



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2016**

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 September 20, 2016 meeting be adopted.

4. CREDENTIALS:

CUPW Vancouver

Heather Andrews

Maria Arico-Pucovsky

Ana Maria Dela Rosa (A)

Angelito Decena *

Nathan Fralick *

Jeannette McConnell *

Marion Pollack (A)*

Harvey Ripley *

Jennifer Savage (A)*

Louise Sloan *

John Tweed *

ILWU Local 400

Jason Woods

Unifor Local 4275

Noah Lees

5. GUEST SPEAKERS:

a) Sergeant Dave Smith, RCMP Labour Liaison

Sergeant Smith is the Labour Liaison officer for BC. It is the only position of its type in Canada. His role is to keep police away from labour issues. When a rally or demonstration is being planned, contact Sgt. Smith, he'll communicate with local law enforcement to ensure that the action is not interrupted or interfered with by police. Sgt. Smith also facilitates a seminar at CLC Winter School, Tuesday nights, on what is permissible around demonstrator rights, civil disobedience, etc.

Sgt. Dave Smith's contact information is available on the VDLC website.

b) Edith MacHatty BC Health Coalition

Edith is a Co-Chair of the BC Health Coalition and member of the BC Health Sciences Association. Materials were provided to delegates and guests. Sister MacHatty shared stories illustrating the strength of Canada's public healthcare system and how by virtue of requiring medical attention or services, people are provided with care without having to worry about the cost. Universal access is something to be proud of and to fight for. The BC Health Coalition (BCHC) is a network of organizations across the province, including labour unions, community

and health groups, seniors' organizations, and youth advocacy groups. The board is made up of 7 trade union and 7 community representatives. The BCHC do a variety of education campaigns, policy research, political lobbying, and are now involved in a high profile court case involving Dr. Brian Day. Dr. Day is challenging medicare and wants to allow a for profit system for medically necessary procedures; for doctors to be allowed to work both publically and privately; and lifting of service fee caps for procedures, allowing doctors to charge whatever they want. This could have devastating effects for working people. The BC Health Coalition has intervenor status in the case, allowing them to present evidence in support of BC's medical system and providing solutions. They have proposed changes like centralizing wait lists, or reorganizing how surgeons deliver services; Delegates were urged to go back to their locals with the information and urge their support. Everyone was encouraged to join the BC Health Coalition. They are fundraising to fund their court case.

Websites – BCHealthCoalition.ca – and – SaveMedicare.ca

c) Laurence Cameron United Way of the Lower Mainland

Laurence Cameron is a member of CUPE Local 1004, Co-chair of the Essential Engineering OH&S Committee, and a campaign associate for the United Way. The United Way is the second largest provider to communities, second only to the federal and provincial governments. Any money collected through donations stays in the Lower Mainland; it is important that decisions of how money be spent here are made here, by local people that understand the need. On the website, you can find the campaign toolkit, follow that link and find where services are. Two examples of programs being coordinated by the UWLM are: a program in Port Coquitlam where seniors from the community are providing services to youth in need and a service being provided by a Chinese youth association in Chinatown, where the youth are assisting elders in their community. Communities are like an ecosystem, in order for the whole to function, each little bit needs to be healthy. Everyone needs a hand once in a while. Please consider donating to the United Way.

Delegates and guests were invited to check out the website – UWLM.ca

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the September 20, 2016 meeting.

Political Engagement

Good news, on October 4 the BC government signed on to the plan to increase CPP for Canadians. They had initially agreed to sign, then insisted on a consultative process before becoming a signatory province.

Responses to the VDLC political engagement survey have been very low, but 30 attended a meeting and wine & cheese social the evening of October 13. About half were from the VDLC executive and affiliates, the rest politicians endorsed by the VDLC in 2014.

Protein for People – Hot Dog Day at Queen Alexandra School

September 28 was a beautiful sunny day and perfect for our public forum. Most participants were school children and their families from Queen Alexandra. Everyone enjoyed the clown, face-painters, bouncy obstacle course, fire truck, live band, and tables set up by Unifor, UA Plumbers Local 170, and the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. Of course, the hot dogs, oranges, and juice were equally popular.

