VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, February 21, 2012

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

2. **CHAIRPERSON:** Terry Engler

   MSC to amend the agenda to hold nominations and elections immediately after the credential committee.

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
   MSC that the minutes of the January 17, 2012 meeting be adopted with the following amendments:
   - *Page 1, Item 3 should read "MSC that the minutes of the December 13, 2011 meeting be adopted"*
   - *Page 7, Item 14 should read "Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 2012"*

4. **CREDENTIALS:**
   The following credentials were received since the last VDLC meeting:(* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

ATU Local 1724
Denyse Mitchell
Tim Johnson

CAW Local 114
Bonnie Hammond

CAW Local 3000
Adrian Burnett

CUPE Local 389
Joyce Griffiths
Dinesh Kapoor
Lawrence Magtoto
Kathy McMahon
Aaron Young (A)

ILWU Local 500
Shannon Moloney
Nicole Puchmayr
Jane Sanson

PSAC UNDE Local 21008
Cheryl Omenema

TWU Local 50
John Brennand (*)
Sheila Gorman (*)

CUPE Local 454
Hugh Cullinan (*)

HEU - PHSA
Chris Carr
Ana Cedeon-Piedra
Victor Elkins
Gretchen Dulmage
Peter Marcus

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. SECOND CALL EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION

CLC representative Ron Stipp assumed the chair position and opened the second call for nominations to the 2012 VDLC Executive Board.

The results are thus:

Executive Position	**1st Round– 01/17/12 Nominee Name**	**2nd Round – 02/21/12 Nominee Name**	**Union Represented**	
President	Joey Hartman		CEP Local 468	Acclaimed
1st Vice President	Terry Engler		ILWU Local 400	Acclaimed
2nd Vice President	Stephen Von Sychowski		COPE Local 378	Acclaimed
Recording Secretary	John Brennand		TWU Local 50	Declined
	Georgi Bates		COPE Local 378	Acclaimed
Treasurer	Paul Sihota		IAFF Local 18	Acclaimed
Members at Large **(12 positions)**	Sheila Gorman		TWU Local 50	Declined
	Graham O'Neill		HEU North Shore	Acclaimed
	Rob Ashton		ILWU Local 500	Acclaimed
	Russ St. Eloi		Plumbers Local 170	Acclaimed
	Agnes Jackman		HSA	Acclaimed
	Carol Nordby		CUPE Local 389	Acclaimed
	Kassandra Cordero		UFCW Local 1518	Acclaimed
	Megan Adam		PSAC 21047	Acclaimed
	Matt Damario		BCGEU Local 1203	Acclaimed
		Nancy Hawkins	VESTA	Acclaimed
		Brett Small	CUPE Local 116	Acclaimed
		Gary Jarvis	CUPE Local 391	Acclaimed
		Fruma Sloan	CUPW	Acclaimed

As there was no competition for any positions all nominees who accepted were acclaimed to the VDLC 2012 Executive Council and sworn in.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sister Hartman reported on the activities and achievements of the VDLC for the past year.

Committees:

Much of the labour council's work is achieved through committees with representation from various affiliates:

- **Strike Solidarity** – this was changed from an ad hoc to a standing committee. No labour dispute in our region goes unnoticed. In every case the VDLC has provided picket line support, rally attendance, letters to employers and letters of solidarity to the unions.

- **Young Workers** - hold great monthly meetings with an average attendance of 26, often with guest speakers. The committee has been excellent at fundraising and supported young workers to participate in international delegations.

- **Women's** – the committee has held several educational sessions and is recognized for popular IWD dinners, with the next one on March 2nd with speaker Judy Rebick.

- **Education** – is offering the new labour law series, plus an 8 week school in the fall on How Society Works, which will provide a class and economic analysis with a view to alternatives.

- **Labour Arts & Culture** – hold monthly labour cabarets at the Prophouse with music and open mics.

- **International Affairs** – continued the Adopt an Organizer from the Philippines, and plan to organize a delegation to China in 2013 with the BC Federation of Labour.

- **Political Action** – a multi-union committee vetted and recommended candidates for the VDLC to endorse for the November 19, 2011 civic elections and worked with the CLC on poll cards that were distributed through the affiliates.

Campaigns and Boards
The VDLC president participates on a number of committees including the Living Wage campaign, the Employment Standards Act coalition, the Municipal Working Group, the Sustainable Communities Initiative and the Morgan Centre (SFU) labour studies advisory committee.

