



**REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2015**

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

2. **CHAIRPERSON:** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Terry Engler

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*MSC that the minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting be adopted.*

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

The following credentials were received since the last meeting: (\* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

USW TWU Local 1944 – Unit 63

Paul Browning

Patricia Smith (A)

Julie Todd (A)

Willow Russell

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

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the September 15, 2015 meeting.

Anita Yan Labour Law and other Labour Education for 2016

Instructors who have taught labour law classes previously are being contacted to re-offer. Plans are also underway to develop a media training & public speaking course, as well as a book study of one of Bill Fletcher Jr's book in 2016.

Protein for People

With live music, face-painting, a duck pond, an excellent clown, and about 1,000 hot dogs, we were also fortunate to have mild and dry weather which allowed an outdoor event at Queen Alexandra Elementary School. In addition, MLA Shane Simpson participated and Unifor set up a swag table. Many school staff and families attended. Next year we may have 2 events – one in Vancouver and another in Richmond. All costs are covered by Protein for People.

2015 Queen Alexandra School Fundraiser

The September 29 dinner succeeded in raising about \$9,000 for the Wishing Tree at Queen Alexandra. This is about \$3,000 less than last year, mostly due to low ticket sales which resulted from the timing being both too soon after summer break and too close to the Federal election. Many unions and individuals who could not actually attend did purchase tickets to donate back; we were able to fill 3 tables with community activists and family members who would not otherwise have been able to attend.

### Federal Election

Almost 50 people participated in the VDLC canvass blitz on Sunday, October 4. Half canvassed for Constance Barnes in Vancouver Centre and the other half for Mira Oreck in Vancouver Granville. Several additional VDLC canvasses were also carried out.

### Metro Vancouver Alliance

The MVA organized a federal election assembly for Vancouver Granville and invited all the candidates to participate. Only the NDP and Green candidates attended, with the Liberal candidate participating via a pre-recorded video. The MVA is also hosting a 2 day training session in November and a week-long regional training in February.

### Chinese Trade Union Delegations

A September 21 meeting with a delegation from the Beijing Municipal Federation of Trade Unions (BMFTU) was very successful. A smaller meeting was held on October 16<sup>th</sup> with a delegation from Guangdong Province.

### Worker Action Centre

Plans are taking shape for a public forum on the evening of November 18 at SFU Harbour Centre to explore three Canadian examples of worker centres. The moderator will be Kendra Strauss from the SFU Labour Studies, and panellist will be Deena Ladd from the Toronto Workers' Action Centre, Joey Calugay from the Montreal Immigrant Workers' Centre, and someone from TAPS in Victoria.

*MSC to adopt the report*

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE:**      Circulated

## **7. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

Subject:            Spending Approvals

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

- Libby Davies Community Event – Donation of \$100.00
- CUPE 391 participation in WORD Vancouver – Donation of \$50.00
- Wreath for November 11 ceremony – Legion Branch #118 – At a cost of \$75.00
- United Way of the Lower Mainland – December Labour Appreciation Dinner – 10 tickets at \$50.00 – For a total cost of \$500.00

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

Subject: Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement

BECAUSE the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) has recently been reached by twelve nations: the U.S.A., Japan, Australia, Peru, Malaysia, Vietnam, New Zealand, Chile, Singapore, Canada, Mexico, and Brunei Darussalam, which have a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of US \$28.5 billion; and

BECAUSE TPP is expected to have many detrimental impacts on Canadian manufacturing and agricultural sectors, increase the cost of pharmaceuticals and have many other negative consequences for Canadian workers and those abroad; and

BECAUSE the percentage of Canadian content in auto manufacturing to avoid tariffs will be reduced from 62.5 per cent to 45 per cent, which Unifor predicts will eliminate 20,000 jobs when combined with the anticipated loss of auto assembly and parts manufacturing investments; and

BECAUSE the TPP would extend the NAFTA-style investor-state provisions that give corporations the “right” to sue governments for policies or regulations that *might* reduce profits, as in the 2010 case of forestry firm AbitibiBowater Inc. who successfully sued Canada for \$130-million after the company won a NAFTA Chapter 11 challenge against Newfoundland and Labrador’s decision to expropriate its assets,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support the Canadian Labour Congress president Hassan Yussuff in his statements that “The CLC, along with its American and Mexican partners, calls for good jobs and decent work in a sustainable economy that is balanced and equitable – within and among our countries,” and “The TPP – or any other trade deal – should put these priorities above corporate profits, every time,”; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER call upon the government of Canada to release the full text of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement to the public, and decline to ratify the TPP until the concessions have been amended and reversed, and the investor rights provisions removed.