Employment Standards Coalition

Six ESA Coalition workers' forums are underway, with non-union workers being interviewed about their stories of "bad jobs". These will add narrative to the Coalition's submissions on how ESA needs strengthening and enforcement.

Living Wage Campaign

As expected, Vancouver City Council voted on September 21 to become a living wage employer for direct and contracted staff. In phase 2 the efforts will be to work with the elected and appointed boards for the Park Board, Library, Police, Fire, and PNE to also adopt the policy. The Vancouver Sun published an Op Ed written by Sister Hartman with Adrienne Montani and Trish Garner to applaud the council's leadership.

The campaign is now working on a goal to have candidates in the May 9 provincial election commit to supporting a policy for the government of BC to be a living wage employer.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

The AGM was held on September 22 and Sister Hartman continues as one of three labour representatives on the executive board.

Plans are underway for a provincial pre-election accountability assembly to be held the evening of April 4 at the Italian Cultural Centre. About 1000 participants are expected from MVA member and allied organizations. The leaders of the four main provincial parties have already been invited. John Horgan and Andrew Weaver are confirmed, Christy Clark has not yet responded except to say it's too early to know, and the conservative leader has just been elected. The VDLC will need to commit to a certain number of participants and ensure those seats are filled.

VDLC Scholarship to Harrison Winter School

The application deadline was October 4 at 9:00 am and has been awarded to Joy Tullos from CUPE Local 15. The recipient will have their full registration covered plus up to \$1000.00 for wage loss. The scholarship is paid for by the VDLC education fund. A second scholarship for a woman delegate is being offered by the VDLC Women's Committee.

Solidarity in Action

MoveUP members working at the BC Nurses continue to be on the picket line. Any affiliates needing short term temp workers should consider hiring a striking MoveUP member.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Circulated at meeting

8. **EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

Subject: Spending Authorizations

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

- Metro Vancouver Alliance membership 2016 dues – At a cost of \$840.00
- Royal Canadian Legion 118, wreath for Remembrance Day Ceremony – At a cost of \$80.00
- United Way of the Lower Mainland – Donation of \$200.00
- Canopy purchase from Tim Cheung – At a cost of \$200.00
- New Westminster and District Labour Council 50th Anniversary Dinner, October 22, \$50 each – Purchase 2 tickets for a total cost of \$100.00

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

Subject: Support for BC Health Coalition in BC Supreme Court case *Cambie Surgical Centre et al. versus Medical Services Commission et al*

BECAUSE the for-profit clinic CEO, Brian Day, has launched a lawsuit against Canada's public health care system; and

BECAUSE Dr. Day is trying to change the health care system so that doctors can charge patients unlimited amounts for all procedures and services; and

BECAUSE this change could move Canada to an American-style system with parallel private care and insurance (putting private insurance companies in the position to deny patients health care coverage for basic services like visits to the emergency room or cancer treatment); and

BECAUSE if Brian Day wins, many Canadians won't be able to afford health care and we will have to wait longer for treatment - while the very wealthy pay to jump ahead in line; and

BECAUSE the VDLC is a member organization of the BC Health Coalition, which is an intervener in the case *Cambie Surgical Centre et al. versus Medical Services Commission et al.*,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL continue to support the efforts of the BC Health Coalition to persuade the BC Supreme Court to find against Dr. Brian Day and the Cambie Surgical Centre in their attempt to undermine and privatize our public health care system; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER donate \$200.00 to the BC Health Coalition to assist with the legal fees related to their work as interveners at the BC Supreme Court in defense of public health care.

