



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014**

- 1. LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC
- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** Treasurer Paul Sihota

Queen Alexandra Elementary School students entertained delegates and guests with festive music to help usher in the holiday season.

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

MSC that the minutes of the November 18, 2014 meeting be adopted.

4. CREDENTIALS:

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

CUPE Local 718
Dennis Stock

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the November 18, 2014 meeting.

International Solidarity

South Africa: On November 20, the Minister of Labour from South Africa, Mildred Oliphant, and her staff visited the VDLC for an informal lunch meeting, co-hosted by the BC Federation of Labour. The minister was particularly interested in minimum wage legislation and ideas for introducing the concept in their country.

Protein for People

The community forum the afternoon of November 20 was very popular with the Queen Alexandra school children and their families. A fantastic clown had a steady line up waiting for balloon animals; a magician taught kids tricks; and face painting was also popular. Thanks to coordinator Niki Twaites, the school staff, and the many volunteers for making the Protein for People community event a success.

VDLC 125th Anniversary

About 100 guests braved a dark, wet night to attend the VDLC wine and cheese social on Friday, November 21 to celebrate our 125th Anniversary. Sister Hartman provided some historical remarks and City Councillor Andrea Reimer spoke and presented a Mayor's Proclamation to mark the occasion. Keziah produced booklets that included the program and an article by Robin Folvic. David Yorke's historical display attracted a lot of attention.

CLC Retirement Security Town Hall

On December 4, Sister Hartman chaired a town hall meeting with about 40 participants at the West End Community Centre as part of the launch of the renewed campaign to double CPP and other measures to ensure retirees don't live in poverty. CLC Secretary Treasurer Barb Byers spoke, followed by a panel of four community activists, and finally a presentation by CLC senior economist Angella MacEwen.

United Way Labour Appreciation Dinner

Ingrid Kolsteren was presented with the VDLC's Syd Thompson Community Service Award at the annual dinner.

In Memory of Opal Skilling

Sister Opal Skilling passed away on December 7. A long recognized force in the BC labour movement, Opal began her union activism in 1962 with a local that became COPE 15 and later merged into COPE 378. Her advocacy for the administrative staff in union offices and labour councils around BC made for a lasting legacy.

Sister Skilling was also a longstanding member of the VDLC executive – often as the sole woman. The executive minutes of February 16, 1999 included the following recognition:

“Opal has been on the VDLC Executive for 32 years, since February 1967. She was Secretary Treasurer of OTEU Local 15 for 36 years and retired just this past September. At that time, she decided to serve out her term on the VDLC Executive but would not seek re-election. It's hard to imagine our Board without her but time goes on. We wish her every possible happiness in her “retirement” and expect to see her visiting the VDLC regular meeting from time to time.”

MSC to adopt the report

6. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated at the meeting.

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:

- VDLC advertisement in CoDev film festival program at a cost of \$175.00
- Renew membership with Coalition of Senior Citizens Organizations (COSCO) at a cost of \$25.00

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

Subject: Retirement Security

BECAUSE the Canadian Labour Congress has re-launched their national campaign for retirement security; and

BECAUSE key elements of the retirement security plan include raising Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) rates, returning the entitlement age for Old Age Security (OAS) to 65, and gradually doubling Canadian Pension Plan (CPP) contributions over seven years; and

BECAUSE expanding the Canada Pension Plan is the simplest and most cost-effective vehicle for both workers and employers to contribute to a secure and adequate retirement

income because it is mandatory, fully portable, inexpensive to administer, guaranteed until death and has a proven record,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL fully participate in the CLC Retirement Security campaign and encourage workers of all ages to contact their elected representatives to demand improvements to GIS, OAS, and CPP to ensure that Canadians can live out their retirement years without having to live in poverty.

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

Subject: VDLC Meeting Schedule for 2015

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council normally holds its meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month; and

BECAUSE the VDLC cancels the August meeting each year; and

BECAUSE the December meeting is traditionally rescheduled to the 2nd Tuesday of the month to accommodate the holiday season,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL schedule its regular meetings and the Annual General Meeting for 2015 as follows:

- 7:30 pm, January 20
- 7:30 pm, February 17 (AGM)
- 7:30 pm, March 17
- 7:30 pm, April 21
- 7:30 pm, May 19
- 7:30 pm, June 16
- 7:30 pm, July 21
- NO AUGUST MEETING
- 7:30 pm, September 15
- 7:30 pm, October 20
- 7:30 pm, November 17
- 7:00 pm, December 8 (second Tuesday with an earlier start time)

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

Subject: UBERX

BECAUSE The United States-based company now valued at \$18-billion, hopes to reintroduce its UberX brand to Vancouver, using a smartphone app to connect passengers with non-licensed drivers; and

BECAUSE critics argue UberX is attempting to avoid regulations designed to protect passengers and drivers, such as requirements for insurance, licensing, training and vehicle inspections; and

BECAUSE UberX is also accused of taking decent-paying jobs from cab drivers and drawing a 20-per cent cut of each Uber trip to California, while cutting corners on safety in order to keep operating costs down; and

BECAUSE Vancouver's city council passed a motion last month imposing a moratorium on new taxi licences for six months while it studies several issues related to the industry, including services such as UberX,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL oppose UberX in Vancouver and will lobby the City of Vancouver to take the necessary steps to deny this company the ability to operate in this region.

