



VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

1. **LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC

2. **CHAIRPERSON:** 1st Vice President Terry Engler

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the July 19, 2017 meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

The following credentials were received since the last VDLC meeting:

(* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

BCGEU Local 603

Steve Anderson

HEU Lions Gate Local

Sherree Alm

BCTF – Burnaby Assoc.

Frank Bonvino *

Katie Marsh

Dave McPhee *

James Sanyshyn *

Leanne Sjodin *

Daniel Tétrault

Unifor Local 2002

Nancy Eaton Jones

Luis Poblete

USW Local 1944, Unit 63

Julie Kadir

CUPE Local 1004

Andy Healey

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

MSC to consider Executive Recommendation regarding the Vancouver Municipal By-election candidate endorsements immediately following the President's Report.

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Political Action

The Vancouver by-election to replace Councilor Geoff Meggs will be on October 14 and the Vancouver School Board trustees will be elected that same day.

The VDLC's multi-union vetting committee had representation from CUPE Locals 15, 391, and 1004, VSTA, VESTA, BCGEU, Operating Engineers, TWU/USW, IAFF 18, FPSE, MoveUP, and Unifor. Their recommendations will be voted on at this meeting.

Labour Day

The VDLC booth at Labour Day 2017 was very busy at Holland Park in Surrey. Our balloon clown was very popular and we had VDLC pencils, balloons, reflector/flashers, smartphone card holders, and waterless tattoos to give away as well as various literature. Trout Lake Park has been booked for the 2018 Labour Day in Vancouver and a letter is being sent to the New Westminster and District Labour Council inviting them to collaborate next year.

VDLC Education Program

The two courses scheduled for October 14, BC Labour Code and Effective Meetings, have been postponed due to the Vancouver by-elections that same day. Letters have been sent to previous instructors in the program inviting them to express interest in being scheduled into our 2018 educational opportunities.

Protein for People

The community forum will be September 21 between 2:30 and 5:30 pm at Queen Alexandra Elementary School. Posters and letters inviting affiliates to table and volunteer were mailed out at the end of August.

SFU Labour Studies Program

The program received notification from the provincial government that it is now authorized to offer a bachelor degree in labour studies. This is a significant achievement and lays the foundation to the next step of a master's degree.

Tickets – 411 Senior's Centre 40th Anniversary

The VDLC has 3 tickets available for this dinner on September 28 at the Italian Cultural Centre. The reception starts at 4:30 and dinner at 6:00 pm.

Suspension of regular order of business.

6. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATION FOR VANCOUVER BY-ELECTION:

Moved Seconded that the following recommendation be adopted:

Subject: Vancouver October 14, 2017 By-election

BECAUSE the VDLC has a responsibility to vet and recommend candidates for municipal elections; and

BECAUSE there will be a by-election for one of the Vancouver city council seats vacated by Geoff Meggs, plus replacement of the nine Vancouver School Board trustees previously fired by the Clark Liberal government; and

BECAUSE the VDLC invited its affiliates to appoint representation to an ad-hoc multi-union vetting committee to develop a list of recommended candidates for election and that committee has completed their task,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the following candidates in the October 14, 2017 Vancouver by-election, as recommended by the Multi-Union Vetting Committee:

Vancouver City Council:

1 position available – 4 requests (Vision, OneCity, Independent/Swanson, Greens)

1. Judy Graves, OneCity

Vancouver School Board:

9 positions available – 8 requests (Vision [5], OneCity [2], and COPE [1])

1. Joy Alexander, Vision
2. Ken Clement, Vision
3. Theodora Lamb, Vision
4. Mike Lombardi, Vision
5. Allan Wong, Vision
6. Carrie Bercic, OneCity
7. Erica Jaaf, OneCity

MSC to split the motion to divide the vote on the City Council position from the vote on the Vancouver School Board Trustees.

