



VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2012

- 1. LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC
- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** 1st Vice President Terry Engler
- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
Under Report of Unions, BC Ferry Workers' Union report amended to read, "BC Ferry's is in the process of consultation..." *not* The BC Ferry Workers' Union..."

MSC that the minutes of the November 20, 2012 Regular meeting be adopted as amended.

4. CREDENTIALS:

BCTF - VESTA

Heather Allison
Donna Brack *
Nancy Hawkins *
Jack MacDermot
Jody Polukoshko *
Les Rowe *
Glenn Vockereth *
Linda Young (A) *

CUPW

Val Barone
Chris Callaghan *
Gregory Corbin
Karen De Francesco (A)
Jeannette McConnell *
Martin Prud'homme *
Jennifer Savage *
Aaron Spires
Louise (Fruma) Sloan *

UFCW Local 1518

Denise Perry

MSC to obligate/seat the delegates.

5. GUEST SPEAKERS:

Susan Epp, Business Manager, Compensation Employees' Union

Sister Epp brought an update on their negotiations with the Workers' Compensation Board. They have been bargaining since April and still have no collective agreement. The union took a strike vote in November, with an 84% turn-out and were given a 96% mandate. Like other unions in the public sector, they are faced with a concessionary agenda. One of their biggest struggles has been the hours of work provision. The employer wants to change the agreement so workers that work flex hours Monday through Friday can work Saturdays. This largely impacts safety officers – the men and women who do workplace inspections. The employer is trying to spread the existing workforce just a little bit thinner by having some officers working Monday to Friday and others Tuesday to Saturday. What they need to do is hire more safety officers so that they can have that coverage. There is a provision in the current collective agreement allowing work on Saturdays (S type officers); this provision allows the hiring of new employees under a different type of schedule. The union has stated this at the bargaining table, but the employer simply doesn't want to do that. The union doesn't have a problem with officers working on a weekend as long as they are under the current provision. WCB has posted 12 safety/hygiene officers, only 1 was for an S-type officer; they could have hired 12 S-type officers, posted them as they saw fit around the province to do inspections on weekends as needed. Instead they have pushed the union to take a strike vote and likely job action. The Compensation Employees' Union wants labour to know that there is a provision that WCB could be using to allow for weekend safety inspections, but is choosing not to.

Nima Nassefat, Labour Loaned Rep, United Way of the Lower Mainland

Brother Nassefat is on loan from the City of Burnaby, CUPE Local 23, to work on the UWLM's fundraising campaign. Local 23 has supported the United Way for many years and loans a member every year. The City of Burnaby is 1 of 40 different workplaces throughout the Lower Mainland that loan out employees to the United Way every year. This year the United Way is focussing on 3 areas in particular. One, prevention of the isolation of senior citizens in the Lower Mainland; two, prevention of bullying – focussing on the 6 to 12 year age group; and three, prevention of child poverty. As everyone is aware, BC has had the worst rate of child poverty for years, dropping to 2nd this year. The labour movement and United Way have a long history of working together. They share a lot of the same values. Both are working to developing healthy, inclusive communities. Labour is active at the United Way at all levels, there are 5 labour reps on the United Way Board. This year it is expected that the United Way of the Lower Mainland will raise over \$23 million, which will help to fund 500 different programs, one of which is the United Way, CLC Union Counselling program.

Sister Joey Hartman, who sits on the Board as a labour rep, stated that part of what they do is also help to ensure that the advocacy work of the United Way becomes more prominent by moving away from simply funding organizations and moving towards working on advocating for changes in policy and practice.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the November 20 meeting.

Trade Union Research Bureau

Plans are coming together for a wine and cheese reception for TURB on Tuesday, January 15 where awards of recognition will be issued David Fairey, Ted Byrne and Susan Lockhart. Executive members are all encouraged to attend.

International Affairs

The VDLC will be visited by the Beijing Municipal Federation of Trade Unions on December 12. This is the organization that hosted the VDLC delegation to China in 2005. We then hosted their delegation to Vancouver in 2007. These international delegations do not cost the VDLC as all delegates pay their own way.

United Way

The United Way breakfast during the BC Fed convention was the best attended ever. However, the 2012/13 annual fundraising campaign is falling short of their goal and extra efforts are underway. VDLC delegates are invited to make a donation tonight and to encourage their unions to participate if they do not already.

The annual Labour Appreciation Dinner was held on December 6 with the VDLC Syd Thompson award going to long-term VDLC activist and co-chair of the BC Health Coalition, Sister Rachel Tutte. Other awards went to David Black (COPE 378) and Laurie Larsen (CUPE).

