



VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2017

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

Queen Alexandra Elementary School Choir performed some holiday songs for the delegates and guests.

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the November 21, 2017 Regular meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

The following credentials were received since the last VDLC meeting:

(* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

CUPE Local 389

Amir Bagheri *

Hermila Gallaher *

Joyce Griffiths *

Cindy McQueen *

Kathy McMahan *

Laurence Magtoto *

Carol Nordby *

Dalton Taylor *

Tony Volpe * A

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the November 21, 2017 meeting.

Political Action

The VDLC made a written submission to the Fair Wage Commission to add our voices to the many calls for a \$15 minimum wage as quickly as possible and noting the societal costs of poverty and myth of negative impact on job creation.

The labour council needs to begin efforts to ensure Vancouver elects a progressive council, school board, and park board in 2018. This work needs to begin early in the new year.

VDLC Education Program

The summary of courses for 2018 is available. Course details will be on the web and sent out soon. There are six new offerings: Canadian Labour Code, Organizing for Power in the Workplace, Creative Writing as a Political Act, Investigations and Interrogations, Advocacy Skills, and Retirement Planning.

Two offerings are coming up quickly in January; Duty to Accommodate with Conni Kilfoil on January 16, 17, and 18 and Charter Rights in the Workplace with Leo McGrady and Craig Bavis on January 27 and 28. Affiliates are encouraged to register members for these by contacting the VDLC office.

Anti-Racism Day – March 21

The VDLC passed a motion a few months ago authorizing participation in activities that strategically advance our efforts to end racism and white supremacy. The executive has agreed to convene a meeting in January to invite various groups who might be interested in collaborating on an event to mark the International Anti-Racism Day in March 2018.

May Day 2018

There will be a book launch on May 1 for the history of BC labour called *On the Line*. The book is a collaborative project of the BC Labour Heritage Centre, SFU Labour Studies, and the BC Federation of Labour with funding from Community Savings Credit Union. This will be at the same time as the VDLC usually holds the May Day march and rally so a decision is pending about whether to proceed at the same time or move our event.

VDLC Elections

Elections for the VDLC Executive will be held at the February 20 meeting. To be eligible, candidates must be a member in good standing for at least 12 months and have attended at least 50% of the meetings in the previous 12 months. Anyone interested can contact the VDLC to determine if they meet the eligibility requirements. All positions are up for re-election and, with Sister Hartman's retirement, at least one opening.

- 6. CORRESPONDENCE:** Correspondence list circulated at meeting
MSC to accept the correspondence as circulated.

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:

- CCPA Canada - Donation of \$200.00
- BC Childcare Advocates for the \$10 a day campaign - Donation of \$200.00
- CoDevelopment Canada Labour Film Night - Donation of \$175.00
- CLC Harrison Winter School Labour Council Officer Development - Send second VDLC Executive member - At a cost of up to \$900.00

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

Subject: 2018 VDLC Meeting Dates

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL hold its 2018 meetings starting at 7:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month, except April, August, and December, as follows:

- January 16
- February 20
- March 20
- April 24 (because Maritime Labour Centre not available April 17)
- May 15
- June 19

- July 17
- (no August meeting)
- September 18
- October 16
- November 20
- December 11 (note a week earlier than normal and 7:00 pm start); and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL schedule a “pizza educational” from 6:00 to 7:00 pm prior to each meeting except December.

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

a) ILWU Local 400 – Reported by Jason Woods

ILWU is hosting a rally to oppose Bill C23 at Canada Place on Saturday, December 16. Bill C23 will allow Homeland Security in the U.S. to stop Canadian workers from working in Canada; U.S. travel restriction could also hamper workers ability to work at Canada Place; and U.S. border guards will have the ability to detain and strip search workers and travellers without cause.

Cabotage campaign: ILWU has won a settlement with the Department of Justice to close the loophole that was allowing Global Marine to exploit foreign seafarers in Canada. Brother Woods will be going to Victoria, Tuesday, December 12 to ensure this has in fact happened.

b) UFCW Local 1518 – Reported by Stefan Nielsen

Major foods bargaining outreach has been very successful. Email and text surveys received thousands of responses in addition to hundreds of proposals sent to the union directly.

Bargaining conference took place November 20 to 23: joint Safeway and SaveOn Foods. Approximately 200 members attended who helped refine proposals and elected 2 Safeway and 2 SaveOn members to serve on the bargaining committee.

The union achieved two arbitration wins with Sobeys where the employer had broken the contract with regard to improperly bumping members affected by the recent closure of two stores and properly posting fulltime positions.

The union has two organizing wins in the first two weeks of December. Approximately 226 workers at Rosstown Farms in Abbotsford have joined UFCW and 85 workers at Donald's Fine Foods in Richmond have successfully been liberated from CLAC.

c) Unifor Local 114 – Reported by Maurice Mills

The National Health and Safety Policy Committee will meet January 8 to 12, 2018. This will be the first meeting of the combined committee and will include representatives from NAPE, Quebec (non-union), RWDSU, Teamsters, and Unifor. The first order of business will be a new Terms of Reference reflecting the new committee structure.

Brother Mills attended the Metro Vancouver Alliance meeting November 29, as a delegate of the VDLC. There were reports from five research action teams: transit, housing, social isolation, economic justice, and health.

Deborah Littman announced that she will be stepping down as the Lead Organizer, to be replaced by Tracey Maynard. The MVA is looking for personal donations (which could be tax deductible) and union per capita support in order to have stable funding.