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

a) TSSU – Reported by Matt Greaves

The TSSU has been without a contract since April of 2014. Bargaining has, obviously, not gone well. The employer (SFU) is currently attempting to set preconditions for ‘final offer selection’ that would allow the Public Sector Employers’ Council to nullify the decision of an arbitrator, effectively unbinding the arbitration process. The union is asking for public letters of support from other unions and individuals, and that alumni also write letters stating that they refuse to donate to SFU until the TSSU is given a fair collective agreement.

b) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Michael Lanier

Lots of volunteers at work on federal campaigns. CUPE is also preparing for CUPE National Convention, November 1 to 6, Convention Centre West at Canada Place. Paul Moist is retiring from CUPE National and a new National President will be elected; Mark Hancock of CUPE BC is running. The BC NDP Convention follows directly after.

Local 1936 sent two young workers to the CUPE Young Workers’ Conference in Prince George.

Last week CUPE BC held their “big committee” meeting bringing together all committees. Attending delegates supported two federal campaign actions – one at Boundary & Kingsway and one at 41<sup>st</sup> & Main in support of NDP Candidates. A large number of CUPE Presidents and members worked E-Day October 19 by donating time with a vacation day to be off work.

c) CUPE Local 391

On behalf of Local 391, Brother Jarvis thanked the VDLC for the donation to WORD Vancouver.

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

## 9. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

### a) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

The BCAA lock-out continues. The COPE Local 378 rep coordinating the members is working on some actions and will keep the Labour Council apprised of the situation. Picket lines remain up 24/7 any and all support is welcomed. Morale remains high, but it is not an easy situation.

Suggested after next meeting, if the lock-out continues, that delegates and guests go to BCAA picket line in a solidarity caravan. (see information attached)

*MSC to adopt the reports.*

## 10. CLC REPORT: Reported by Ron Stipp

Where do things stand after the election? As everyone knows, the Liberals won a majority government with 184 seats, the Conservatives down to 99, the NDP down to 44, the Bloc with 10, and the Greens with 1. In the Maritime Provinces every seat went to the Liberals, The NDP lost some very good MPs; but held onto 16 seats in Québec and happily MP Ruth Ellen Brosseau won handily; Ontario was a big problem, the NDP is down to 8 seats; Manitoba, NDP gained 2 seats; Saskatchewan, NDP won 3 seats (NDP hasn't had a seat in Saskatchewan for a long time); Alberta, NDP maintained their 1 seat; and in BC the NDP gained 2 more seats for 14 seats total.

The most interesting is that Vancouver Island was an NDP sweep, except for Green Party Leader Elizabeth May's seat. Seats were won in areas that haven't been NDP in a long time, however the Lower Mainland was unfortunate. Surrey was lost, but retained seats in New Westminister Burnaby, and Vancouver's 2 were retained.

Those working the campaigns likely noticed a shift last week towards Liberal. Liberals spent a fortune in radio and television ad campaigns, people wanted a change and saw that as their best avenue. The good news is that Harper is gone.

Liberal's promises offer the following expectations: expansion of the CPP, lowering of Old Age Pension back to 65 years, increases to GIS (Guaranteed Income Supplement), expansion of apprenticeship and training, negotiation of new health accord, commitment to the repealing of Bills C77 an 525, there will be a call for inquiry in missing and murdered indigenous women. The Liberal are being called upon to make public the details around the TPP that were negotiated privately by the Conservative government. They have said they will amend C-77, but there will be a push to repeal the law altogether. The Liberals are weak on childcare so they will be lobbied on that as well. There is a feeling that the door is open to labour, but the telling will be in who is appointed to the cabinet. The door has been sealed to the labour movement for 10 years, there will be a concerted effort now to go to all MPs and start the conversation – Vancouver and District Labour Council jurisdiction is down to 1 conservative MP, Alice Wong. Delegates will be called on to come to lobbies, especially if a lobby is being held with your MP, as a lobby carries more weight if you are their constituent.