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

Subject: Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds for USA Iraq War Resisters

BECAUSE the VDLC has previously supported sanctuary for USA military members who have sought refuge in Canada as “war resisters” from the American military strategy in Iraq – a war which Canada chose not to join; and

BECAUSE the war resisters who have now been in Vancouver and other parts of Canada for a decade or longer have over that time established community, friendships, jobs, families and a network of Canadians who wish to see them granted permanent Canadian residency under the Humanitarian and Compassionate Grounds provisions available to the Minister of Immigration; and

BECAUSE the change in federal government in 2016 replaced the Harper Conservatives with the Trudeau Liberals, with the Liberals historically having a more compassionate policy towards war resisters and deserters from the USA,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to the Minister of Immigration, John McCallum, to urge his intervention to grant permanent Canadian residency to Iraq war-resisters from the USA who have made application for this status to allow them to stay in Canada and participate as full citizens without fear of deportation and American military prosecution, and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL invite Sarah Bjorknas, a peace activist and member of CUPE 23, who has provided sanctuary and other support for war-resisters, as a guest speaker at the November 2016 VDLC meeting.

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

Subject: Oppose Privatization of Long-Term Care Facilities by Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

BECAUSE the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, headquartered in Vancouver, has announced their intention to close two publicly funded and operated long term care facilities for seniors in Sechelt, and to replace them with private for-profit facilities; and

BECAUSE there is ample evidence proving that seniors in for-profit care receive inferior care and fewer hours of staffing, while at the same time the approximately 200 employees have no guarantee of re-hire, and would experience significant cuts to wages and benefits; and

BECAUSE there was no consultation with the elected officials in Sechelt nor the community in advance of this decision; and

BECAUSE every speaker at a public meeting attended by an overflow crowd of over 200 people opposed the plan, and then voted unanimously to seek reconsideration of the decision, and are organizing actions to support this call,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority to reverse their decision to close and privatize two long term care facilities in Sechelt; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER support community actions designed to persuade the health authority to keep the two facilities in question open with full public funding and operation.

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

Subject: Asbestos Resolution

BECAUSE it is estimated that more than 2,000 people die every year from diseases caused by asbestos exposure, like mesothelioma and lung cancer. Death from mesothelioma increased 60 percent between 2000 and 2012; and

BECAUSE Asbestos-related diseases are on the rise: In 1992, there were 276 recorded cases of mesothelioma. Twenty years later the number of new cases of mesothelioma has more than doubled, with 560 recorded in 2012; and

BECAUSE Asbestos imports into Canada are increasing: Imports of asbestos-related items rose to \$8.2 million in 2015; and

BECAUSE in addition to their health, Canadians' jobs are being put at risk: Canada is importing replacement brake pads and linings containing asbestos, despite the fact that Canada manufactures non-asbestos replacement alternatives,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL urge those municipal elected representatives who were endorsed by the VDLC in 2014 to lead an effort to pass a resolution supporting the CLC's call for a comprehensive ban on asbestos – that resolution to state that:

1. The city council will support the Canadian Labour Congress' call for a comprehensive ban on asbestos; and
2. Directing that the city send a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Federal Minister of Labour, and the Minister of Health petitioning them to pass legislation officially banning the use, exportation, and import of asbestos and calling for a national public registry of buildings that currently contain asbestos.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) CUPE Local 391 - Reported by Gary Jarvis

The union and the employer met once for bargaining in July to exchange proposals and will be meeting again November 6.

Branch services staffing report – there are some benefits for precarious workers, namely auxiliary workers and shelvers.

Central and Carnegie branches have suffered some flooding.

Word Vancouver on September 25 was very successful with Canadian authors Carol Shaben, Anakana Schofield, and Andrew MacLeod who won the 2016 Ryga Prize for A Better Place on Earth presenting. CUPE made its presence known with its trailer at the event.

