



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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 October 18, 2016 meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

CUPE Local 1004

Akeena Legall

5. **GUEST SPEAKERS:**

a) Hessed Torres, Migrante BC

Hessed is a temporary foreign worker and organizer for Migrante BC. Delegates and guests were invited to a Temporary Foreign Worker conference on December 3 and 4 at the Unifor Hall in New Westminster to open dialogue between migrant workers and workers here. Hessed expressed how much it would mean to workers like her to know and to see the support of labour unions, who fight for better working conditions for all, to show up in support of them and be able to share their struggles with them. The conference's intent is to build and strengthen worker solidarity. It is important to hear each other.

VDLC President Joey Hartman thanked Hessed for speaking and advised that she would be speaking on the panel at the conference. The VDLC has a longstanding policy of "good enough to work, good enough to stay".

b) Sarah Bjorknas, CUPE Local 23 member and peace activist regarding War Resisters and Sanctuary

Canada has historically been a place of welcome and refuge for civilians and soldiers who refuse to fight in war. Since 2004, American soldiers have been coming to Canada, refusing to go to war in Iraq. In 2004, the War Resisters started in Toronto supporting Jeremy Hinzman, the first soldier to defect from the US. The War Resisters purpose was to find ways for these people to stay in Canada: they applied for political refugee status; worked on political provisions to allow them to stay; and on getting them settled, as they do for all migrants. They had the support of all parties, except for the Conservatives. Under the Harper government, two motions were passed that the government find a way to allow war resisters to stay in Canada: one from Citizenship and Immigration and the other a private members bill – yet the government not only did nothing with these motions, but denied applications of war resisters and deported many. When the Liberals took government, the War Resisters were hopeful, but they too have done nothing. There are few war resisters left, those that haven't been deported and are still in Canada have been living in limbo. There has been a plea to the Ministry of Immigration that these

remaining war resisters be allowed to stay on compassionate and humanitarian grounds, but the government does not respond. The government is still dealing with them on a case by case basis. There has been some progress, which they are not allowed to fully publicize; for example, Rodney Watson, who was in sanctuary in a church in Vancouver for 7 years, has finally been able to leave sanctuary but still has no permanent residency. As long as they keep moving forward, the War Resisters have agreed to keep quiet to the media, but they don't want those who continue to wait for residency to be forgotten. War Resisters has been approaching labour and faith leaders who have been sympathetic to the situation and urging them to continue pressure on the government. Sarah thanked the labour council for the support over the years and the resolution passed in October.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the October 18, 2016 meeting.

BC Federation of Labour Convention

The VDLC will be represented by Joey Hartman and Stephen Von Sychowski. Unifor has recently asked its locals to suspend participation in BC Fed activities, including the November 28 to December 3 BC Fed Convention. This is in response to positions taken by the BC Fed officers with regard to the strike at the BC Nurses' that involves Unifor and MoveUp.

Employment Standards Coalition

The ESA Coalition workers' forums attracted over 30 volunteers and about 65 workers who shared their "bad job" stories. In many cases the complaints were about the gaps in existing law, such as exemptions for the application of hours of work, overtime and stats to workers in high-tech and animation. The coalition also got good coverage on CBC radio and the Facebook page reached over 5,000. The committee is now planning for the next stages and having the interview notes transcribed.

Education Program

On October 15, Sister Hartman taught Parliamentary Procedure and Effective Meetings. On Saturday, October 29 and Sunday, October 30 the VDLC offered a workshop on Successful Organizing that expanded into a mini-conference with 40 registrants for the two days.

Leo McGrady and Sonya Sabet-Rasekh were the facilitators, and on the Sunday they brought in a number of guest presenters who all worked as organizers in different organizations. These included Georgi Bates (MoveUP), Zoe Towle (FPSE), William Maarsman (IBEW 213), Laarni de los Reyes (BCGEU), Murray Gore (Unifor), Anita Zaenker (BC Fed), Tracey Matheson (CUPE), and Al Cyr (IAMAW).

A call has gone out to lawyers who have facilitated previously in the Anita Yan Memorial Labour Law Program asking for expressions of interest in teaching again in 2017. The annual program will then be developed based on their responses.

