



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016**

- 1. LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC
- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** 1st Vice President Terry Engler

Grade 3 & 4 students from VDLC Partner in Education Queen Alexandra Elementary School opened the meeting with festive music.

VDLC President Joey Hartman presented Principal Megan Davies with a cheque for \$9,800.00. Amount represents donations in support of the school's Wishing Tree free store.

- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
MSC that the minutes of the November 15, 2016 meeting be adopted.
- 4. CREDENTIALS:**
UFCW Local 1518
Stefan Nielsen

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the November 15, 2016 meeting.
BC Federation of Labour Convention

There were no contested elections at the convention, with both Irene Lanzinger and Aaron Ekman acclaimed to their officer positions. In addition, there were few controversial resolutions and almost all resolutions made it to the floor for a vote, including those submitted by the VDLC.

This all helped to build a positive atmosphere where a record number of delegates spoke for the first time and several courageous interventions were made. The absence of Unifor, who had suspended participation in the BC Fed, was noted, but comments emphasized the hope that Unifor would be welcome back.

Sister Hartman is no longer on the BC Fed executive council as there are 2 positions that rotate among the three Lower Mainland labour councils, so for the next two years the positions are held by the New Westminster and District Labour Council and the Fraser Valley Labour Council.

April 28, 2017

The Annual Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job is held April 28 each year. Next year, 2017, marks the 100th Anniversary of the introduction of WCB legislation in BC and the BC Fed has decided to hold their event in Victoria to mark this centennial. For a number of years, the VDLC and NWDLC have alternated the location between our jurisdictions, but depended on the BC Fed to coordinate the planning. For 2017, the VDLC

will either participate in the downtown event that includes WCB or will plan an alternative event.

Master Trade Union Group (MTUG)

The VDLC president is always the employer spokesperson for bargaining the MTUG collective agreement with MoveUp. The current agreement expires on December 31 and the union has served notice to bargain and negotiations will commence in the new year.

Violence Against Women

The annual December 6th vigil was held at Holland Park in Surrey. The VDLC executive is also recommending that the labour council recognize December 17 as a day to protest violence against sex workers.

6. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated at meeting

7. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Spending Authorizations

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

- COSCO membership renewal – At a cost of \$25.00
- CoDevelopment Canada membership renewal – At a cost of \$250.00
- Crab – Water for Life – Donation of \$50.00
- Helping Spirit Lodge Society – Donation of \$100.00
- Migrante – Temporary Foreign Worker conference – Donation of \$75.00

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

Subject: End Violence Against Sex Workers

BECAUSE, first observed in 2003, the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers was created to call attention to hate crimes committed against sex workers and highlight the need to remove the stigma that surrounds sex work,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL recognize December 17 as the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER begin a dialogue regarding sex trade work with a view to developing a policy that addresses questions of safety, de-criminalization, abolition, and related matters, and that the process include education, consideration by the VDLC Women's Committee, and consultation with community allies.

8. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) MoveUP – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

After 126 days on strike, MoveUP members at BCNU have ratified a new collective agreement. Approximately 60 members were on the picket line fighting cuts to sick, medical, and family leave; they defended these and won wage increases, improved leave of absence language, and option for post-retirement benefits. Thank you to everyone who supported MoveUp at BCNU during the dispute. There will be continued support needed as the difficult process of return to work after this bitter dispute.

- b) USW/TWU Local 1944, Unit 63 – Reported by Benny Chou
The Telus bargaining unit approved a new agreement, with 68% of eligible ballots voted in favour. The provisions in the agreement took effect Sunday, November 27 and continues through December 31, 2021.
- c) Unifor Local 114 – Reported by Maurice Mills
Unifor BC Regional Council met November 25 to 27, the primary theme was preparation for the May 9 provincial election. Brother Mills gave a short presentation on the “As Safe As Our Cargo” campaign and Bill C285. There was a resolution to suspend Unifor participation in the BC Federation of Labour until such time as a respectful and positive environment is restored. It was also recommended that Unifor locals take a leading role in working with the BC Employment Standards Coalition in their communities to host open houses so that the voice of all working people in BC is heard and endorse the Fight for \$15 campaign.
- d) CUPW Vancouver – Reported by Fruma Sloan
The Parliamentary Committee released recommendations regarding the future of Canada Post. The report is a mix of good, bad, and potentially dangerous. There are 45 proposals, but not one that recommends postal banking.
The recommendations include:
- the moratorium on communal mailbox conversion and developing a plan to reinstate door-to-door;
 - preserving post offices and the moratorium on rural post office closures;
 - the possibility of delivering broadband internet and improved cellular service to rural Canadians using Canada Post;
 - establishing a council comprised of representatives of the federal government, Canada Post, and Canada Post unions to look at expansion and implementation of new service offerings; and
 - taking steps to “modernize” Canada Post’s defined pension plan so that it can operate.
- Thank you to the VDLC and allies who submitted briefs, etc. in support of CUPW and maintaining Canada Post.

The following reports were made but not submitted for the minutes: (order reported)

- a) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis
b) ILWU Local 400 – Reported by Jason Woods
c) Unifor Local 111 – Reported by Krista Lee Munro
d) BCTF, VESTA – Reported by Sylvia Metzner

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

9. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- a) Women’s – Reported by Fruma Sloan
Next meeting January 10 at 6pm in the VDLC office.
- b) Education – Reported by Joey Harman
The first 2 courses of 2017 are Duty to Accommodate, January 24, 25, and 26, advanced course being instructed by Conni Kilfoil; and Charter Rights in the Workplace, February 4, instructed by Leo McGrady. Registration is open to everyone.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

Priorities for 2017 were set: universal pharmacare, pay equity, asbestos ban, and electoral reform. The asbestos issue has already been won since the CLC met, a press conference was held and the federal government announced the ban the following day. Pay equity needs to be brought back to the forefront as this remains an issue. Electoral reform, what is happening on this is difficult to say; the federal government has issued an online survey.

There will be a major lobby on Parliament Hill, February 7. That will touch on the above issues as well as the \$15 minimum wage and Bill C27.

Bill C27, was quietly introduced to attempt to move defined benefit pension plans to defined target plans for federal public sector employees. It has not progressed past the first reading. They tried to negotiate with the CLC on it, to which the CLC replied, there will be no negotiation, it needs to be withdrawn – period. The government did not expect such backlash.

CLC Convention call – it will be in Toronto, the same week as the BC election.

Labour movement priorities handout is in circulation.

b) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman

FORUM is gearing up for the May election. They want a government that puts people first. Both BC FORUM and COSCO are putting out their election issues. Most issues of import to seniors, are those that effect everyone, like childcare – seniors see their children struggle with raising their grandchildren. Support your seniors, they support you.

MSC to receive the report.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

11. 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.

Delegates were reminded that all positions are up for election February 2017, with first call for nominations in January.

12. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 Proceeds to benefit PACE: By, With, & For Sex Workers

- Unifor will be hosting an open house, Friday, December 16 at the Unifor Hall, 326 12th Street, New Westminster from 4 to 9 pm. Everyone is welcome, all proceeds raised at the event will be donated to the Annual Labour Community Christmas Dinner.

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 8:00 pm.*

16. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2017](#), 7:30 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.vdvc.ca/events/