In addition, Sister Hartman represents the VDLC on the United Way of the Lower Mainland Board, Labour and Advocacy Committees, the MetroVancouver Alliance Board and the BC Federation of Labour Executive.

Outreach
The VDLC engages in the community and with the labour movement through:
- Greetings and presentations to union conferences and conventions, including the 2011 CLC convention in Vancouver
- Speaking to university and college classes
- Collaborating with community organizations
- Organizing public events such as May Day and Labour Day
- Weekly Co-op Radio interviews on Wednesday mornings, plus Union Made and other shows
- The annual fundraiser for Queen Alexandra Elementary School, which will be on March 23 with Elaine Bernard (replacing Robbie Burns dinners as the main fundraiser)

Financial stability, accountability and growth
The VDLC secured financial stability with a per capita increase of 9 cents (to 44 cents) effective October 1, 2011. Sister Hartman thanked the affiliates for supporting this.

The Labour Council also attracted 5 new affiliations in the year, and presented an annual budget for adoption at the December 2011 meeting to ensure financial transparency.

Administration
Several changes were made over the past year to streamline membership meetings, ensure minutes are sent out in a timely fashion, institute long range planning and promotion of pizza educationals and other VDLC events, and update our website.

7. GUEST SPEAKER(S):

a) Sister Holly Page (BC Federation of Labour re: provincial by-elections)

Holly Page is working at the BC Federation of Labour temporarily to coordinate labour movement participation in two upcoming provincial by-elections; Port Moody and Chilliwack. These are important by-elections as the outcome will be seen to some degree as a province-wide referendum on the BC Liberals.

The BC Fed is organizing "labour nights" for activists to work from the phone banks and knock on doors in support of the NDP candidates. These will be held from 5:30 – 8:30 pm on February 27, March 5, March 12 and March 19. Sister Page circulated sign-up sheets and encouraged delegates to volunteer.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) **From DOXA Documentary Film Festival** inviting the VDLC to place an advertisement in the program book for the May 4 – 13, 2012 festival. DOXA notes that the festival audience has grown by 120% in three years and now numbers 18,000 viewers who would see the program guide.

MSC that the correspondence be received and filed for the information of the delegates and that the Vancouver and District Labour Council purchase an ad in the DOXA 2012 program at a cost of $100.00 plus 12% tax.

b) **From The People's Voice Newspaper** inviting the VDLC to place greetings in their 90th Anniversary / May Day 2012 issue.

MSC that the correspondence be received and filed for the information of the delegates and that the Vancouver and District Labour Council purchase an ad in the May 1 – 5, 2012 issue of the People's Voice at a cost of $90.00 plus 12% tax.

c) **From CUPE Local 4078** application to affiliate their 219 members to the Vancouver and District Labour Council.

MSC that the correspondence be received and filed for the information of the delegates and accept the application from CUPE Local 4078 (Transat) to affiliate their 219 members to the VDLC.

9. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

SUBJECT: Queen Alexandra School Fundraising

BECAUSE the VDLC has supported the breakfast program at Queen Alexandra Elementary School for 18 years with its annual Robbie Burns Day Dinner; and

BECAUSE a private benefactor has offered more stable and comprehensive funding for the school's breakfast program; and

BECAUSE the staff at QA school have requested that the VDLC instead fund a small store within the school that would collect donated clothing and purchase essential toiletries and other much-needed items for the school children and their families at little or no cost; and

BECAUSE the Vancouver Sun Children's Fund has committed to matching the VDLC donation to the school for this project in 2012; and

BECAUSE the VDLC could provide information about employment standards rights and other resources through the store, and the families would experience a positive interaction with the labour movement,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL redirect its fundraising donations to Queen Alexandra Elementary School from the breakfast program to a community school store, effective 2012; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL continue to lobby the provincial government to implement measures to alleviate children and families from living in poverty.

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

SUBJECT: Burns Lake Donation

BECAUSE the VDLC executive already approved a modest donation of $150.00 to the USW District 3 fund for the victims of the January 20, 2012 explosion in the Babine Lake Forest Products sawmill near Burns Lake; and

BECAUSE this workplace tragedy, with 3 fatalities and many more injured, has deeply affected the members of USW Local 1 – 424 and others in their community both emotionally and financially,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve an additional $150.00 donation to the USW Burns Lake fund for a total of $300.00.

