VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2012

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 December 13, 2011 meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS**:
   The following credentials were received since the last meeting: (* = recredentialled, A = alternate)
   BCGEU Local 503
   Keith Stone

   CAW Local 2200
   John Davie

   CUPE Local 873
   Country Waring

   CUPW
   Jeannette McConnell

   HEU – VGH
   Diana Cheng (A)

   MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. **GUEST SPEAKER(S):** Nil

6. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
   a) The following donations were received since the last meeting of Council:

Greater Vancouver Food Bank	
Community Savings	$ 100.00
Operating Engineers Local 963	1,300.00
Gordon Sheppard	100.00
Union of Veteran's Affairs	100.00
	$1,600.00

   MSC that the correspondence be received and filed with appreciation.

b) From BCGEU Local 803 being an application to affiliate their 60 members to the Vancouver and District Labour Council. This local was created as a result of a BCGEU component restructuring and was previously a part of Local 403.

MSC that the correspondence be received and filed for the information of the delegates and the Vancouver and District Labour Council accept the application to affiliate their 60 members of BCGEU Local 803.

c) From PSAC Local 21008 being an application to affiliate their 18 members to the Vancouver and District Labour Council.

MSC that the correspondence be received and filed for the information of the delegates and the Vancouver and District Labour Council accept the application to affiliate their 18 members of PSAC UNDE Local 21008.

7. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Education is a Right

BECAUSE education is a right and not a privilege; and

BECAUSE over 70% of all new jobs in Canada require some post-secondary education; and

BECAUSE total outstanding student loan debt is over $2.4 billion in B.C. alone; and

BECAUSE student debt in B.C. is the highest in Canada outside the Maritimes at an average of $27,000 (plus interest) upon the completion of a four-year post-secondary program; and

BECAUSE tuition fees accounted for 40% of B.C. universities' and colleges' operating revenue in 2010, an increase of over 68% in just ten years; and

BECAUSE the B.C. government provides 60% less non-repayable financial aid than the national average (the lowest amount of any province); and

BECAUSE per-student funding has declined in British Columbia since 2001, resulting in many academic services being cut back and the loss of unionized faculty and staff through layoffs and attrition; and

BECAUSE the Canadian Federation of Students – British Columbia has launched a campaign to reverse these trends and make post-secondary education in B.C. more affordable and of higher quality,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the Canadian Federation of Students' February 1 Day of Action; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write a letter to the Minister of Advanced Education expressing support for the "Education is a Right" campaign; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL add a link to the Education is a Right to the VDLC website.

b) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*
Subject: From Policy to Power: Real Solutions for B.C. Hydro
BECAUSE the August 2011 B.C. Hydro rate review failed to address the real drivers behind Hydro rate increases, including "self-sufficiency" and "insurance" requirements, and the Smart Meter Initiative; and

BECAUSE the Auditor General of B.C. has exposed the practice of deferral accounts by B.C. Hydro, which jeopardize the financial viability of this important public utility,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon B.C. Hydro and the B.C. government to restore B.C. Hydro's responsibility and capacity to meet British Columbia's electricity requirements in a reliable, cost-effective and environmentally and socially responsible way; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL further call upon B.C. Hydro and the B.C. government to carefully consider the conclusions of the document "From Policy to Power: Real Solutions for B.C. Hydro" in order to make the best decisions for the future of this public utility.

c) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*
Subject: CCPA Fundraising Dinner
BECAUSE the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives provides research and policy analysis that is vital to the labour and social justice movements; and

BECAUSE the VDLC has traditionally bought tickets for the CCPA's annual fundraising dinner; and

BECAUSE the keynote speaker for the 2012 dinner will be Bill McKibben, a world-renowned environmental leader and solutions-based climate change activist,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL purchase two (2) tickets at a cost of $75.00 each for the March 26, 2012 CCPA fundraising dinner.

d) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*
Subject: A Child's View from Gaza
BECAUSE children from Gaza who witnessed the 2009 destruction of Operation "Cast Lead", a 22-day offensive by Israel which left 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis dead, later participated in art-therapy programs; and

BECAUSE a collection of art created through this therapy was compiled into a show called "A Child's View from Gaza", which will, in part, be on display in Vancouver from March 9 to 19, 2012; and

BECAUSE this art exhibit and a public meeting with a keynote speaker will have associated costs of approximately $2,500; and

BECAUSE several VDLC affiliates have agreed to co-sponsor the exhibit along with a number of community organizations that are working for peace in this region,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL add our name to the list of co-sponsoring organizations and donate $50.00 towards the Vancouver exhibit of "A Child's View from Gaza", and in addition will endorse the presentation about the Tahir ship to Palestine on February 18, 2012 at the Vancouver Public Library.

e) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*
SUBJECT: Support for Locked-Out Union Members
BECAUSE the labour movement across Canada is under increasing attack by employers who are using lock-outs as a means to force concessions and bust unions; and

BECAUSE there are currently two significant examples of this attack on labour; the 800 members of the United Steel Workers Local 9490 locked out on New Year's Day by the Rio Tinto Alcan aluminium smelter in Alma, Quebec, and the 500 members of the Canadian Auto Workers Local 27 who have been locked out by Electro-Motive Diesel; and

BECAUSE both of these international companies are highly profitable, but are seeking massive concessions from their Canadian unionized workers, including 50% wage cuts in the case of CAW,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL act in solidarity with locked-out CAW Local 27 members at Electro-Motive Diesel (Caterpillar) and USW Local 9490 members at Rio Tinto Alcan by sending letters of support to the unions and letters of condemnation to the companies, and encouraging a quick return to the bargaining table and a fair collective agreement; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to the Federal Government regarding this abuse of the Investment Canada Act.

8. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) CAW Local 111 – Reported by Agata Matyszczuk
CAW has announced that it will give a $2000.00 reward to anyone that has information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator who sexually assaulted one of our members and union activists on New Years Day while she was driving the bus. The police do have some camera footage in their possession and the investigation is ongoing.

Regarding the case where brother Charles Dixon was physically assaulted and sustained injuries that required hospitalization, sentencing for the person who was charged has been postponed until February 7. The union will have a large presence at the sentencing to show support for our brother.

b) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Michael Lanier
CUPE Local 1936 continues to work with Coalition partners (CCABC and EDEBC) to promote the Early Learning and Care Plan for Childcare. This is an ongoing campaign for a national public childcare plan.

The recent bargaining proposals are developed and all social services locals and unions will be January 18 to 19 to finalize a full package for February 2012. The collective agreement expires March 31, 2012 for approximately 15,000 Community Social Services Workers in 9 different unions. There is no more to cut in social services and, in fact, $20 million more is needed to address wait-list and shortfalls in the services.

c) CUPW - Reported by Jennifer Savage
CUPW is still trying to obtain a new collective agreement for all postal clerks and letter carriers. Things are going slowly because of the legal challenge of the government imposed arbitrator that has been assigned. Meanwhile Canada Post is clawing back on sick and vacation leave, forcing the workers to pay MSP premiums for the lock-out period.

CUPW is also bargaining for the 7000 members of the Rural and Suburban Bargaining Unit. Their main goal is to obtain equality for this female dominated bargaining unit.

d) HEU North Shore Community – Reported by Graham O'Neill
HEU held an evening education on the Municipal Pension Plan in order to dispel the myths and untruths about the public sector pension plans.

Malaspina Gardens, which is a nursing home run by Chartwell Seniors Housing out of Mississauga, Ontario, has given layoff notices to 150 members. Layoffs will be effective in June with those positions being contracted out. It is likely that this is a negotiating ploy with the employer hoping to reduce wages and benefits.

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

9. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

a) Strike Solidarity – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
The committee is still continuously supporting Teamsters Local 31 and the Rocky Mountaineer employees who have been locked-out since June. The upcoming rally has been postponed until further notice. Delegates are encouraged to sign up for the committee and support our brothers and sisters who are going through labour disputes.

b) Education – Reported by Joey Hartman
February's pizza educational will be presented by Brett Small on the recent Young Workers' CoDev trip to El Salvador and Honduras.

c) Young Workers' – Reported by Georgi Bates
The bake/craft sale that was held prior to December's regular meeting was a success, and raised nearly $500. The committee submitted two entries for the CLC's "One Minute Video" contest. Currently one of the videos is in the lead by about 300 votes.

d) Women's – Reported by Agnes Jackman
The committee is looking forward to International Women's Day Dinner that the committee will be hosting with Judy Rebick as the keynote speaker. Tickets are still available, and we encourage you to ask your union to purchase tickets or a table. Contact Rachel at the VDLC for information.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

11. NOMINATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:
The following persons were nominated (in order of nomination):

Executive Position	Nominee Name	Union Represented
President	Joey Hartman	CEP Local 468
1st Vice President	Terry Engler	ILWU Local 400
2nd Vice President	Stephen Von Sychowski	COPE Local 378
Recording Secretary	John Brennand	TWU Local 50
	Georgi Bates	USW Local 2009
Treasurer	Paul Sihota	IAFF Local 18
Members at Large **(12 positions)**	Sheila Gorman	TWU Local 50
	Graham O'Neil	HEU – North Shore Community
	Rob Ashton	ILWU Local 500
	Russ St. Eloi	Plumbers Local 170
	Agnes Jackman	HSA
	Carol Nordby	CUPE Local 389
	Kassandra Cordero	UFCW Local 1518
	Megan Adam	PSAC 21047
	Matt Damario	BCGEU Local 1203

** Please note that the second and final call for nominations will take place at the Febrauary 21 AGM, and will be immediately followed by elections. You are required to have been a delegate for 1 year and attended 6 out of the 11 regular meetings in the last year. **

12. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 proceeds to go to Rocky Mountaineer ($33.00 returned for total of $66.00)
- March 23, 2012 VDLC will be having annual fundraiser for Queen Alexandra Elementary School

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 8:55 pm.*

16. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 7:30 pm, Maritime Labour Centre.

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