



**REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2015**

- 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 October 20, 2015 meeting be adopted.
- 4. CREDENTIALS:**
The following credentials were received since the last meeting: (* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

CUPW Vancouver Local

Angelito Decena *

Edem Etuk *

Harvey Ripley

Jeannette McConnell *

John Tweed

Pat Bertrand

Jennifer Savage (A)

HEU PHSA Amalgamated Local

Crystyna Sawyer

Unifor Local 464

Jack MacDermot *

Susan Ruzic

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. GUEST SPEAKERS:

Melanie Marks – NDP Candidate for Vancouver Mt. Pleasant, MLA By-election

Melanie grew up on the Eastside of Vancouver, on Skeena. Her mother worked in the canneries, and she was also raised by her Aunt and Uncle and believes that it takes a village/community to raise a child. Melanie worked for 8 years in the Office Representative of Children and Youth, an independent office of the legislature; she characterizes her work there as a child's rights collection agent. She used every skill in her toolkit to work and advocate for children and youth. Melanie served as Associate Deputy Representative for that office and did a lot of advocacy, community relations, aboriginal relations, and youth engagement. The bulk of her career has been spent working for children and youth and criminal justice issues.

Through her work campaigning she has had the opportunity to meet many people, the more she meets, the more she feels she is in the company of family. Like many, Melanie is tired of what is happening, wants to see change in the Legislature, and wants to be a part of that change. When elected Melanie will be the first First Nations person elected to the Legislature. She looks forward working on behalf of her constituents.

Alejandra Lopez Bravo & Omar Chu, Sanctuary City

Sanctuary Health was organized in 2012 in response to the Conservative Federal Government's cuts to refugee health care. Health workers and community organizers began working together

to bring light to the effects those cuts have on immigrants and refugees. They organize clinics with volunteer physicians and other health practitioners and do advocacy work to encourage the province to step up to the plate and provide health services. The provincial Liberal government has not been helpful, but the new Liberal Federal Government has committed to reinstate funding.

The cuts and new policies have made it very difficult for refugees and immigrants to access services. Over the past 10 years, the immigration system has been completely overhauled; every status has become harder to obtain and easier to lose, whether it's immigration, refugee, family sponsorship, or other status. If status is unclear, it is difficult to access services, employment rights, etc. Sanctuary Health has been working on a band-aid solution at the municipal and community level. They are calling for unions, workplaces, and community groups to endorse Sanctuary City two main principles: 1. grant services based on need, not immigration status, and 2. provide access without fear that service providers will collaborate with border services, leading to deportation or worse.

They are pushing for Sanctuary City policies at the municipal level as well, hopefully first in Vancouver and then in surrounding areas. At the municipal level, that would mean endorsement of those two principles but also providing training for staff, accountability measures, and community involvement; building assurance that those policies are meaningful.

Sanctuary City is a local response to a federal and global problem. It is about building a movement of solidarity and working together to build community and safety networks to recognize that there are people here that are at the mercy of every change of policy and in attitude towards refugees.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the October 20, 2015 meeting.

Political Engagement

Delegates to the November meeting will be asked to complete a form indicating which federal and provincial riding they live in and asking if they would be willing to participate in any lobbying meetings held with their MP or MLA. This information will assist the VDLC as we prepare to seek meetings with newly (re)elected politicians in our region. The CLC is currently determining priorities for political campaigns. It is always important to include constituents from a politician's own riding when conducting these meetings and also builds capacity among delegates.

We will also set a 2016 date for a meeting and social with the municipal candidates that were endorsed by the VDLC in the fall of 2014.

The next scheduled elections are:

- Province of BC - May 9, 2017
- Municipalities in BC – (now every 4 years) October 20, 2018.
- Federal - October 21, 2019

International Solidarity Event – Greek Trade Unionist

About 15 people attended the evening presentation on November 5 that was co-sponsored by the Council of Canadians and the VDLC. The guest speaker was Yiorgos (George) Archontopoulos from the EYATH's Workers' Union in Greece. His union led a successful

campaign against the privatization of their municipal water system. Emma Lui from the Council of Canadians also presented regarding Canadian efforts to resist water privatization.

