



NO QUORUM

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2019

1. **LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC

The VDLC acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and other First Nations people.

2. **CHAIRPERSON:** 2nd Vice President Graham O'Neill

3. **CREDENTIALS:**

BCTF Local 41

Krishna Sharma

CUPW Local 846

Condwiramurs McGowan

UNITE Here Local 40

Harley Augustino

Nymchio Calvez

Fe Casas

Teresita Gonzales

Fipe Wong

4. **GUEST SPEAKERS:** Nil

5. **EDUCATIONAL:** Nil

6. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the November 2019 meeting.

Political Action

I attended an event late last month wherein Kennedy Stewart announced his plan to run for a second term as Mayor in 2022. Naturally the mayoral endorsement will be determined through our vetting process and a vote, as always, when the time comes.

I met with Kennedy Stewart and some affiliate leaders to discuss jobs, workforce housing, and other matters on November 29.

We issued a letter to VSB trustees opposing the proposed cuts to the culinary arts program and followed this up with a media advisory as well as sharing related content via social media. I have had conversations with several of the Trustees about this as well. The vote is expected early in the New Year. We will continue to work with IUOE, VSTA, and Trustees to ensure that this jobs and education are protected.

Living Wage for Families

On November 18 I spoke along with several others at North Vancouver City Council in favour of a motion brought forward by Angela Girard for the city to get a report from staff on moving toward becoming a living wage employer. The motion passed unanimously. This is

the first step in the process of hopefully having the City of North Vancouver join the growing list of municipalities who have certified with the Living Wage for Families campaign.

On December 4, Halena Sieferling from the spoke at the VSB Personnel Committee about the 2017 motion passed at VSB to study the implementation of living wage. We hope to reignite the discussion about this at VSB and ultimately get them onboard as a living wage employer as well.

Labour Disputes

IBEW Local 213 is still on strike against Ledcor LTS. The main picket line is in Port Coquitlam, but there is now a line in Vancouver as well at 1055 W. Hastings St. from 10am-4pm Monday-Friday. If you or your union use Telus services and need any work done please call and tell them you will not accept scab labour.

CUPE members at Skytrain and PEA Legal Services Society lawyers may soon be on picket lines if agreements are not reached.

Congratulations to Teamsters Rail Conference and Unifor on their agreements at CN Rail and Coast Mountain Bus Company respectively.

United Way

This year's Labour Appreciation Dinner was another big success. We presented the Syd Thompson Community Spirit Award to Victor Elkins, former HEU President and current Executive Director of Positive Living BC.

Labour Education

The remainder of our 2019 courses were a big success, all registering very well – especially the Advocacy course with 36 participants! The one exception since the last meeting was the Labour Community Advocate course. For whatever reason we just couldn't generate the interest needed in it. We had 5 registrants and decided to cancel. We may try again next year, but we have directed registrants to the week-long opportunity at CLC Winter School as well.

A preliminary list of 2020 courses is now available. Not all courses have been finalized in terms of date and facilitators however it is coming together well and we are able to share this initial information so that people can start to save dates. Registration will open in the New Year.

Constitution and By-Laws Review

The documents have been sent out to all affiliates and delegates as per the notice of motion at the previous meeting. We will discuss and vote on these at the January meeting, on an individual basis.

Donation to Greater Vancouver Food Bank

I want to recognize IUOE Local 963 for a generous donation of \$1,000 made via our council to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank and another of \$200 from CUPE Local 15.

Office Space

In the New Year we will be offering the back portion of our office as a sublet in order to generate some additional revenue. If you are aware of someone who may be interested please let me know.