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

SUBJECT: Support for BCTF in Collective Bargaining

BECAUSE the 41,000 members of the BC Teachers` Federation want a fair and freely negotiated settlement; and

BECAUSE the BCTF`s bargaining demands focus largely on solutions to overcrowded and underfunded classrooms as well as modest improvements for teachers; and

BECAUSE the employer, represented by BCPSEA, is demanding concessions on rights combined with a net-zero financial mandate; and

BECAUSE the BCTF has agreed to work with the government appointed fact finder, Trevor Hughes, despite concerns that the outcome may be predetermined and that the government intends to impose a legislated settlement,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL continue to support the BC Teachers` Federation in their objective of a negotiated settlement, and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon the provincial government to direct BCPSEA to withdraw their concessionary demands, establish a new financial mandate and conclude a fair collective agreement through negotiation – not legislation.

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

SUBJECT: Secret Trial Security Certificates

BECAUSE sections 9 and 76-87 of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act allow Canada to imprison permanent residents and foreign nationals under the authority of a "Security Certificate"; and

BECAUSE those detained under Security Certificates are:

- imprisoned indefinitely on secret evidence, and without charges;
- Tried in unfair judicial proceedings where information is not disclosed to either the detainee or their lawyer;
- Denied the full right to appeal if the certificate is upheld in a process that uses the lowest standard of proof of any court in Canada;

- Threatened with deportation, even when they face serious risks of imprisonment, torture or death because of the allegations; and

BECAUSE the existing security certificate process is undemocratic and violates a number of laws and declarations including the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Convention on Refugees, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the UN Convention on Torture,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon Canada's parliament to abolish the security certificate process; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL ask that those currently detained under security certificates have their certificates withdrawn, and if any case against them exists, that they be allowed to defend themselves in open, fair and independent trials with full disclosure of the case against them, and will not be deported; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL sign the petition "Stop Secret Trials in Canada" found at "www.harkatstatement.com" and encourage affiliates and individual delegates to do the same.

10. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) **BC Ferry and Marine Worker Union** – Reported by Nelson Vega

The Provincial Executive met at the Union office in Nanaimo on January 25 and 26, 2012. Below is some of the information that came out of that meeting.

BCFMWU donated $10,000 to the Burns Lake Fund to show solidarity and support to the USW Brother and Sisters who were affected by this devastating event.

The Union's Young Workers committee elected two new co-chairs of the committee who are Jeremy Bryant and Laura Lajoie. The Young Workers Committee is making plans for 2012 and looking forward to the year ahead.

BCFMWU's case against the Ready "Exclusions" Award will be heard on March 12-15, 2012 before the Supreme Court of Canada.

The Morfitt Report and Ferry Commissioner's Report are both available at www.bcfmwu.com

b) **BCGEU Lcoal 1203** - Reported by Matt Damario

BCGEU is in a tough round of bargaining. Government has basically come out with another "Net Zero" mandate. The Liberal's recent budget was horrible for our union, as it will eliminate 2,000 public service jobs. Many ministries are seeing their budgets being

frozen. The budget was especially bad for Liquor Distribution with plans to privatize warehouses and services.

c) **VESTA (BCTF)** –Reported by Nancy Hawkins

The bargaining team has been at the table for over a year and has participated in 77 sessions with BCPSEA (employer's bargainers). Talks are not going well.

In January BCTF put a greatly reduced package on the table, but this did not advance the talks. Teachers want a negotiated settlement. Being legislated back to work is not an option for teachers.

We have been on a limited job action which includes not doing administrative tasks such as money collection or supervision since school began in September.

Teachers are asking for class size and class composition returned to what the Collective Agreement stated. Also asking for improvements to salary and benefits. Currently teachers have had a "Net Zero" mandate which is a pay cut with no opportunities for improvements in benefits or working conditions. Teachers want to bargain local solutions to local problems and a fair agreement, not a legislated contract.