Worker Action Centre

Progress is being made regarding a workers' centre for the lower mainland. There is significant interest in both the public meeting set for November 18 and the invitation only follow-up meeting on November 19. These meetings will inform the next steps towards determining the best options for our region.

VDLC Offices and 312 Main Street

The Maritime Labour Centre has not yet indicated what the rent increase will be in 2016. If it is unaffordable there is still the option of a temporary relocation to offices in the former HSA space above the BC Fed and CLC. Plans are proceeding for the longer term objective of being part of the 312 Main St. redevelopment. This includes motions to approve the first (refundable) and second (non-refundable) deposits of \$1,000.00 each.

Greetings to COPE 378/MoveUP

On November 6, Sister Hartman brought greetings to the COPE 378 Convention. At the same convention, delegates learned that, effective November 9, COPE Local 378 was rebranding as "MoveUP, The Movement of United Professionals". According to the union's press release, "MoveUP is modern organization uniting professionals for progress and prosperity," and "MoveUP sought input from members, staff, professionals and the executive board in developing a new name that better represented its 12,000 union members at public and private sector companies in British Columbia and Western Canada." The relationship with the COPE/SEPB national union will remain unchanged and the legal name will remain Local 378 of the Canadian Office and Professional Employees Union.

SFU Work Study Placement

Katie Gravestock will be doing a work study program with the VDLC in the new year. Katie is currently a 4th year SFU undergraduate student in Political Science and Labour Studies. The work study will be part of a Sociology and Anthropology program where she will work with the VDLC for a day a week over 8 weeks. It will be a combination of shadowing Sister Hartman and an independent research project.

MSC to adopt the report

7. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: New Affiliate – HEU St. Vincent's Local

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the application for affiliation from the HEU St. Vincent's Local, representing approximately 210 health care support workers.

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

Subject: Spending Approvals

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

- Deposits on 312 Main Street - \$1,000.00 refundable 1st deposit and \$1,000.00 non-refundable deposit
- Purchase of two tickets for the Committee for Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights (CDWCR) November 28th event “Singing Nannies” at \$25.00 each for a total cost of \$50.00
- Annual Labour Community Christmas Dinner – Donation of \$100.00

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

Subject: Harrison Winter School Scholarship

BECAUSE the Anita Yan Memorial Labour Law Program has built up a fund intended, in part, to provide scholarships for low-income activists to enrol in VDLC education; and

BECAUSE the fund now has enough money to create a scholarship for a VDLC delegate to attend a course at the CLC Harrison Winter School,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL create a scholarship to be charged to the VDLC Anita Yan Memorial fund, to cover one delegate to attend the 2016 CLC Harrison Winter School, with the scholarship covering the full registration fee of \$925.00 based on shared accommodation, plus up to \$1,000.00 wage replacement if required to ensure time off work; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL select the 2016 scholarship recipient on the basis of activism in the VDLC and the delegate’s own union, selection of an appropriate course, and a written commitment as to how they will make use of the requested course to benefit the labour movement; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL evaluate the 2016 scholarship experience to consider an annual scholarship in future years as a regular item in the annual budget.

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

(2 abstentions: K. Munro from Unifor Local 111, T. Cheung from Unifor Local 2002)

Subject: The Leap Manifesto

BECAUSE the writing of The Leap Manifesto was initiated in the spring of 2015 at a meeting attended by representatives from Canada’s Indigenous rights, social and food justice, environmental, faith-based and labour movements; and

BECAUSE The Leap Manifesto already has over 30,500 individual and organizational signatories, including such labour organizations as the CLC, CUPE, CUPW, PSAC, and the Toronto and York Labour Council; and

BECAUSE the VDLC has previously approved resolutions that align with many of the Leap Manifesto’s 15 demands, which are as follows:

1. The leap must begin by respecting the inherent rights and title of the original caretakers of this land, starting by fully implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
2. The latest research shows we could get 100% of our electricity from renewable resources within two decades; by 2050 we could have a 100% clean economy. We demand that this shift begin now.