Events Attended

November 20-21 – Labour Education, Advocacy
November 20 – BC Federation of Labour Community Social Action Committee
November 21 – Teaching Support Staff Union victory rally for Research Assistant campaign
November 22 – Labour Education, Employee Benefits Law
November 25 – Labour Education, WCB Intro
November 26 – Labour Education, WCB Advanced
November 26-27 – Labour Education, Accommodating Medical Marijuana and Addiction
November 26 – International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 213 picket line visit
November 26 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Board of Directors
November 27 - #RedforBCED rally
November 28 – Labour Education, Privacy Rights
November 28 – Mayor’s Invitational
November 29 – Meeting with Mayor Kennedy Stewart
December 3 – United Way of the Lower Mainland, Community Investment & Relations Committee walking tour
December 4 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Labour Appreciation Dinner
December 4 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee
December 5 – Executive Board
December 10 – Exploring Reconciliation, Relationships and Responsibility workshop
December 10 – Regular meeting

7. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated at the meeting

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

a) Subject: Affiliation of PSAC Local 20088 (Union of Canadian Transportation Employees)

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the request for affiliation of eighteen members of PSAC Local 20088 UCTE.

b) Subject: Safer Supply Saves Lives

BECAUSE despite the immense efforts from community organizations, drug user groups and government since the overdose crisis was declared a Public Health Emergency on April 14, 2016, every day 4 British Columbians die as a result of the poisoned illicit drug supply; and

BECAUSE every community in BC is impacted by this crisis, with a disproportionate impact on First Nations people, people living in poverty and those struggling with chronic pain and mental health issues; and

BECAUSE establishing a public health, regulatory approach to psychoactive substances is recommended by the Health Officers’ Council of BC, the BC Centre on Substance Use, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, BC’s Provincial Health Officer, and Vancouver Coastal Health’s Chief Medical Health Officer;

BECAUSE in April 2019 the BC Government rejected calls by Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry for policy changes that would prevent people who use illicit drugs from facing jail time or a criminal record for simple possession, despite support from the Victoria and Vancouver police departments and legal mechanisms under the provincial Police Act to set policing priorities,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the City of Vancouver's Safe Supply Statement and support its efforts to advocate for a safer supply of drugs in order to protect and prevent further loss of our family members, friends, neighbor's and loved ones; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FUTHER urge the BC Government to work with the Solicitor General to immediately decriminalize personal possession of drugs to reduce the stigma of substance use disorder and support engagement in harm reduction and treatment, and press the Federal Government for the same; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY write to the BC Federation of Labour, and the Canadian Labour Congress, enclosing a copy of this recommendation and asking them to press for action from the provincial and federal governments respectively.

c) Subject: Canadian Labour Congress Convention

BECAUSE the Canadian Labour Congress has issued the Convention Call for its 2020 convention; and

BECAUSE as a Labour Council chartered by the Congress, the Vancouver and District Labour Council is entitled to send two (2) delegates to this convention,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL appoint President Stephen von Sychowski and one (1) other member of the Executive Board to attend the convention as delegates.

d) Subject: 2020 Rent Hike

BECAUSE Vancouver has seen record levels of homelessness this year, and an 83% increase in average rent from \$1,200 to \$2,200 in only three years (2016-2019); and

BECAUSE this crisis of affordability is also hitting elsewhere in British Columbia, including throughout the lower mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna; and

BECAUSE for many years rents were allowed to be raised unchecked through high allowable increases, fixed-term lease loopholes and bad-faith renovations; and

BECAUSE last year public pressure led to the government cancelling the rent hike, and in a minority government we know that all parties will be watching public opinion especially closely; and

BECAUSE without a break from endless increases in housing costs, the other good work being done to improve affordability in this province will be counteracted and more people will be at risk of losing their homes,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to Premier Horgan and Housing Minister Selina Robinson urging them to cancel the planned 2020 rent increase, and will circulate and endorse the AffordableBC petition urging the same.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS: Nil

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Nil

OTHER REPORTS:

CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

Harrison Winter School starts next month and a lot of the courses are filling up quite quickly. A lot of the basic courses, such as Collective Bargaining and Facing Management, in the first few weeks are full. You might have a better chance in the later weeks. Some of the new speciality courses, such as the new Indigenous course, Human Rights, and Investigating Bullying and Harassment are full. Registration closes at the end of next week, but we stretch it out into the New Year for any courses that are not full.