Solidarity with Affiliates

Sister Hartman represented the VDLC at the HEU convention with greetings on October 31. On November 3, she spoke at the Anti-CETA march and rally organized by the ILWU and on November 7, participated on a panel with Irene Lanzinger and Stephanie Smith on women labour leaders for the BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union steward training at Harrison.

Labour Day 2017

A meeting was held at the BC Fed on November 8 to debrief the 2016 Labour Day event held at Swangard Stadium. As has previously been discussed with the VDLC executive, the BC Fed wishes to support Labour Day activities around the province and to devolve the lower mainland event to the VDLC and NWDLC. The Fraser Valley Labour Council does their own. The BC Fed assumed the coordination and fundraising role for the lower mainland in 2011 after the Union Trades and Label folded. In other parts of the province, it is the labour councils that put on the Labour Day.

It was agreed that the two labour councils should meet before the end of 2016 to map out a transition plan and to develop a survey for affiliates around a number of options for format, location, participation, etc. and will also develop a budget that includes costing out of “in kind” donations. If funds allow, this could be an opportunity to contract someone to coordinate the event.

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:

- Labour Community Christmas Dinner, December 24 – Donation of \$100.00
- CoDevelopment Canada “Just Films” program ad – At a cost of \$175.00
- United Way of the Lower Mainland – December 8th Labour Appreciation dinner – 6 tickets at \$50.00 each – For a total cost of \$300.00
- BC Federation of Labour International Person with DisAbilities Day – Donation of \$100.00

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

Subject: December 2016 Activities

BECAUSE December is a full month for important days of recognition and other activities supported by the labour movement;

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL encourage its delegates and affiliates to support and participate in the following:

- December 1 – World AIDS Day
- December 3 – International Day of Persons with DisAbilities
- December 6 – National Day of Remembrance & Action on Violence Against Women
- December 8 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Labour Appreciation Dinner
- December 10 – Human Rights Day
- December 24 – Labour Community Christmas Dinners; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER encourage delegates to bring items for the Labour Community Christmas Dinner to the December 13 VDLC meeting as listed on their Wish List.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

- a) HEU North Shore Community Local – Reported by Graham O’Neill
HEU held its 2016 Convention. There were speakers in support of the fight against the privatization of surgical clinics as Dr. Brian Day attempts his challenge to BC and Canada’s healthcare laws. Resolutions passed included social justice issues such as: restoring transit passes to its previous methodology; affordable housing; and against charities that do not support the LGBTQ community. Victor Elkins was re-elected as President, Donisa Bernardo was acclaimed as Financial Secretary, and Jennifer Whiteside was affirmed by the delegates as HEU’s Secretary Business Manager.
- b) FPSE Local 15, Kwantlen Faculty Association – Reported by Rob Scharff
FPSE ran a provincial contest for all BC post-secondary students called, “My Story”. It asked students to tell their stories of why post-secondary education is important to them. Winners announced at a gala celebration on November 17.

Local 5 is hosting a similar competition for their students at Kwantlen Polytechnic University, so that they can also tell their stories. The contact person for that is member-at-large Pantelli Trichlew, 604.599.2259

- c) MoveUP – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
The strike continues at BCNU. Thank you to everyone who participated in the VDLC/Solidarity Notes action last week. Picket hours and flying squads are being extended so watch for ways to help.

A tentative agreement has been reached at Translink – no concessions and retiree benefits are protected.

- d) CUPW Local 846 Vancouver – Reported by Jennifer Savage
CUPW extends its thanks to everyone for the support over the past year while they have been in negotiations. In September, it was announced that the union had reached a tentative agreement. It is still pending ratification by membership. It is only a 2 year agreement, so if members decide this is an agreement they can live with, the union will be returning to negotiations in about 8 months. If members do not ratify the agreement, they could be back in negotiations right away.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the mandate review. Whether the survey was filled out as an individual or as an organization, or sent in as a submission, CUPW appreciates it. The preliminary discussion report wasn’t great, but they are hoping for a better outcome with the full report. That should be available in February 2017.

MSC to permit guest Jean Bernard Ardila give a report of union for ETEA Local 1 in delegate Charles Boylan’s absence.

- e) ETEA Local 1 – Reported by Jean Bernard Ardila
Over the summer the local dealt with 2 strikes: at Vancouver English Centre, when the owner shut down the school – ETEA/FPSE have a hearing at the Board in about 3 weeks; and at Hanson International which settled a few days after labour day. Both were first contracts and issues were of oversight/regulation lacking in private education.