CUPE Local 391 thanks the VDLC and affiliates for their work to achieve a yes vote for a living wage at Vancouver City Council

b) USW Local 1944, Unit 63 – Reported by Benny Chou

The TWU bargaining committee at Telus has brought back a tentative agreement, but no recommendation for either acceptance or rejection. It was a very difficult set of negotiations. The committee feels it is important for the membership to hear their presentation at the ratification meeting and fully understand the paths available to them. This agreement has concessions for many members, but the union's bargaining committee was also able to resist the following employer demands for concessions:

- Removal of the ability to add previous employment seniority after 5 years,
- Shop stewards only able to attend investigative meetings limited to serious misconduct resulting only in suspensions or terminations,
- Elimination of current step 2 of grievances,
- Company wanted to enhance its ability to deny wage step progression if a member was not meeting their metrics,
- Introduction of split shifts to all areas,
- Change of language to allow volunteers to fill “undesirable” shifts prior to the posting of schedules,
- Reduce double-time premium for short notice schedule changes,
- Deletion of meal allowances,
- Making medical or dental examinations/treatments subject to business requirements, and
- Only having to pay the first 14 days of members' occupational disability claim.

While there are no wage increases for the first 3 years, they were able to get a non-compounding lump sum payment in lieu of wages.

c) Unifor Local 114 – Reported by Maurice Mills

Brother Mills appeared before the Special Committee on Electoral Reform on September 28. Krista Lee Monroe from Unifor Local 111 and Gavin McGarrigle, Unifor Area Director, also spoke to the committee. Each was allowed two minutes. Brother Mills also spoke at the community consultation held by his local MP, October 12. There are a lot of indicators that the government may reverse the commitment made during the election that every vote should count in the next federal election.

Anyone who has not signed the petition for Bill C-285, National Standards for the Armoured Transport of Currency and Valuables Act, should do that. Maurice will be at the Unifor BC Regional Council booth at the BC Fed Convention with petitions for signing. Their booth at the Unifor Council in Ottawa was very successful in obtaining signatures. Brother Mills will be speaking at BC Regional Council, bringing delegates up to speed on the “As Safe As Our Cargo” campaign and Bill C-285.

d) ILWU Local 400 – Reported by Jason Woods

ILWU Marine Section Local 400, in conjunction with ILWU Canada, is organizing a rally and march with the support of the International Transport workers Federation (ITF) to illustrate the importance of domestic transportation (Cabotage) to Canadian workers, the Canadian economy, and the protection of the environment. The rally and march will be held on November 3, 2016.

Cabotage regulations require that any transportation of goods or persons inside Canada be done by Canadian companies with Canadian equipment and Canadian workers. These regulations also include tariffs on bringing in foreign built vessels and equipment. Workers in the Canadian transportation industry support their families and pay millions of dollars in taxes; they are also the eyes and ears of our communities making sure that our environment is protected from companies that pollute and damage our environment to increase their profits. The rally is at 10:30 am at Canada Place by the information kiosk; the march will start at 11:00 am and go up Burrard to the Transport Canada office for a few speeches.

e) CUPW Vancouver – Reported by Fruma Sloan

As reported at the September meeting, CUPW has a tentative agreement. It includes a pay equity review process that will take place over 19 months. Canada Post pays rural and suburban mail carriers (RSMCs), mostly women, less than urban letter carriers who work alongside them doing the same work. Canada Post does not have a reputation for speedy settlements of pay equity complaints. PSAC's complaint filed in 1983 was finally settled by the Supreme Court of Canada in 2012; CUPW is mindful of their PSAC sisters who had to wait 30 years. During negotiations, CUPW has been very clear that RSMCs should not be subjected to decades of delay. The pay equity process follows under the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Equal Wages Guidelines. CUPW is confident that their sisters and brothers will get full back compensation. The union also supports changes to the current pay equity system that will provide a more proactive mechanism to achieve equity in other work places. Too many women have been undervalued and underpaid for too long.

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

a) HEU PHSA Local – Reported by Peter Marcus

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

a) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan

Women's Public Speaking course coming soon – spring 2017. The March 8, 2017 IWD Dinner's theme will be Women in Precarious Work with Iglia Ivanova from the CCPA as keynote speaker. Anyone interested in joining the Women's Committee was invited to talk to Fruma after the meeting or contact the VDLC office.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

CPP, the BC government has finally come on board. The finance ministers will release details after their December meeting. Thank you to the labour council and everyone who worked for this campaign, it's not done yet, but it's a huge step in the right direction.

