



## NO QUORUM

### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING NOTES TUESDAY, JULY 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:** 1st Vice President Terry Engler

- 3. CREDENTIALS:**  
HEU – VGH Local  
Julie Danykuk

- 4. GUEST SPEAKER:**  
Victor Elkins, Executive Director Positive Living Society of BC

Victor was joined by Roberta who works as a Peer Navigator in outreach at Positive Living. With treatments like, PrEP a medication that is used as a preventative measure, not a cure, and research showing that if an individual with HIV is not detectable and on medication than the likelihood of them transmitting the virus is next to NIL, HIV/AIDS has fallen to the back of people's mind and people have become complacent. The fact that there is a mistaken notion that there is medication available that will basically cure the disease is dangerous as people continue to engage in unsafe sex and drug use. Too many people here in the Western Hemisphere don't understand what this virus can do; in parts of Africa is an entire generation that has been wiped out.

Positive Living BC opened a non-profit dental clinic a year ago: income is divided – 1/3 to supplies – 1/3 general revenue/operations – 1/3 to provide funding for those that can't afford dental services. The clinic's patients are mainly (80%) from the Downtown Eastside and/or HIV positive who receive discounted rates; the other 20% are patients with dental benefits. The clinic provides dental care free from the fear and stigma that can surround HIV.

Roberta's experience enables her to help others navigate the system to find the services they need, provide them with what they need for a better lifestyle and to make better choices, talk to people about HIV manageability. Roberta is grateful to have the opportunity to provide people with the help and guidance that wasn't available when she was young and first diagnosed.

Issues around HIV/AIDS have shifted as well. We are now seeing survivors of early infection who are reaching their senior years and are feeling the impact of the intense drug regimens on their systems. There are survivors who were told they would not survive and to

spend their money and now have no resources to draw a pension from. There is also the need for seniors' care facilities to understand issues around patients with HIV and those who are LGBTQ.

Positive Living BC is the oldest and largest AIDS charity organization in Western Canada. In the past year they have lost over 35% of their budget through cuts in government funding and loss of funding from PHSA. The AIDS walk, which was a large source of funding, has also been steadily dwindling. They have lost all funding to their women's program, Positive Women's Network. They are trying to rebuild a women's program and indigenous program. Support is needed to make these programs happen and to maintain the ones they have.

[www.positivelivingbc.org](http://www.positivelivingbc.org)

## 5. EDUCATIONAL:

Paul Finch, Secretary Treasurer BCGEU – Land Value Capture

Brother Finch presented a PowerPoint to delegates and guests on Land Value Capture. Visit [www.AffordableBC.ca](http://www.AffordableBC.ca) for more information. The PowerPoint is available on the VDLC website under Resources.

## 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on VDLC activities since the June 2019 meeting.  
Political Action

The Political Action Committee met July 15 to discuss housing and tenants' issues in Vancouver, flowing from concerns raised within labour and community about the votes cast by our endorsed Greens earlier this year on the school tax and the tax shift, and by Mayor Stewart on protecting rental stock on arterial routes last month. There are differing opinions on these votes, as well as on the general approach to the housing crisis, and the relative importance of specific policies. Our Council has endorsed the AffordableBC plan, which has also been endorsed by the BC Federation of Labour and a number of our affiliates.

We will be organizing a meet and greet with municipal politicians in the fall. Our next Municipal Engagement Committee meeting will be September 19.

Labour Day

We are still working hard to bring in funding for Labour Day. I am in the midst of phoning affiliates and previous sponsors who have not yet committed. Please help if you can.

We also need volunteers for the day of the event.

The event is shaping up well, with bouncy castles, games, facepainters, airbrush tattoo, and balloon animals for kids, live music, booths, and a short rally featuring Mayor Kennedy Stewart, a speaker on anti-racism, and yours truly bringing greetings from the Labour Council and speaking about the federal election.

Constitutional Review

We met prior to this meeting and are on track to bring proposals to the September meeting.

Labour Education

Our Labour Education Program starts up again in September. Please continue to help spread the word.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

MVA is hosting another leadership training on September 27 and 28. Full details will be announced shortly and registration available on the MVA website. This is free to members of MVA member organizations - that means VDLC delegates!

MVA is currently engaged in a fundraising campaign to support its ongoing work. New member organizations are welcome but you can also become an individual donor with a monthly, tax deductible donation. If anyone is interested go to the MVA website.