3. No new infrastructure projects that lock us into increased extraction decades into the future. The new iron law of energy development must be: if you wouldn't want it in your backyard, then it doesn't belong in anyone's backyard.
4. The time for energy democracy has come: wherever possible, communities should collectively control new clean energy systems. Indigenous Peoples and others on the frontlines of polluting industrial activity should be first to receive public support for their own clean energy projects.
5. We want a universal program to build and retrofit energy efficient housing, ensuring that the lowest income communities will benefit first.
6. We want high-speed rail powered by just renewables and affordable public transit to unite every community in this country – in place of more cars, pipelines and exploding trains that endanger and divide us.
7. We want training and resources for workers in carbon-intensive jobs, ensuring they are fully able to participate in the clean energy economy.
8. We need to invest in our decaying public infrastructure so that it can withstand increasingly frequent extreme weather events.
9. We must develop a more localized and ecologically-based agricultural system to reduce reliance on fossil fuels, absorb shocks in the global supply – and produce healthier and more affordable food for everyone.
10. We call for an end to all trade deals that interfere with our attempts to rebuild local economies, regulate corporations and stop damaging extractive projects.
11. We demand immigration status and full protection for all workers. Canadians can begin to rebalance the scales of climate justice by welcoming refugees and migrants seeking safety and a better life.
12. We must expand those sectors that are already low-carbon: caregiving, teaching, social work, the arts and public-interest media. A national childcare program is long past due.
13. Since so much of the labour of caretaking – whether of people or the planet – is currently unpaid and often performed by women, we call for a vigorous debate about the introduction of a universal basic annual income.
14. We declare that “austerity” is a fossilized form of thinking that has become a threat to life on earth. The money we need to pay for this great transformation is available — we just need the right policies to release it. An end to fossil fuel subsidies. Financial transaction taxes. Increased resource royalties. Higher income taxes on corporations and wealthy people. A progressive carbon tax. Cuts to military spending.
15. We must work swiftly towards a system in which every vote counts and corporate money is removed from political campaigns,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL add its name as a signatory to The Leap Manifesto and support the principles contained within its demands.

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

a) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Michael Lanier

A very busy month: CUPE National Convention, BC NDP Convention, and the BC Fed Conference. Mark Hancock was elected CUPE National President and Paul Faoro will serve as CUPE BC President. A new Secretary Treasurer will be elected in December. Liberals have announced an “economic stability dividend” of 0.45% to be applied to public sector wages in February 2016 – roughly \$167 a year or \$0.08 per hour for vast majority of community social service workers. Overall, 256,341 people will get a raise in public services.

- b) TSSU – Reported by Haida Antolick
The Teaching Support Staff Union remains without a contract, but is making progress. Since the last report the union and the employer agreed to move to final offer selection with Vince Ready. Over the last few weeks the union has been meeting with the employer to bargain further in an attempt to resolve what they can before moving to arbitration. November 18 is the last day of bargaining, at which point they will move to arbitration. Since they reached agreement to go to final offer selection, the union has ceased job action; thankfully none of TSSU's members had their benefits cut. The union hopes to be able to bring news of a new collective agreement soon. TSSU would like to offer sincere thanks to all the affiliates for their support and solidarity.
- c) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis
Local 391 has ratified proposals for upcoming bargaining. The bargaining team provided a package of broad based proposals with details on what clauses and elements of their collective agreement they hope to improve. They did not provide specific language although the membership had some ideas and several motions were moved from the floor. The motions were debated and approved and are now part of the bargaining package.
- d) HEU Dogwood Lodge Local – Reported by Karen McVeigh
The union is waiting to hear back from the Labour Board on the votes for a group of Compass workers. The vote will decide who represents them, HEU or Steel Workers.

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

- a) CUPW – Reported by Fruma Sloan
b) TWU, USW Local 1944 Unit 63 – Reported by Benny Chou
MSC that Benny Chou be allowed to address the meeting

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- a) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
Hope that everyone will participate in the Solidarity Caravan to join MoveUP members locked out by BCAA immediately following the meeting. There is also a fundraising event for these MoveUp members November 20 at the Admiral Pub at 6:30, tickets are \$20 burger and a beer.
- c) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan
This year's International Women's Day dinner will focus on women in trades. The poster should be out for the December meeting. Fruma participated in the last Café panel for Women Transforming Cities. Everyone is encouraged to attend the 30th Café event, which will be taking place December 6, meeting at Thornton Park at Main & Terminal, 10:30 to 11:00 am to honour the women murdered at École Polytechnique on December 6, 1989 and all women missing and murdered. The vigil will be followed by a Café at Heartwood Community Café, 317 E. Broadway from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Women Transforming Cities has been invited by the United Nations to participate in UN Habitat.