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

Subject: December 10 Human Rights Day

BECAUSE The UN General Assembly proclaimed 10 December as Human Rights Day in 1950, to bring international attention to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations; and

BECAUSE the slogan for 2014, "Human Rights 365", encompasses the idea that every day is Human Rights Day; and

BECAUSE this slogan celebrates the fundamental proposition in the Universal Declaration that each one of us, everywhere, at all times is entitled to the full range of human rights, that human rights belong equally to each of us and bind us together as a global community with the same ideals and values,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL recognize December 10, 2014 as Human Rights Day, promote the slogan "Human Rights 365", and take actions consistent with this principle throughout the year.

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

- a) HEU North Shore Community Local – Reported by Graham O'Neill

On Thursday, December 11 there is a rally at Inglewood Care Centre at Taylor Way and Inglewood Avenue in West Vancouver with special guests Irene Lanzinger and HEU's Financial Secretary Donisa Bernardo. Event is on Facebook for more information.

- b) CUPW – Reported by Louise Sloan

In November, two major things happened: 1) Canada Post announced their 3rd quarter profits putting a lie to their assertion that they need to stop door-to-door delivery; and 2) Despite their profits Canada Post announced they will be ending door-to-door delivery in Ladner in late 2015. Already opposition to this is growing and CUPW will be reporting and more at future meetings.

- c) BCGEU Local 303 – Reported by Stephen Wagner

Now that there is a long-term contract for Community Social Services (CSS), the union is turning its attention to problems at Community Living certifications.

Brother Wagner spent three days last week meeting with all the CSS locals in BC familiarizing himself with the issues in CSS across the province.

In addition to pursuing grievances, the union is engaged in member-to-member campaigns to encourage more members to become stewards. In this effort they have been very successful.

BCGEU has found that member-to-member campaigns are the best way to encourage the development of more activists.

d) BCTF – VSTA – Reported by Sylvia Metzner

The BCTF is moving forward with the dispersal of the \$105 million fund negotiated in September. Members should be receiving their cheques before the holidays. For Vancouver teachers, the municipal election results are having significant consequences. At the inaugural meeting the new School Trustee Chair was elected; Green Trustee Janet Fraser, along with NPA Trustees, voted to support Christopher Richardson as School Board Chair. This removes Patti Bacchus as a strong, eloquent voice for public education and replaces it with the NPA Trustee who received the fewest votes in the election. Adrian Carr and Kirk Lapointe were present.

e) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gerard Batty

CUPE Local 391 thanks the VDLC for endorsing all 3 of their resolutions which not only made it to the resolutions package, but also made it to the floor for discussion at the BC Fed Convention. All 3 resolutions passed: 1) on precarious workers, 2) on pay equity, and 3) on library funding which has been frozen since 2009. Regarding precarious workers, Brother Batty presented the results of their part-time and auxiliary survey to the Vancouver Public Library board which was eye-opening for them. Local 391's survey highlighted issues such as inconsistent shift distribution practices and the ability for workers to get better advancement opportunities; 55% of their 720 workers are part-time and auxiliary but their survey shows 99 to 130 workers want more hours and advancement opportunities including shelvers who work below the living wage.

f) Unifor Local 465 – Reported by Janice Davis

Local 465 members work for the Health Sciences Association (HSA). BCNU continues to raid Registered Psychiatric Nurses represented by HSA. Twelve raid applications have been filed, including three applications for certifications where BCNU was already certified for RPNs. So far one vote has been counted and won by HSA. Organizers are approaching HSA members during work time: HSA has filed three unfair labour practice complaints against the BCNU.

g) BCTF – VESTA – Reported by Janek Kuchmistrz

The BC Ministry of Education announced on Thursday, December 4 cuts to provincial funding for graduated adult students. These are students seeking a new career, upgrading their high school marks to gain entry into a trade or post-secondary program. These vulnerable and marginalized learners will now need to pay close to \$500 for each course at the grade 11 or 12 level. This creates new barriers to accessibility to education and stops the dreams of those trying to change their lives and provide for their families.