City Council

Moved Seconded that the following recommendation be adopted:

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1 position available – 4 requests (Vision, OneCity, Independent/Swanson, Greens)

1. Judy Graves, OneCity

Amendment Moved Seconded Defeated

To replace City Council candidate Judy Graves with candidate Diego Cardona.

Amendment Moved Seconded Defeated

To replace City Council candidate Judy Graves with candidate Jean Swanson.

MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:

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1. Judy Graves, OneCity

School Board

Moved Seconded that the following recommendation be adopted:

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9 positions available – 8 requests (Vision [5], OneCity [2], and COPE [1])

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Joy Alexander, Vision | 5. Allan Wong, Vision |
| 2. Ken Clement, Vision | 6. Carrie Bercic, OneCity |
| 3. Theodora Lamb, Vision | 7. Erica Jaaf, OneCity |
| 4. Mike Lombardi, Vision | |

Amendment Moved Seconded Defeated

To add Diana Day, COPE candidate for School Board as an 8th endorsed candidate for School Board.

MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:

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| 3. Theodora Lamb, Vision | 7. Erica Jaaf, OneCity |
| 4. Mike Lombardi, Vision | |

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Correspondence list circulated at meeting
MSC to accept the correspondence as circulated.

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: New Affiliate – PSAC Local 20045

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the application for affiliation from PSAC Local 20045, representing approximately 42 federal government employees.

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

Subject: Spending Authorizations

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL authorize the following expenditures:

- BC Poverty Reduction Coalition – Renew membership at a cost of \$100
- United Way of the Lower Mainland fundraising – Donation of \$300
- Rabble.ca electronic news fundraising – Donation of \$100
- BC FORUM – Donation of \$100

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

Subject: BC NDP Convention 2017

BECAUSE this is the first BC NDP Convention in many years where they are the government, and

BECAUSE there is an integration between provincial jurisdiction and municipal matters that the VDLC advocates around, and

BECAUSE the money budgeted for delegates to the CLC Convention was not spent,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL send 2 delegates to attend the BC NDP Convention: VDLC President Joey Hartman and 2nd Vice President Stephen Von Sychowski, and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER approve up to \$300 further for costs of transportation and accommodation.

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

Subject: Save Our Coasts Private Members Bill C-352 re: Abandoned Vessels

BECAUSE the NDP MP for Nanaimo-Ladysmith has initiated Bill C-352 which, if adopted as federal legislation would take action to clean up abandoned vessels and protect our coast; and

BECAUSE there is currently no regulations or programs to remove and recycle thousands of abandoned vessels in Canadian waterways before they become hazardous to the environment and navigation safety,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse and assist with the campaign to adopt federal Bill C-352 “An Act to amend the Canada Shipping Act, 2001 and provide for the development of a national strategy for abandoned vessels” which would fix vessel registration, pilot a vessel turn-in program, create good green jobs by supporting local marine salvage businesses and vessel recycling, and make the Coast Guard responsible for directing the removal of abandoned vessels.

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

Subject: Unite Against Hate, Racism and Xenophobia

BECAUSE CLC President Hassan Yussuff issued a statement on August 18 that condemned the recent violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, which was the result of provocative demonstrations driven by racism, hate and exclusion; and

BECAUSE, in Charlottesville, white supremacists, including the former director of the Ku Klux Klan, marched with torches, Nazi symbols, and hateful, racist, anti-Semitic chants, attacked those who stood courageously in defense of human decency, murdered civil rights activist Heather Heyer, and injured dozens more; and

BECAUSE Some of the neo-Nazis who marched in Charlottesville were from Canada, and support for the hatred they espouse is growing in this country too; from the treatment of Indigenous peoples to the murder of Muslim worshipers in Quebec among other

examples, Canadians must recognize that we too face an enormous challenge in combatting racism, xenophobia, and hate across our own nation; and

BECAUSE a white supremacist rally at Vancouver's city hall on August 19 was effectively and peacefully met by a counter protest that was attended by thousands; and