Harrison Winter School program is out. Register early, courses fill up and the introductory courses tend to fill early. There are a number of new courses being offered.

*MSC to receive the report.*

**11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** NIL

**12. NEW BUSINESS:** NIL

**13. NOTICE OF MOTION:** NIL

**14. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- We Can End Violence Against Women (We Can) will be screening a film on December 6 at the Djavad Mowafaghian Cinema at SFU Woodwards at 7 pm. The film will either be, *I am a Girl*, about the structural and cultural institutes that oppress women through the world, or, *Private Violence*, about survivors and myths of domestic violence. Tickets are \$15, can be purchased through the box office or from Graham O'Neill after the meeting – Graham can also be contacted at [uniongeek@hotmail.com](mailto:uniongeek@hotmail.com).
- World Peace Forum Teach-In, November 15 at Simon Fraser Harbour Centre will have some terrific speakers:
  - Sara Raffi, a young, radical, progressive journalist from New York who writes and blogs predominantly on the labour movement, grassroots organizing, social and economic justice and is very interested in fast food organizing and economic justice in the US – she has a pod cast “Be Labored” and writes for Dissent Magazine and often has articles featured in the Guardian;
  - Kanahus Manuel, indigenous activist from the Northern nation of Secwepemc, will be speaking about the work being done across Canada in indigenous communities and specifically around Mount Polley and missing and murdered women; and
  - A representative from Working Washington, who has been very involved in fast food organizing and SEIU organizing of homecare workers and care aids in Washington State.
- Demonstration at the Vancouver Public Library, October 23, in solidarity with Palestinian people

**15. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *MSC to adjourn at 9:15 pm.*

**16. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015**, 7:30 pm,  
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street.

**Pizza Educational**  
**CLIFF Film**

**Tuesday, November 17**  
**6:00 pm**

**Maritime Labour Centre**

*Immediately preceding the Regular meeting. Pizza by donation.*

*For more events and for full size of event flyers and for education brochures please visit website – [www.vdvc.ca](http://www.vdvc.ca)*

**Vancouver & District Labour Council**  
**2015 Labour Education**  
Anita Yan Memorial Labour Law

**Courses Offered November & December**

Stress in the Workplace (All levels)	Michael Prokosh - McGrady & Co.	November 28 - Saturday
Effective Grievances (Introductory)	Megan Ashbury - BCGEU	December 5 - Saturday


**Courses will be held in the Maritime Labour Centre**  
**111 Victoria Drive - Boardroom 1**

**To Register contact the VDLC**  
**604.254.0703 office@vdlc.ca**



**CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS**  
**PACIFIC REGION**

**Winter School**



**January 17 - February 19, 2016**  
**Harrison Hot Springs, BC**

canadianlabour.ca

Canadian Labour Congress  
Conseil du Travail du Canada



**Workers in Action:**  
Exploring Workers Centres Across Canada

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2015  
7PM - 9PM  
SFU HARBOUR CENTRE  
515 W. Hastings St, Vancouver

The event is free but please register at  
picatic.com/workersinaction to reserve a seat

Workers have incredible power when they come together around common goals. Across Canada groups of workers are organizing, advocating, and bringing about change in their communities. Learn about three different worker centre models in Victoria, Toronto and Montreal.

Speakers:  
**Deena Ladd** - Toronto Workers Action Centre, Toronto, ON  
**Joey Calugay** - Immigrant Workers Centre, Montreal, QUE  
**Stephen Portman** - Together Against Poverty Society, Victoria, BC

Moderated by:  
**Dr. Kendra Strauss** - Assistant Professor, The Labour Studies Program