We are asking for your help:

1) Lobby your MLA and the Minister of Education about the importance of negotiating a fair deal for teachers and all public sector unions.
2) Talk with family, friends and neighbors about how a net zero agreement hurts kids in the classroom.
3) Reach out to your networks to call for a fair deal for teachers.

d) **CAW Local 111** – Reported by Raj Janjua

Beside the by-election in Port Moody and Chilliwack we have been urging all unions to mobilize their memberships to complete a questionnaire for us. Translink is doing a consultation for North Shore area transit plan. We need to have 2000 questionnaires submitted. The North Shore community is in need of a bigger and better transit system. A better transit system will create more jobs in addition to help seniors, students and disabled people.

e) **CUPE Local 116** – Reported by Harry Easton

After almost 2 years of bargaining against the BC Liberal 0% mandate, we have decided to take a strike vote in March. Most public sector unions are now being faced with a "Co-Operative Gains" position where the organization they work for are being tasked with finding within their group to somehow provide "modest" wage increases as long as it does not decrease productivity or does not increase costs of services to the public. Public sector unions are in discussions to create a common front approach to the provincial government.

Our local is committed to solidarity with the other two CUPE locals at UBC. We will keep you updated on the progress in what is shaping up to be very interesting times for our local, our sector and most public sector unions in the district and across the province.

f) **CUPE Local 391** – Reported by Gary Jarvis

We now have a different national representative. Dan Todd is now gone and Heather Inglis is our new rep. Congratulations to CUPE 1004 who now had Dan working for them. We are excited for what the future holds with Heather as she has a lot of experience.

I will be presenting to the Library Board tomorrow on part-time and auxillary issues. The main topics will be living wage, casual labour, access to shifts and scheduling.

g) **HEU – North Shore Community** – Reported by Graham O'Neill

Bargaining is underway in the facilities contract with HEU at the union helm and in the Community Health contract with BCGEU at the union helm. So far it is a slow start.

On Vancouver Island HEU members and supporters have protested the lay-off announcements of Malaspina Gardens and Acacia Ty Mawr where the employers and have issued layoff notices that will be effective in 6 months.

In Parksville an HEU LPN was suspended for a week for speaking publically expressing her concern on the state on senior's care in the province.

There was an ombudsman report on the state of senior's care which called for improvements to staff levels, personal care regimes such as bathing, toilet and dental care. Asking the government to provide legislation to improve these areas. Will government respond accordingly? Look at their track record and answer that question yourself.

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

11. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

1. **Strike Solidarity Committee:** - Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

Teamsters Local 31 (Rocky Mountaineer) is planning a rally on March 5, 2012. You are encouraged to sign up for our committee or the email distribution list to receive emails on upcoming events and information.

2. E**ducation** – Reported by Joey Hartman

There is still toom to register for the legal educational weekend on "Bullying and Harrassment in the Unionized Workplace" on March 17 & 18. Please contact Rachel at the VDLC to pre-register.

3. **Young Workers=** - Reported by Georgi Bates and Bonnie Hammond
   Georgi will be stepping down as the Young Workers Chair. Elections for co-chairs will be in March.

   Bonnie showed off a handcrafted wood box that is being raffled as a fundraiser.

5. **Women=s** - Reported by Ingrid Kolstern and Kassandra Cordero

   Financial Fitness workshop for women presented by Kathy Wutke will be February 22, 2012. IWD 2012 is coming close with ticket sales doing very well. Also the VDLC and the BCFed will be hosting a IWD event as well on March 10, 2012 at W2.

OTHER REPORTS

May Day/ Labour Day Planning Committee – Reported by Joey Hartman

There will be a march and rally on Saturday May 5, 2012 to celebrate May Day.

CLC Report – Reported by Ron Stip

The CLC currently has three main priorities; Federal Election, Retirement Security, and Framing a new Labour Image.

Some of the issues that the CLC is working on include; the Provincial By-Election, Bill C25 regarding pooling RRSP contributions, and Bill C-377 and M210 regarding full public disclosure of Union and Labour Council finances.

MSC to adopt the reports of Committees.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

13. NEW BUSINESS:

MSC that the Vancouver and District Labour Council express its appreciation to the outgoing Executive members – John Brennand, Jeremy Carlson, Myra Reyes, Sheila Gorman, Karen McVeigh, and Mike McGahey.

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Ron Storm from the Victoria Labour Council spoke regarding a Latin America Solidarity School in Havana
- Rob Ashton spoke about the passing of Frank Kennedy who had been a ILWU leader and VDLC Secretary Treasurer
- Megan Adam spoke about the death of Enrique Torres, a Guatemalan Human Rights lawyer
- Joey Hartman spoke regarding the death of Carol Fitzpatrick who was the wife of former VDLC Secretary Treasurer John Fitzpatrick

- A moment of silence was observed

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

17. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, **March 19, 2011**, 7:30 pm, Maritime Labour Centre.