Period Promise

Our office currently contains a large quantity of period products which will be delivered to the Wishing Tree free store at Queen Alexandra Elementary School once school is back in session as part of the Period Promise campaign. Also being provided are several cases of diapers which were gathered ancillary to the period products from grocery stores.

United Way and the BC government are also partnering to ensure that period products are available to those in need.

No August Meeting

A reminder there is no August meeting. Our next regular meeting will be September 17.

Events Attended

June 19 – Union Protein Project AGM  
June 20 – Labour Day Planning Committee  
June 20 – UNITE HERE Local 40 rally  
June 20 – Mountain Equipment Co-Op AGM  
June 21 – Labour Notes meeting  
June 23 to July 8 – Vacation  
July 9 – Metro Vancouver Alliance Strategy Team  
July 11 – Constitution & By-Laws Review Committee  
July 11 – VDLC Executive Board  
July 15 – Expanded Political Action Committee  
July 16 – Regular meeting

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

**8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

a) Subject: Stop Ferry Workers Abuse Campaign

BECAUSE the BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union has launched a campaign asking BC Ferries to take action on worker abuse being faced by their members; and

BECAUSE in a recent survey, 82% of BC Ferry Workers said they had faced abuse from the public including yelling, threats, and harassment, with over half saying it impacted their mental health; and

BECAUSE BC Ferries isn't stopping it, and in some cases BC management even rewards abusive behaviour,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on BC Ferries to enforce a zero tolerance policy for worker abuse; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL help spread the word about this campaign on Facebook, Twitter, and by other means as may be requested by BCFMWU.

## 9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

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

- a) UNITE HERE Local 40 – Reported by Octavian Calaeski (by permission of the Chair)
- b) CUPE Local 389 – Reported by Cindy McQueen

## 10. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Nil

### OTHER REPORTS:

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman  
BC FORUM Board met reviewed their membership and financial status.

BC FORUM will be submitting 3 resolutions (Pharmacare, Universal Dental Care, and Pharmaceutical Kickbacks) to the National Pensioners Federation Convention in Toronto, September 10 to 12.

The upcoming federal election was discussed as to what FORUM can and can't do under the new regulations.

The Health Committee report covered: 1) Adrian Dix's recent press release regarding entry to residential care; 2) the expected release of the new Assisted Living Regulations in the fall; 3) "A Pathway to Hope", the Mental Health & Addictions strategies that were recently presented; 4) the need for a focus on securing public community health centres across the province; 5) Don Davies, MP and Health Critic sending out emails asking people to submit their stories regarding the lack of Pharmacare in Canada; and 7) the pharmaceutical corporations secret kickbacks to pharmacies.

October 1<sup>st</sup>, International Day of Older Persons, theme is "The Journey to Age Equality".

The next Board meeting will be September 17 at PSAC.

- b) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp  
We are officially in the pre-election period, meaning certain regulations are in effect. The CLC is a registered third party, labour councils have been advised not to, as they fall under the CLC. The election legislation is difficult, to the point where people have to be careful what is said in certain company; there can be no collusion between one's organization and any given party. By the time the Council meets again in September we will be in full election period. Polling is showing a significant shift away from the Conservatives, widening the gap between them and the Liberals with NDP gaining

ground and Green dropping off a bit. Most of the work will have to be done voluntarily - everyone is encouraged to get involved.

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Nil

**12. NEW BUSINESS:** Nil

**13. NOTICE OF MOTION:** Nil

**14. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- 50/50 Draw proceeds to benefit the Wishing Tree Free Store at Queen Alexandra Elementary
- The BC Fed declared a Hot Edict on Western Forest Products in support of USW
- MoveUP and the BC Fed have called for a boycott of Westminster Savings as their fight continues. Unfortunately, G&F (Gulf & Fraser) Credit Union has chimed in on the dispute, advising their staff that they agree with management at Westminster Savings; staff of G&F are also members of MoveUP. Conversely, Community Savings has been lending their support to members on the picket line at Westminster Savings, their CEO has even put in time on the line in support. *(Since the meeting the dispute has resolved)*
- Justine Bell, NDP candidate for North Vancouver addressed the meeting. The labour movement has played a major role in her life. She believes strongly in the platform of the NDP and the work of labour.
- Brother Rowe inquired as to the requirement to make quorum – delegates representing 20 different affiliate locals

**15. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *Adjourn at 9:20 pm.*

**16. NEXT MEETING:** [TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019](#), 7:00 pm,  
Maritime Labour Centre.

Please visit website for event listings and more – [www.vdvc.ca](http://www.vdvc.ca)



**REMINDER – NO AUGUST MEETING**