



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2013**

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 17, 2013 meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

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

None Received

5. **GUEST SPEAKER:**

Chris Carter, United Way Lower Mainland

Brother Chris Carter is on loan from IBEW Local 258 to the United Way for their Labour Campaign. He will be visiting workplaces to talk about the fundraising campaign and work being done in the community. In 2012, they raised approximately \$25 million. United Way has a 3 pronged approach: 1) prevent poverty for children 0 to 6 years of age, “*Success by 6*”; 2) prevent bullying of school aged children; and 3) prevent isolation of seniors. The important word is prevention. A dollar spent in prevention will save \$7 to \$8 of treatment. Government social services don’t kick in until it becomes a treatment issue; treatment of preventable social ills places an unnecessary burden on the system. We know that 30% of food bank users are children; when the United Way talks about helping poor children they are talking about helping parents. If parents can earn a living wage (2 parents earning \$19.16 per hour) they can make ends meet. When parents have to work multiple jobs they are not spending time with their children, providing the structure, stability, and guidance that children need. Through after school and social programs supported by the United Way, children are given the opportunity to be active and are provided with guidance to make the right choices so that as they grow up they have the skills to help them be successful. Seniors living in isolation – 25 seniors a month in Maple Ridge claim homelessness. Ideally everyone’s pensions and retirement plans will provide for comfort in their senior years, but we know this is not the case. Many seniors do not have family or friends so they are alone. The United Way invests in services that support and engage seniors. By supporting services that prevent poverty, bullying, and isolation the United Way builds stronger communities.

The CLC and United Way have a common goal and have been in partnership since the 1980’s. The mission statement is “an inclusive community where everyone has the chance to succeed”. Brother Carter encouraged involvement with the United Way / CLC partnership and asked delegates to urge their unions to participate. Since 1987, a commitment was made

that all United Way materials, clothing, etc. would be union made and Canada made, or at least North America made.

The United Way with the support of working people and unions helps to fund 160 agencies with 500 programs in the Lower Mainland, programs that working people and their children can access.

President Joey Hartman added that 85% of funds raised are from work places and that in work places where the union gets involved, those fundraising drives are even more successful. There are 5 positions on the United Way Board reserved for labour and the VDLC holds one of those seats. It is the duty of labour representatives to ensure that United Way is accountable to workers and that the types of programs that they are funding focus on prevention. The United Way funded the research of the CCPA to determine what a living wage should be in the Lower Mainland. It is important for labour's voice to maintain its presence.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the September 17, 2013 meeting:

Municipal Politics

Preparation is underway for the November 2014 municipal elections. The VDLC will continue to work with both Vision and COPE in Vancouver, and to vet and endorse individual candidates vs. party slates. The VDLC will also endeavor to set up "council watch" volunteers to sit in on meetings and monitor the voting records and positions taken by politicians on issues that the labour movement is concerned about.

Provincial Politics

Provincially, the VDLC is entitled to two delegates at the BC NDP convention: Joey Hartman and Matt Damario will attend. The VDLC is also working with the BC Federation of Labour to host a debriefing on the May 14 provincial election with labour activists in the Vancouver region. The session will be held October 28 and will include dinner.

Coquitlam By-election

There are two candidates for City Council in Coquitlam that have the endorsement of the New Westminster and District Labour Council: Chris Wilson and Bonita Zarrillo. VDLC delegates who live in Coquitlam are encouraged to help get these candidates elected.

Truth and Reconciliation Walk

Sister Hartman joined thousands of others, including a strong labour contingency, in the ceremony and walk held in the pouring rain on September 22. The event was organized as part of the healing process around the Indian Residential School system.

Protein for People

The VDLC's Protein for People event was held Wednesday, September 25 at Queen Alexandra School. It was a much more family oriented event this year, and the school staff and families were very pleased to have it there. At least 300 people attended and enjoyed free hot dogs, music, face painting, arts & crafts and community tables.

Together Fairness Works

Several VDLC activists attended the CLC leadership training session on September 28, along with about 240 other trade unionists. The training included listening techniques and workplace mapping exercises.

Labour Law Classes

There is still room for Advocacy at Arbitration and the Labour Board being held October 19 and 20. Effective Grievances is almost full but we will keep a waiting list.

Wishing Tree Fundraiser 2014

We have now confirmed April 11, 2014 for our major Queen Alexandra School fundraising dinner with Kent Wong as our keynote speaker.

IWD 2014

The VDLC Women's Committee has set Friday, March 7, 2014 as the date for the next IWD dinner, with two of the founding members of Idle No More as the keynote speakers.