Some other interesting stuff around Harrison because we always invite political speakers for the Monday night political session. We have a pretty good line-up. David Ebby, week one will be discussing ICBC and Money Laundering. Minister Katrina Conroy, Children and Families and Childcare will be there week two. Ravi Kahlon will talk about the Forest industry, in particular, and the UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights, legislation which he has been very involved with. Week four we are still working on, but Week five has just been confirmed and Jagmeet Singh will be speaking on the Monday night. I think it will be another informative year and lots of fun.

On the Federal scene we have lobby scheduled now for Members of Parliament on the hill on February 25th. We'll then follow up in the ridings with at the labour council. They'll be home in March for two weeks so we'll get the opportunity to do that. The issues are Pharmacare, Pension Protection, insurance for pension plans. You've heard it all before when a company goes bankrupt and the first to go is an employee's pension so we want some protection there. A Federal minimum wage of \$15.00 an hour, we have a lobby on that. Also, a ratification of the ILO Convention 190, which is on violence and harassment. So, that's what we'll be asking. That is what is going on with the CLC, all hands are on deck with Harrison and making sure that we have this lobby stuff happening. Next year is supposed to be a non-election year. We are hoping to get through next year so we can achieve lots on the local level.

BC Forum – Reported by Agnes Jackman

Our latest newsletter is available now. I have also passed out membership forms for BC Forum. One of the benefits of being a member of BC Forum is what our members are eligible for. We had our Christmas Luncheon today and we had a discussion about benefits. Our benefits are very good; there is no limit to the health benefit plans. There is also an age benefit. Most typically that age is 75 years; we have negotiated three out of the four areas where the cut-off is 89 years of age. Go through your own benefit plan and check the age cut-

off. When they are maxed out can come over to BC Forum; but you don't have to wait to become a member. You can join at any time. Talk it up; there are so many people out there who do not realize that they can be covered.

I'd also like to mention that Marianne Pollock is going to be awarded a special award in recognition of her work for advocating for people with disabilities. I'd like to acknowledge that and if you have a chance to congratulate her feel free. Happy Holidays!

ATU 134 – Reported by Sharon Isaak

We are new affiliates and I'd like to thank the VDLC for all of their support over the last few months. It's been great having the West Vancouver Blue Bus Group involved in the education and we are in the process of electing delegates to come to these meetings. We are about to start bargaining and Hand Dart is another ATU local bargaining right now. Thank you for everything.

BCTF Local 391 – Reported by Allison Jambor

Teachers are still at bargaining. We are seeking more dates for meetings. We do not know when these will be. What we are facing right now is come buck passing. Rob Fleming, the Minister of Education, has been in the legislature saying that one of the main things he has done to support education is he has put the school trustees back on the board of the British Columbia Public School Employers Association (BCPSEA), which is who we bargain with. What we're finding is that the school trustees are basically supporting whatever the BCPSEA brings forward. Stephanie Higginson, President of the BC School Trustees Association, reiterated what I had brought last month about being surprised and disappointed that the BCTF had rejected the mediator's suggestion about a settlement. She also said the School Trustees Association is going to continue to support the BCPSEA through the bargaining and mediation process. It's very clear that school trustees that we endorsed and helped to elect are not being very supportive of teachers and are not putting any pressure on BCPSEA to come to the table or to get the government to increase the funding package to come to the table with something reasonable.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

12. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

14. GOOD AND WELFARE: Nil

- Just a reminder that the Queen Alexandra Elementary Wishing Store accepts donations of not only food items, but household items as well. Pots, pans, etc. are always needed.

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 7:50pm for Social.*

16. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020**, 7:00 pm,
CONFERENCE ROOM / Maritime Labour Centre.