The following report was made by not submitted for the minutes:

a) COPE Local 378 – Reported by Georgi Bates

b) BCGEU Local 1203 – Reported by Matt Damario

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

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

- a) Solidarity in Action – Reported by Joey Hartman
Marine Workers' and Boilermakers' Union Local 1 members are on strike at SSAB Hardox on Annacis Island for their first collective agreement. Like anyone on the picket line for the first time, knowing you are not alone and having a little solidarity expressed goes a long way. A few members of the VDLC Executive joined them on the line and their presence was appreciated. If anyone has the opportunity to show your support and solidarity it would be welcomed, they are on the line from 7am to 7pm.
- b) Women's – Reported by Fruma Sloan
The December 6 Day of Remembrance was well attended with some incredible performances. It marked the 25th anniversary of the massacre at L'École Polytechnique. The event was followed by a Women Transforming Cities' Café. Upcoming Cafés in the new year will include one on aboriginal women and one on gay, lesbian, transgender, and queer. The March 6, International Women's Day Dinner's guest speaker will be Alexa Conradi, Canadian coordinator of the World March of Women, with entertainment by JB the First Lady, a first nations hip hop artist.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Sandy Bauer
The latest copy of *The Advocate* is out and was made available to delegates and guests at the meeting.
- b) BC Fed Convention – Reported by Fruma Sloan
Sister Sloan attended as a VDLC delegate. This convention elected the first woman to lead the BC Federation of Labour in its 104 year history. Sister Irene Lanzinger was elected as President and Brother Aaron Ekman was elected as Secretary Treasurer. Outgoing president Jim Sinclair urged everyone to stick together; the labour movement is a force when it is truly united. A highlight was Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, of the Union of BC Indian Chiefs and his message of the need to move away from resource extraction and create good green jobs. Both NDP leaders Tom Mulcair and John Horgan were well received. The evening session on women's rights and violence against women was led by an excellent panel of speakers and provided some concrete solutions. Sister Joey Hartman was re-elected to the BC Fed Executive Council. Moving forward the Fed intends to focus on raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, health and safety issues, bargaining, organizing, and trying to respond to the governments' attacks on public services. Sister Sloan thanked the labour council for the opportunity to attend the convention as a delegate for the VDLC.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

11. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

12. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

13. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 Draw to benefit the Solidarity in Action Committee

- Support the Vancouver School Board, specifically trustees Patti Bacchus and the 4 Vision trustees. The action taken by the Green trustees has shocked a lot of people and has been quite a wake-up call for many Green supporters.
- Sister Joey Hartman donated a ticket to a fundraising event for Vancouver Domestic Homecare Workers.

14. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 8:15pm.*

15. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2014**, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street

Delegates were invited to stay after the meeting for a wine and cheese social.

Next Pizza Educational
Harperism: How Stephen Harper and His Think Tank
Colleagues Have Transformed Canada
discussed by author Donald Gutstein (books available for purchase)
Tuesday, January 20
6:00 pm

kmr
cope378

For full poster – visit VDLC website
www.vdvc.ca/events/

**Vancouver & District Labour Council
Women's Committee invites you to**

**CELEBRATING WOMEN:
on the march**

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2015

Friday, March 6
5:15 pm - Doors
6:15 pm - Dinner
Fraserview Hall
8240 Fraser Street
south of Marine Drive

 Speaker: Aloxa Conradi Canadian Coordinator World March of Women	 Performance by: JB - the First Lady
--	---

Tickets \$45/ \$30 low income (tables of 8)
Primarily a women's event but open to all
ASL interpretation provided

For tickets or childcare assistance contact Keziah at the VDLC office
604-254-0703 or office@vdvc.ca

**METRO
VANCOUVER ALLIANCE**
Organizing for the Common Good
Independent · Nonpartisan · Nonprofit

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Friday January 30, 2015, 7-9 PM
Saturday January 31, 2015, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
We start and end on time!
Capilano University Library, Rm. 322
2055 Purcell Way, North Vancouver
(see map on reverse)

This two day training is for those who share an interest in strengthening civil society and working together for the common good. Part of the training experience will be working with other community leaders from diverse institutions on the universals of broad based community organizing.

The Institute provides content based on the philosophy and practices developed by the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) in over 70 years of organizing experience. The topics include:

- Why organize? – examining the history and traditions of our labour, faith, community and educational organizations.
- The fundamental organizing skills – individual relational meetings, listening sessions, research, negotiations and action.
- Strengthening our institutions – systematically engaging people in a culture that is relational, action-oriented and reflective.
- Problems vs. issues – moving from general problems to concrete, winnable issues. Using relational power in the public arena to negotiate for the common good.

Cost

- Participants from MVA member organizations: FREE
- Participants NOT from MVA member organizations: \$50.00 for the weekend (to be applied to future membership dues)
- Refreshments throughout the weekend and lunch on Saturday will be provided.

Registration

For more information visit www.metrovanalliance.org or call 604-431-8136. 1819 Broughton St., Vancouver V6G 2A7