BC Federation of Labour Convention

The VDLC delegates were Joey Hartman (attended as a member of the Executive Council), Agnes Jackman and Paul Sihota. Sister Hartman was acclaimed as one of the five labour council representatives to the Federation's Executive Council for the next two years.

Almost 2,000 delegates attended and Jim Sinclair and Irene Lanzinger were both re-elected to their positions.

Guest speakers included Adrian Dix (NDP BC), Thomas Mulcair (Federal NDP), Linda McQuaig (economist and author), Brigette dePape (former House of Commons page known for "Stop Harper" sign) and Eden Haythornthwaite (fired Cowichan Valley School Board Chair) among others.

Sustainable Communities Initiative

On December 4, Sister Hartman attended and spoke briefly about labour council activities to a group of labour representatives and union endorsed municipal politicians from our region. The discussion centred on CETA, transit, affordable housing, waste disposal, and other municipal concerns.

Seasonal Closure

As is our practice, the VDLC office will be closed Christmas week (December 24 to 28). Following Christmas, Sister Hartman will be on vacation and returning January 14. She will prepare the January 15 meeting in as much as possible in advance.

MSC to adopt the report.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:

Circulated to delegates and is attached.

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Donations and Spending Approvals

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

- CoDevelopment Canada Film Festival Ad (3.25" X 3.75") at a cost of \$175.00
- Miko Peled, author, presentation – donation of \$50.00
- Calling Mr. Robeson – sponsorship of one person play February 23 cost of \$100.00
- COSCO Associate Membership renewal at a cost of \$25.00

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

Subject: VDLC Budget for the 2013 Fiscal Year

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council has a fiscal year of January 1 to December 31 of each year,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the proposed VDLC 2013 operating budget as circulated.

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

Subject: 2013 VDLC Meeting Dates

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council holds its meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month normally; 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 for 2013 as follows:

- January 15
- February 19
- March 19
- April 16
- May 21
- June 18
- July 16
- September 17
- October 15
- November 19
- December 10 (second Tuesday)

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

Subject: VDLC as a Living Wage Employer

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council has endorsed and participates in the Living Wage Campaign; and

BECAUSE one way of advancing the campaign is to be registered as a Living Wage Employer; and

BECAUSE the VDLC already pays its one regular staff person and any temporary or casual staff at a collective agreement rate that exceeds the living wage, currently set at \$19.18 per hour for the Vancouver area,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL register as a Living Wage Employer with the campaign coordinated through First Call in Vancouver and will encourage its affiliates to do the same.

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

Subject: Calling Mr. Robeson

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL sponsor and promote a one person play on February 23 titled "Calling Mr. Robeson" with Tayo Aluko portraying the famous singer Paul Robeson, who was a strong social justice, political, and labour activist.

Note: a recommendation to approve \$100.00 is listed under Donations and Spending Approvals

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

Subject: Miko Peled Presentation

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL co-sponsor and promote a public presentation with Miko Peled, a well-known Israeli and author of "The General's Son" on February 7, 7:00 pm at the Vancouver Public Library.

Note: a recommendation to donate \$50.00 is listed under Donations and Spending Approvals

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

Subject: Open Letter re: Climate Change

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council has supported many initiatives to reduce climate change; and

BECAUSE the campaign leading to the May 14, 2013 provincial election offers an opportunity to stimulate discussion on climate change and ascertain candidate and party platforms regarding greenhouse gas emission reductions,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL sign onto and promote "An Open Letter to BC Political Parties: Re-commit to BC's Legislative Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets" which reads in part that "we call upon each party to table a platform that demonstrates how they will meet those targets." (as set in the *BC Gas Reduction Targets Act*).

9. REPORT OF UNIONS: (in order reported)

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

In recognition of the season, Brother O'Neill brought good news to report. George Derby centre, a seniors' care home slated to close has had that decision rescinded by the Board of Directors in quite a dramatic fashion. So, in the meantime, the HEU jobs there are

safe. The Facilities Bargaining Association has a tentative agreement including a 3% wage increase effective early 2013 and, the huge win, a no contracting out clause and a no lay-offs (not due to funding cuts) clause, this is something that was lost illegally in 2004 and the union has been trying to get back since 2010.