Brother Mills made a presentation to the Fair Wage Commission on November 30. Their mandate is to decide how quickly to move to a \$15/hour minimum wage. Subsequently, they will review exclusions to the minimum wage and then look at a move to a living wage.

The appeal hearings for the all-off work refusals in Ottawa are scheduled for January 15 to 19, 2018. Maurice will be a witness at the hearings as a representative and former Employee Co-Chair of the NHSPC. The original decision was a ruling of danger in favour of the union. The decision was stayed to allow the company to continue to operate all-off under certain conditions, pending the appeal hearing. The appeal should be the final step in the process unless either party decides to proceed to judicial review.

d) CUPW Vancouver Local 846 – Reported by Nathan Fralick

On Monday, December 4, the CUPW National Bargaining Committee met with Canada Post to present their opening statement on their program of demands. During this meeting, Canada Post also presented their opening remarks. Canada Post's presentation did not clearly define their demands and rollbacks, but instead provided a vague and non-specific outline of topics that they would like to discuss at the bargaining table, which was more about reducing costs than expanding services. CUPW's presentation sent a clear and direct message to Canada Post about this round of negotiations. CUPW told Canada Post that they are working as one committee for both their Rural (RSMC) and Urban bargaining units and that the goal is to achieve one collective agreement for both units.

CUPW previously agreed to short collective agreements to "pause" the process until the government makes a decision as to the future of Canada Post. They are expecting that decision before the end of 2017. Changes in Canada Post upper management (which includes the resignation of Canada Post CEO Deepak Chopra) and the Board of Directors are also expected soon.

e) ILWU Local 500 – Reported by Joulene Parent
Contract negotiations for Longshore continues.

Longshore members are participating in the Annual Labour Community Christmas Dinner at the Maritime Labour Centre on Christmas Eve. Help is always welcome.

Sister Parent attended the CLC/West University workshop on Domestic Violence in the Workplace.

Stop Bill C23 rally, December 16 at 10 am. Bill C23 gives power to U.S. Homeland Security to deny Canadian workers their right to work in Canada and allow U.S. travel restrictions based on fear and hate.

f) HEU Dogwood Lodge Local – Reported by Karen McVeigh

Last November the Sodexo/Compass workers with Vancouver Coastal Health achieved a new 4-year collective agreement. A pay increase which will, in time, be \$17.00 for Compass workers and removed the differentiation of light and heavy duties.

HEU held a two-day mental health workshop as a trial. It went well. In the new year, they will be preparing for bargaining.

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

- a) BCGEU Local 503 – Reported by Keith Stone
- b) MoveUP – Reported by Annette Toth

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- a) Women's – Reported by Joulene Parent and Karen McVeigh
2018 IWD Dinner, *Women on the Waterfront*, March 8 – guest speaker Lee Macri, retired member of ILWU Local 500, and entertainment by m'girl, an indigenous all women music group. Committee's next meeting is January 29, 2018 at 6 pm in the VDLC office.

Tampon Tuesday donation box will be available at the VDLC meetings or in the VDLC office until March for hygiene products and monetary donations; every \$1 donated can purchase one box of tampons.

MSC to adopt the report of committee.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman
Latest copy of the Advocate is available. There is an article about keeping pressure on the NDP to take action on key priorities. The NDP is looking at legislation regarding assisted living.
- b) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp
Pharmacare campaign is in full swing. The town hall meetings in the Greater Vancouver region are February 20, Surrey City Centre and February 21, Holiday Inn Downtown Vancouver. There will be MP lobbies, February 6 in Ottawa and in Vancouver March and April.

Municipal election, there is a lot of new legislation in respect to what unions can and cannot do; union and corporate donations are now banned both provincially and municipally. The City of Vancouver is a big topic of discussion with affiliates and the work to be done to ensure that the NPA does not form government.

Harrison Winter School is filling up very fast! Weeks 3 and 4 are full and registration deadline is technically December 13.

MSC to receive the other reports.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

11. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

12. NOTICE OF MOTION:

The following recommendation was introduced at the November meeting:

MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:

Subject: Spending Approval Limits

BECAUSE the VDLC Constitution and By-Laws requires that notice of motion be served for any expenditure of \$500.00 or more; and

BECAUSE this amount has not been increased for many years and is no longer adequate for a number of routine expenditures,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL amend its Constitution and By-Laws to read:

Section 5. No individual expenditure of monies for a specific purpose in excess of ~~five-hundred dollars (\$500.00)~~ **one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00)** shall be authorized at any meeting of this Labour Council except that two weeks' prior notice has been given, together with the object of the expenditure, as well as the amount to be expended.

13. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 Draw to benefit Queen Alexandra Elementary School's Wishing Tree free store
- Unifor will be holding its annual Open House Christmas Social Friday, December 15 at the Unifor Hall, 326 12th Street, New Westminster, BC from 4 to 9 pm. Tickets are \$5, all proceeds go to the Labour Community Christmas Dinner. All are welcome.
- The NDP are on a push to amend the bankruptcy and insolvency act. This act allows creditors first access to money after a company goes bankrupt, often leaving workers with nothing. Delegates were urged to go back to their locals and encourage support of the NDP on this.
- Bentall Tower Memorial, January 8 for the workers killed while building the tower – Burrard Street Skytrain Station.
- December 17 is the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers; there will be an event at the PACE Society office – event will include storytelling and refreshments

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

16. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018**, 7:30 pm
Maritime Labour Centre.

**Next Pizza Educational
Tuesday, January 16, 2018
6:00 pm**

Listening campaigns to further member engagement
with Deborah Littman, Metro Vancouver Alliance

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