 to 9:30 am at back entrance off parking lot

Everyone must have a wristband for admission to the Coliseum, which gets you into the Fair after the rally and gives you access to private picnic area!

For wristbands contact your union focal, or the VDLC to purchase individually at a discounted rate.  
VDLC - 604.254.0703 / office@vdlc.ca

See VDLC Website to get Wristband required for admission to Labour Day

For lists of happenings please see our website events page - [www.vdlc.ca](http://www.vdlc.ca)