b) Health Sciences Association – Reported by Agnes Jackman

After 2 days of rotating job action last week, the Health Sciences Professionals Bargaining Association (HSPBA) called off the planned rotating strikes for this week. *“Following 3 round-the-clock days of talks mediated by veteran labour mediator Vince Ready, the government tabled a proposal just before midnight Saturday for a wage increase and massive concessions. The proposal adds up to a wage increase of 1.4% over 2 years and some health care workers could be facing wage roll backs.”* (Dec 9/12 – HSA Media Release) Reid Johnson, HSA’s President, said, *“The proposal dropped on the table by the government is so far off the mark that there no doubt in my mind the are trying to provoke our members into escalating job action and giving the government an excuse to recall the legislature to impose a contract. We are not going to go down that road. Our members are committed to delivering health care services to British Columbians. Our dispute is not with the people who need these services. It is with a government that refuses to negotiate a fair and reasonable agreement for essential members of the modern health care team.”* The proposal that the government finally brought to the table after 9 months shows exactly how little the government thinks of the value of the health science professionals in the public health care system. HSPBA unions will be going back to their union members to share this with them and get direction for the next steps from them.

c) CUPE Local 391 – Reported by Gary Jarvis

The union is still in bargaining, dates are set for January. They are getting down to more difficult issues, but the union has made some gains. Local 391 is experiencing difficulties at Mount Pleasant. The employer won’t pay for security and it is the Local’s opinion that library users who are not allowed to use the Central or Carnegie branches are using Mount Pleasant. A WCB file has been opened and they are looking for action from the employer. Unfortunately, despite being a provincial stat holiday, the library will be open on Family Day, February 18.

d) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Michael Lanier, written report submitted only

Community Social Service Workers are still doing one-day rotating job actions around the province. Actions include free hot food and warm clothing give aways in addition to picket lines. No action from December 17 to January 7. There are still no bargaining dates or monetary proposals from government or employers.

The following union reports were presented orally but no written report submitted for the minutes:

- CUPE Local 1004 – Reported by Mike McGahey
- COPE Local 378 – Reported by Georgi Bates

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

- a) Education – Reported by Donalda Greenwell-Baker
The BC Fed courses being held in conjunction with the VDLC took place November 21 and 22, December 4 and 5, and another session coming up January 12, 2013 (18 people are already registered). There is a lot of excitement being generated around the upcoming election. The course has been really popular all around the province. Sister Greenwell-Baker brought We Vote cards that can be filled out and by sending them in to the BC Fed; they will supply you with election and campaign info for your area. We Vote for a Better BC kits are available. The BC Fed will run courses or make presentations at your unions. Contact the BC Fed office for information.

- b) Women's – Reported by Agnes Jackman
Potluck dinner meeting at Magnolia Villalobos' home at 5:30 pm on December 18, all women are welcome. The No Shit Shirleys have been booked to entertain at the IWD Dinner. The dinner is March 8 at the Fraserview Hall so mark your calendars sisters.

- c) Labour Arts and Culture – Reported by Joey Hartman
David Rovics concert held November 22 was very successful. The committee is hosing Maria Dunn at a house concert December 14. Maria is an excellent folk/labour singer from Edmonton; tickets are \$15 and there are a few seats available, call the VDLC office to reserve a space. Labour Cabarets are starting up again in January; the first hour is open mic, so if you or anyone you know is interested in performing (particularly with a labour theme) come out and share your talent. January's Cabaret will feature Just Duets.

- d) Young Workers' – Reported by George Christou
Committee is fundraising for World Festival of Youth and Students in December 2013. They have raised \$600 to \$700 so far with calendar sales; calendars are still available for \$20. They are working towards holding an event, with live local music – they will keep the Council posted.

MSC to adopt the reports of Committees.

OTHER REPORTS

- a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp
Harrison Winter School anyone interested in attending should register early as courses are filling up. A new federal poll shows that the Liberals are down to 21/22%, the Tories 34% and NDP 33% which is interesting. Private members Bill C377, looks like it will be voted on December 12, the debate just ended in the House. There was a lobby December 11. The government initially said it was a private members bill, but now seems to be really supporting it.

MSC to adopt the Other Reports.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

12. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 proceeds to benefit the BC Fed Labour Community Christmas Dinner
- A march and rally was held yesterday from the Native Friendship Centre in opposition to Bill C45, a bill that reduces the right of native people to control their land, a follow up rally is being held at the Vancouver Art Gallery December 23.
- Friday, December 14 the CAW is holding a fundraising event at their hall in New Westminster, all proceeds to benefit the Labour Community Christmas Dinner.
- Holiday open house at the BC Building Trades at the Operating Engineers Auditorium – Thursday, December 13.
- The Young Workers' Committee Craft and Bake Sale is still open, so take the opportunity after the meeting to check it out.
- Everyone was invited to stay for a seasonal social following the meeting.

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 8:28 pm*

16. NEXT MEETING: [Tuesday, January 15, 2013](#), 7:00 pm, Maritime Labour Centre.

To everyone a safe, happy holiday season and a prosperous new year.