BECAUSE the fostering of hatred and division have historically fed on the anger of the dispossessed, weakened the labour movement, and hindered our ability to achieve economic justice for all workers,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon its affiliates, community, political, and business leaders to continue to work together in solidarity to help stamp out the hate, fascist ideology including neo-nazism, discrimination, and oppression here in Canada; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER ensure that our work promotes a labour movement which is inclusive and representative of the diverse working class which it represents; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER participate in activities that demonstrate our condemnation of acts of hatred in our communities; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY act to ensure that organizations representing the targeted demographics within our society are included in the strategizing and planning.

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

Subject: Solidarity with USW Local 144 in Bargaining with Freedom Mobile, Windsor Ontario

BECAUSE the 190 employees at Freedom Mobile's call-centre in Windsor, Ontario joined the United Steelworkers in January 2017, becoming USW Local 1944; and

BECAUSE their elected bargaining committee, along with USW bargainers and reps from USW National local 1944 (the USW's national telecommunications local), have been at the table with Freedom in first contract bargaining since mid-March; and

BECAUSE USW Local 1944, having exhausted conciliation under the Canada Labour Code and in mid-August, supported by a unanimous recommendation from their elected bargaining committee, the employees voted to reject a substandard contract offer from the company; and

BECAUSE the union is working hard to get a fair deal with this very successful company, Freedom Mobile, which is Canada's fourth-largest mobile operator, is owned by Shaw Communications, one of Canada's major telecom corporations with Telus Corporation as its chief competitor. Shaw acquired Freedom Mobile (formerly known as Wind Mobile) in 2015 for approximately \$1.6 billion dollars,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL send a statement of solidarity and support to USW Local 1944 in their efforts to achieve a good collective agreement with Freedom Mobile, and to also urge the employer to direct their negotiators to bargain fairly.

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

a) ILWU Local 500 – Reported by Joulene Parent

Third ILWU Young Workers' Conference will be September 27, 28, and 29. There will be 145 delegates from the Philippines, Poland, Germany, United Kingdom, Australia, United States, and Canada. As a part of the conference, they are holding a *Fight for \$15* rally on September 27.

Local 500 held their Annual Labour Day Golf Tournament, \$8000 was raised for a trust fund for the young daughter of member Cory Marcinkow who passed away.

Pensioners' banquet will be October 5.

b) Unifor Local 114 – Reported by Maurice Mills

Brothers Mills attended a meeting in Toronto from August 29 to 31 with other unions to discuss forming one National Health and Safety Policy Committee at Brinks. At present, there are two committees and ultimately it would be stronger to present a united front to the company.

The bargaining committee for Brinks has had more bargaining sessions with the company. BC and Ontario are both in conciliation which expires September 25 and 26 respectively. The company continues to demand reduced crew sizes and to change the defined benefit pension to defined contribution. Ontario has taken a strike vote which was 98% in favour of a strike; BC just finished taking a strike vote which was 95% in favour of a strike. We could be headed for a labour dispute. The company could be facing the prospect of BC and Ontario on strike at the same time.

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

a) UA Plumbers Local 170 – Reported by Russ St. Eloi

b) CUPE Local 15 – Reported by Warren Williams

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: Nil

a) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

Since the meeting in July, the dispute between Pacific Blue Cross and CUPE Local 1816 has been resolved. CUPE members ratified a collective agreement ending the lock-out. Thanks were extended to the VDLC for the support; Stephen thanked everyone who was a part of that support.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman, Sandy Bauer

Thank you to the VDLC for their donation. On September 15, the Office of the Seniors Advocate of BC posted the results of the Residential Care survey. The survey was a huge undertaking and it was thanks to senior volunteers that it was completed. Results at www.seniorsadvocatebc.ca. It's not surprising that the top 3 concerns are: more baths and showers, better toileting, and better eating experience and socialization. The common solution for all these, is more staffing. There will be a National Pensioners Federation Convention in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia in November. October 1 is the UN International Day of Retired Persons.