MSC to adopt the report.

7. CORRESPONDENCE: see attached

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Pending Approvals

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

- United Way Labour Appreciation Dinner – 5 tickets at \$50.00 each for a total of \$250.00
- BC Fed Community Christmas Dinner - \$100.00
- Greater Vancouver Food Bank - \$100.00 and to accept food and financial donations at November and December VDLC meetings
- Royal Canadian Legion – wreath for Nov 11 - \$50.00

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

Subject: Quebec Charter of Values

BECAUSE the proposed Quebec Charter of Values is highly discriminatory, interferes with freedom of expression and religion, and is already resulting in increased conflict and violence against non-Christians in that province,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to Quebec Premier Pauline Marois to encourage withdrawal of this proposed Charter of Values by the Parti Quebecois and to instead promote cultural diversity and civil rights for all Quebec residents.

- NOTE: 1 opposed vote recorded; ETEA Local 1 Delegate, Charles Boylan

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

Subject: Food Bank Collections

BECAUSE food banks continue to fill great needs in our community, with large numbers of working poor and their children depending on food bank donations; and

BECAUSE the VDLC has supported the food bank for many years, despite our desire that the need would be eliminated by such measures as living wages, job security and improved incomes for those on welfare, disability and pension incomes,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL encourage labour council delegates to bring donations of non-perishable foods and cheques made payable to the "Greater Vancouver Food Bank Society" to the November and December VDLC meetings.

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

- a) BCGEU Local 1203 – Reported by Matt Damario

There is currently a care review taking place in government services. Bill Bennett is taking the lead and says it is not going to result in lay-offs. The initiative is making a lot of members nervous, as the last time this took place it led to huge job losses.

Component 12 and many others are gearing up for bargaining in 2014. BCGEU's bargaining conference will take place in November.

- b) BCTF – VSTA – Reported by Sylvia Metzner

The BCTF has been in court seeking remedy for Bills 27 & 28 (deemed unconstitutional) and to challenge the constitutionality of Bill 22. We now await Justice Griffiths decision.

Provincial bargaining has resumed with the first date this week on October 17, 2013. Local bargaining has continued after a break for the summer.

A recent arbitration decision has re-affirmed teachers' right to freedom of expression. It has been made clear that teachers have the right to display messages on t-shirts, buttons, and signs, on or off school grounds, without interference from principals. The arbitration heard the case of teachers disciplined for wearing Myrtle the Turtle t-shirts.

- c) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis

Local president Gerard Batty made a report to the Library Board in connection with the information services review. Following the report it was great to hear questions critical of management from library board members.

- d) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Michael Lanier

CUPE's National Convention is being held in Québec City next week; a full delegation is attending. The government is still refusing to fund employers for negotiated wage settlements under approved "corporate losses" mandate. Unions in the sector are watching closely how agencies will handle wage increases, no increase in funding and no reduction in services. Workloads, layoffs, and reduction in hours are expected and will be grieved.

They are starting to prepare for 2014 bargaining in community social services with member surveys.

The following verbal reports were presented but not submitted for the minutes:

- a) BCGEU Local 503 – Reported by Keith Stone
- b) CUPW – Reported by Jeannette McConnell

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

- a) Women's – Reported by Agnes Jackman
Sister Jackman was elected as elected as the new committee chair. Women Transforming Cities held its AGM and the cafés continue and the VDLC Women's Committee will continue its participation. On October 8, the committee held a workshop on Intersectionality lead by Sister Marion Pollack. The committee is holding Public Speaking for Women, November 7 and 14 evenings lead by Sisters Ingrid Kolsteren and Regina Brennan; please pre-register, the course is \$10, contact Keziah at the VDLC office. The committee has established "Terms of Reference" which were approved by the VDLC Executive and continues to work on a committee brochure and IWD planning is underway for a dinner on Friday, March 7, 2014. The union sisters' event is set for November 4 at the BCGEU.
- b) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
There are currently 3 disputes in the VDLC's jurisdiction. The North Shore Winter Club (NSWC) and Ikea Richmond have both been locked out for over 5 months. With hockey season upon us, the NSWC becomes a hot venue and the NHL Players Association has asked fans to not patronise the NSWC. Ikea's last offer to workers was voted down 100% - the members there remain strong. Heading down to the picket line for an hour after work, or whenever you can goes a long way in boosting morale and strengthening our ties as brothers and sisters in the labour movement, not to mention the message it sends to the employer that their workers are not alone. The 3rd dispute is Khalsa Credit Union on Fraser Street; they are on strike for parity with other workers in the industry. Anyone interested in getting involved in the committee should see Stephen after the meeting or contact the VDLC office.
- c) Education – Reported by Joey Hartman
There is still space in the Advocacy at Arbitration course being offered October 19 and 20, to register please contact the VDLC office. Some discussion is already underway in development of the spring program. The VDLC will be offering at least 3 courses.
- d) International Affairs – Reported by Joey Hartman
The committee hosted an International Solidarity Luncheon with guests, Gloria Ceron from El Salvador and Johana Arce from Nicaragua. Both work with women in the maquilas around workers' rights but also issues like domestic violence and connecting women with organizations that can help.