TPP Town Hall, November 27 from 7 to 10 pm at the Metrotown Hilton in Burnaby with Maude Barlow and Hassan Yussuff. Interesting things are happening around trade agreements and investor dispute mechanisms; there is push back by a number of member countries; thanks to Wallonia, Belgium for drawing attention to such issues with CETA.

Electoral reform, roll out of campaign in support of a change and moving beyond the "first past the post" system.

Thank you for the asbestos recommendation. An important part of that resolution is the "work with municipalities" portion. Please encourage city councils to adopt that resolution.

Harrison Winter School is now open to register. Please register early, as it does fill up fast.

MSC to receive the report.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

12. NOMINATION TO VDLC EXECUTIVE:

There are 4 openings for Executive Member-at-Large. Nominations were presided over by CLC Representative Ron Stipp.

The following nomination was accepted:

Nominee Name	Union Local
Hugh Cullinan	CUPE Local 454

Brother Hugh Cullinan was acclaimed as member-at-large of the VDLC Executive.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

The following recommendation was received between the Executive meeting and the Regular meeting of council. By Executive poll the recommendation was accepted by the VDLC Executive for recommendation to the Regular Council. In the meeting it was presented under recommendations.

MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:

Subject: Firing of Vancouver School Board Trustees by Liberal Government

BECAUSE the Vancouver School Board (VSB) Trustees were fired by the provincial Minister of Education, Mike Bernier, on the morning of October 17, 2016, despite the board's public announcement that they intended to pass a balanced budget as required by the provincial government that same evening; and

BECAUSE the actions of the majority of VSB Trustees in refusing to approve a balanced budget prior to the June 30 deadline were consistent with their responsibilities to advocate for the needs and interests of Vancouver public school children and their families; and

BECAUSE it appears that the only purpose achieved by firing the VSB trustees is politically motivated to set an example and punish the trustees for standing up against the provincial government,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL condemn the actions of the Liberal government and Minister of Education, Mike Bernier, in firing the democratically elected trustees of the Vancouver School Board, and will participate in protest actions in coordination with VDLC affiliates who represent workers in the public school system.

14. TABLE TALK:

Transit – What would good transit mean to you?

15. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

16. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 Proceeds to benefit Positive Living BC – to go towards expenses from the AIDS Walk
- Maurice Mills, Bill C51, Security of Canada Information Sharing Act, held a public forum October 17. Brother Mills spoke to the amount of information being gathered when applying for licences and permits, such as NEXUS or FAST and when asked where this information is going and who controls it, the panel was unable to answer.

- When unions go into negotiations, more and more, we are seeing employers come in with concessions.

17. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 8:28 pm.*

18. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2016](#), 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street

Next Pizza Educational
Tuesday, November 15, 2016
6:00 pm

CLiFF
Canadian Labour International Film Festival

Goodwin's Way

When highway signs commemorating folk hero Ginger Goodwin disappear, the documentary *Goodwin's Way* finds the nearby Cumberland, BC at a cross roads with its history.

Goodwin, a rebellious labour activist, was slain by police under mysterious circumstances almost a century ago, yet his name still elicits wounds that date back to the town's coal mining past.

Some remember Goodwin as a criminal, while many others admire the ideals of equality and self-determination he fought for. Those ideals have long been overshadowed by Cumberland's dependency on a resource economy.

Now as young families set their sights on building a sustainable generation, a new proposal for a coal mine threatens to make history repeat itself. Amidst an effort to oppose the project, residents young and old reconnect with Ginger Goodwin's legacy.

Goodwin's Way straddles the dividing line between historical and current-event documentary genres to the story of a community fighting for autonomy over its past, and its future.

[For lists of happenings please see our website events page.](#)
www.vdvc.ca/events/