Art Kube was awarded a life membership at FORUM for his years of service to the labour movement.

BC FORUM passed resolutions on Pharmacare and Fair Wage – see the *Advocate* for details.

b) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

Pharmacare campaign was launched on Labour Day. Labour councils will be asked to conduct lobbies in the fall in target ridings and a full lobby of all MPs in the spring. The VDLC will be asked to lobby at least 3 MPs this fall and possibly hold a forum. There will be a hard launch of the campaign on November 6.

On September 18 the province introduced proposed legislation that would ban corporate and union donations. Once passed, these new rules around fundraising for provincial parties and unions will mean that tickets for fundraisers will no longer be purchasable by labour; the next phase of this has to do with union and corporate donations at the municipal level as well, including school board.

Preliminary course schedule for Harrison Winter School 2018 is out. Registration will open mid-October.

Changes to federal legislation on pay equity, domestic violence, harassment, and amendments to Canada Labour Code Part 3 should be out soon. We want it completed by the end of the year as it sounds like the federal Liberals will prorogue the House to kick-start a new Throne speech and their second half of term plans. Pressure is being put on to get through much of the legislation that currently sits in wait before the end of the year. Once the House is prorogued, that proposed legislation still in process is lost and the work needs to be started from scratch. The Senate needs to be pushed as well. There will also be a push to stop contract flipping.

“Green Jobs” conference fall of 2018, likely in Edmonton.

The next G7 is in Canada.

MSC to receive the other reports.

12. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Fight for \$15 Rally – ILWU Young Workers’ marching from Maritime Labour Centre to Grandview Park – September 27, gather at the MLC at 1:00 pm.
- HEU Brother Peter Marcus has had a poem published in the Westender.
- Unifor Local 114 delegate Maurice Mills attended the barbeque held jointly by NDP MP Peter Julian and NDP MLA Raj Chouhan on Saturday, August 5 at Edmonds Plaza and Park. It is one of the ways they keep in touch with their constituents. Both Julian and Chouhan make themselves available for conversation and are very available.
- Unifor Local 114 delegate Maurice Mills attended a rally Friday, September 15 in support of the food and beverage workers at the Edgewater casino. The casino will soon be moving to a new location; the casino owners want to leave behind the union food and beverage workers and hire non-union food and beverage workers at the new location. More actions are planned.
- Word Festival is taking place at Vancouver Public Library, September 24. Two CUPE Local 391 members will be speaking and reading some of their published works.
- HEU sister and sex worker rights activist Lisa Kreut announced that the morning of September 19, Sisi Thibert, a trans sex worker, died after suffering a stabbing attack from a client; Sisi is the fourth sex worker murdered in Canada in a month. Laws currently put sex workers out of the line of safety. All workers deserve to come home safely at the end of the day – these laws need to change.
- CUPE lost a long time representative from CUPE BC, Jeff Lawson.

A moment of silence was held for CUPE member Jeff Lawson and Sisi Thibert murdered on the job.

- Nettie Wild documentary film, *Uninterrupted*, about the salmon run will be screening for free under the Cambie Bridge.
- Film, *Ukraine on Fire*, about the regime change and the rise of facism, September 24.

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 8:20 pm.*

16. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2017**, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

Next Pizza Educational
Tuesday, October 17, 2017
6:00 pm

Your Community Services and Peer Referrals

Nikki Hill, United Way of the Lower Mainland, CLC Labour Participation Department

Thanks to support from the labour movement, United Way has built a strong social network of programs and services in our communities to help those in need. This educational session will help participants learn about these resources that are available to assist members. As a key component of the United Way/CLC Labour Community Advocates program, participants will learn how to use services such as BC211 to access agency support.

For lists of happenings please see our website events page – www.vdvc.ca/events/