ETEA urges the consideration of lobbying for reform around certifications and 1st contracts in the Labour Code.

Brother Charles Boylan, long-time activist for labour and social justice, is quite ill. The Local feels Charles' absence greatly.

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

- a) HEU PHSA Local – Reported by Peter Marcus
- b) ILWU Local 400 – Reported by Jason Woods

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- a) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan

There are many events commemorating December 6, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

- December 3 – Break the Silence, Stop the Violence at the Reach Gallery Museum in Abbotsford from 1 to 3 pm. Event will include guest speakers and poetry recital by local high school students. Please bring new and/or slightly used shoes and toiletries for women's shelters in Abbotsford. Organized by PSAC BC Region
- December 6 – 6th Annual Candlelight Vigil to End Violence Against Women at Holland Park in Surrey from 6 to 8 pm. Please bring items to donate to local women's organizations. Organized by PSAC Vancouver Regional Women's Committee and West Fraser Valley Area Council.
- December 6 – Annual Shoe Memorial at Vancouver Art Gallery

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

Harrison Winter School registration is open and is filling up fast. If interested in attending register quickly.

The parliamentary committee on electoral reform will be reporting shortly. It is the CLC's understanding, that the government intends to do a mail-out to every Canadian household on electoral reform. The CLC and a number of affiliates support some form of proportional representation.

During the transition period in the US, Congress will not be pursuing the TPP. President-Elect Trump has stated that he will withdraw his support of the TPP. The upcoming forum on the TPP is important and is not the only trade deal affecting Canadian workers. The forum is Tuesday, November 22 at 7 pm with Maude Barlow, Council of Canadians; Hassan Yussuff, CLC, and facilitated by Seth Klein, CCPA BC at the Hilton Metrotown. CETA has undergone some changes, but the specifics around those remain to be seen. We do know it has to do with the investor dispute mechanisms. CETA still needs to be ratified.

MSC to receive the report.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

12. NOMINATION TO VDLC EXECUTIVE:

There are 3 openings for Executive Member-at-Large. Nominations were presided over by CLC Representative Ron Stipp. No nominations received.

13. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

14. TABLE TALK:

How does the US election impact the effort and strategy of unions and each of us to prepare for the May 9, 2017 BC Provincial election?

- Suggested that there needs to bold policy offered by the NDP and to take a page from Bernie Sanders' campaigns and offer hope and a move to values and justice.

15. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

16. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 Proceeds to benefit the Shoe Memorial: In memory of missing and murdered women and girls.
- The federal government has introduced Bill C-27, which allows crown corporations to back out of defined benefit plans and move to target benefit pensions. This effects everyone under federal pension plans. Defined pension plans offer stability and security, whereas target benefit plans can be reduced at any time, even retroactively. The CLC has stood strongly against this and everyone needs to take notice and write their MPs demanding that they do not support this bill.
- **REMINDER December meeting is on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and will start ½ hour early at 7:00 pm – meeting will be opened by students from Queen Alexandra Elementary.**
- **NO PIZZA EDUCATIONAL IN DECEMBER**
- **DECEMBER MEETING FOLLOWED BY A SOCIAL**

17. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:00 pm.*

18. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016**, 7:00 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street

Next Pizza Educational
Tuesday, January 17, 2017 - 6:00 pm

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



Educate.
Organize.
Mobilize.

TFW Conference:
Building & Strengthening Workers Solidarity
Dec 3 - 4, 2016
Union Hall
326 12th Street
New Westminster, BC

Day 1
Keynote Speaker Prof. Ethel Tongolun, York University
Workshops on migrant issues
TFW Values of Struggle & Hope
Calls to Action
Cultural Solidarity Night
Migrant Art Exhibit

Day 2
Inter-generational youth dialogue
Youth organizing strategies

Learn more about Canada's TFW and how it impacts all workers.
Listen and be inspired by TFW Voices of Struggle and Hope.
Meet other TFWs and advocates to collaborate on strategies for action.

CONFERENCE FEE
\$15 (Over \$150: Over \$250)
Fee includes meals and refreshments.
Separate fee for solidarity night
All dollar scale

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFO:
migrate.bc@gmail.com or
604.679.5850

REGISTRATION DEADLINE
November 18, 2016