The committee is hosting a workshop with Fernanda Sánchez Jaramillo. Sánchez is a member of both BCGEU and HEU and was trained as a journalist in Colombia. She has reported on the violence in Colombia and will be reporting on the peace process.

- e) Young Workers' – Reported by Erin Searle
Fundraising is on-going for their delegation to the World Festival of Youth and Students. They will be holding their craft fair at 6 pm before the November 19 meeting. The committee has been lending its support to picket lines at the North Shore Winter Club and at Ikea. If anyone knows young workers (30 years and younger) that would be interested in getting involved please contact the VDLC office.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

11. OTHER REPORTS:

- a) COPE – Reported by Matt Damario
Attended COPE focused on the loss of public venues due to high rents. There's been some good discussion around transit fare hikes and upcoming transit referendum; the issues around transportation are something that labour should be discussing more. Sister Gretchen Dulmage, retired HEU, was elected to the COPE Executive as member-at-large. COPE has benefited from some good press lately for their new logo which incorporates simplified Chinese; a way in which COPE is reaching out to different communities. COPE AGM, November 24, 11:30 am at the Pacific Cinemateque, theme is Arts, Culture and Heritage. There may be motions being brought forward on proportional representation for COPE Executive elections.
- b) BC FORUM – De Whalen
FORUM is an advocate for issues that affect seniors. There are leaflets available, if anyone is close to retirement or knows of brothers and sisters close to retirement, let them know about FORUM and the options that they can provide in way of benefits. FORUM has also started offering pre-retirement workshops, the courses delve into a lot of detail and are led by retirees, many of whom wish such information had been out there before they'd retired.

MSC to receive the other reports.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

13. NOMINATIONS & ELECTION:

1st Vice President Terry Engler re-opened the nominations for 1 position of VDLC Executive Member-at-Large. Sister Jeannette McConnell, CUPW, was nominated at the September 17, 2013 meeting. Seeing no further nominations, nominations were closed.

Congratulations to CUPW delegate Jeannette McConnell, acclaimed as VDLC Executive Member-at-Large.

14. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

15. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

16. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 Proceeds will benefit the Young Workers' fundraising effort towards their delegation to the World Festival of Youth and Students.
- November 16, tickets \$20, with guest speaker Dr. Michael Parenti, internationally known award winning author and lecturer, author of *The Face of Imperialism*. Ticket includes dinner. Proceeds to help send delegates to the 18th World Festival of Youth and Students in Ecuador – <http://18wfys.tumblr.com/>
- World Peace Forum, thank you to the VDLC for the donation. November 2 Teach-In keynote speaker Roger Rashi was instrumental in founding Québec Solidaire and is very involved in trying to keep them a grassroots party. He has also started a new group The Eco-Socialist Network. November 10 at the WISE Hall, the World Peace Forum is putting on a radio play, *The Investigator*, a parody of the McCarthy witch hunts, originally aired on CBC Radio in 1954, this is the first time it's being done live.
- Coop Radio's fall membership drive starts Friday, October 18 and runs for 2 weeks, membership fees or one-time pledges are welcome. Funds raised allow them to maintain their diverse programming.
- VIFF recommended films, *The Spirit of '45* about the labour government which came to power in England following WWII and *Summer of Flying Fish*, set in Chile.
- Sensible BC – petition made available.
- Fundraising for World Federation of Youth & Students – 1) bottle drive is wrapping up, as of November meeting they will no longer be collecting cans; 2) Scary'Okee – October 25 at the Princeton, karaoke and costume party, tickets are \$20 and includes burger, fries and beer.
- BC Poverty Reduction Coalition – supporting Dignity for All postcard campaign October 17 (Day to Eradicate Poverty) – demanding Stephen Harper establish a federal poverty reduction policy. Post cards also available at the Dignity for All website.

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

18. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 7:30 pm](#) at the Maritime Labour Centre

Pizza Educational
Screening of CLiFF Films
NOVEMBER 19, 2013 - 6:00 pm

Pizza available by donation