MSC to adopt the reports.

11. CLC REPORT: Reported by Ron Stipp

There has been a lot of focus on the aftermath of the federal election and what has happened since. Parliament will resume December 4 and there is a commitment from the Prime Minister that Bill 377 and 525 will be repealed in the first few days of the session. The Liberals have promised a lot; it is incumbent on the labour movement to keep their feet to the fire. A form was made available to delegates at the start of the meeting asking for them to sign up for political action work that will be coming up; Brother Stipp encouraged everyone to fill one out as it will be the work of the labour councils to keep in contact with their local MPs. There are a number of new Liberal MPs in the region and with the commitment from the Prime Minister that their doors will be open we need to keep the dialogue going. Please fill out the form and return it, to be a part of the lobby in the new year – likely on the CPP and Health Accord. It means so much more when an MP's constituents are there in front of them. There is a list of priorities of the CLC that will be circulated once whittled down.

Hassan Yussuff and the CLC has made a commitment to do as much as possible to welcome new refugees that will be coming to Canada. The CLC is calling on affiliates, labour councils, and federations of labour to do everything they can to help. We need to be part of the community that welcomes these people with open arms.

MSC to receive the report.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

13. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Event commemorating the execution of Joe Hill will coincide with book launch and live music event, St. James Hall, November 22
- Climate Change rally at the Vancouver Art Gallery, 1:00 pm, November 29, Sunday
- Tribute to Noel Herron and Al Blakey, Trout Lake, 3:00 to 6:00 pm, November 29, Sunday
- 50/50 proceeds to benefit the Solidarity in Action Committee

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

17. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015**, 7:00 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street.

Everyone invited to join the solidarity caravan to the BCAA picket line – directions were provided.

NO DECEMBER PIZZA EDUCATIONAL

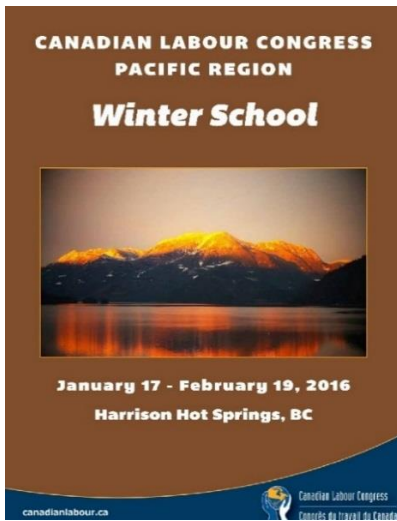
NOTE: MEETING WILL BE THE SECOND TUESDAY & STARTS EARLY

**Queen Alexandra Elementary School Students opening the meeting at
7:00pm with some festive entertainment.**

Stay after the meeting for a social to usher in the holiday season.



For more events and for full size of event flyers and for education brochures please visit website – www.vdvc.ca



2016 Pacific NW Labor History Calendar

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OPERA

21st ANNUAL LABOUR COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER WE NEED YOUR HELP!



We need the following:

- unwrapped toys & teenager gifts
- non-perishable foods
- gift cards & passes
- new and gently used, washed clothing for men, women and children
- jackets, hats, socks, gloves

We will also need volunteers in Vancouver at the Maritime Labour Centre on:

December 21 – unloading trucks with food and toys @ 10:00 am

December 22 - filling hampers, setting up the hall and sorting clothes @ 10:00 am

December 23 - filling hampers, sorting toys and clothes @ 10:00 am

December 24 – load the truck for Surrey at 9:00 am, then working at the dinner @ 3:00 pm.

Volunteers in Surrey at the Whalley Legion on:

December 24 - working at the dinner starting at 3:00 pm

Please send your Name and Contact Information to labourxmasdinner@hotmail.ca advising if you are available to work the above days in Vancouver or Surrey. If you have worked at the dinner before, please advise which area you were in.

0200-1108 Call for Volunteers ©2011

See website for wishlist from Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
www.dewc.ca - or - <http://vdvc.ca/committees/womens/>

