



## VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



### REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2012

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

2. **CHAIRPERSON:** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Terry Engler

3. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*MSC that the minutes of the September 18, 2012 Regular meeting be adopted.*

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

CEP Local 464

Carmella Allevato

CUPE Local 454

Roger Philips

*MSC to obligate/seat the delegates.*

5. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

*Joey Hartman was absent from the meeting to attend the CEP national convention in Quebec City as a delegate. Stephen Von Sychowski reported on her behalf regarding VDLC activities since the September meeting.*

#### Job Action and Bargaining Support

- Universities - CUPE 116, PEA and others – the UBC locals held a march and rally on October 4 along with activities around the province to build recognition and support for their negotiations. Essential services are now set and the strike mandate is active.
- COPE 378 and ICBC – COPE 378 members are continuing strategic strike action to support their bargaining committee.
- BCGEU and the Government of BC – BCGEU reached a tentative agreement with the provincial government for the master agreement. It includes increases of 4% over 2 years, extends job security provisions and reverses plans to privatize the Liquor Distribution Branch. BCGEU members in Community Health and Social Services are still bargaining.
- HEU and HEABC – The BCGEU and BCNU settlements in recent weeks will likely set a pattern for HEU and other public sector bargaining.
- HEU LPNs – the count resulted in 7,200 HEU LPNs in 6 health authorities being raided by the BCNU.

#### Political Action

The VDLC will sponsor a two-night educational on political engagement to get volunteers connected to the pre-election provincial campaign. The course will run the evenings of November 21 and 22 at the Maritime Labour Centre.

NDP labour critic Shane Simpson will be a guest speaker at the November VDLC meeting.

Labour Arts and Culture

Labour cabarets continue at the Prohouse the second Tuesday of each month between 7pm and 9pm.

United Way

The United Way of the Lower Mainland (UWLM) held a full day board meeting on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. It included a presentation from Sister Hartman and the other labour designate board members on the United Way partnership with labour and the mutual benefits. The discussion that followed resulted in some very concrete and achievable ideas that will strengthen the role and recognition for labour in the UW.

MetroVancouver Alliance

Since Deborah Littman was hired in June 2011 the MVA has made significant gains. This coalition of labour, faith and community organizations is now 1/3 labour. Joey Hartman and Bill Saunders are both directors and are working on increasing union membership and leadership training.

*MSC to adopt the report.*

**6. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Circulated to delegates and is attached.

**7. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

Subject: National Oil Policy

BECAUSE Canada does not have a National Oil Policy; and

BECAUSE Canada should have a national energy policy with “Canada first” requirements; and

BECAUSE the Enbridge pipeline proposal is to ship 550,000 gallons per day to China and other countries; and

BECAUSE Canada imports 750,000 gallons per day of foreign oil to satisfy the needs of the Maritime Provinces and Quebec,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL go on record as supporting the implementation of a national oil policy with a “Canada first” clause; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL demand that no oil be exported out of Canada unless all Canadian needs are fulfilled; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call for the nationalization of the oil industry in Canada.

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

Subject: DONATIONS AND SPENDING APPROVALS

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

**Events:**

- Sam Gindin and Leo Panich “The Making of Global Capitalism” book launch, November 2, 2012 from 5pm to 7pm at the Maritime Labour Centre, co-sponsored by the VDLC with a donation towards snacks and beverages at a cost of \$100.00
- Council of Canadians conference, October 26 – 28, 2012 in Nanaimo – assist with costs with a donation of \$100.00

**Donations:**

- North Vancouver Legion – annual donation for a wreath to lay November 11 at a cost of \$50.00

**Memberships:**

- BC Health Coalition – 2013 membership renewal @ \$75.00 plus donation of \$100.00 – for a total cost of \$175.00

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

a) HEU Dogwood Lodge Local – Reported by Karen McVeigh

On October 5, 2012 Dogwood Lodge lost 9 LPN members to the BC Nurses’ Union. HEU lost the vote in all health regions. Not all LPNs voted in the mail in. The BC Nurses’ Union asked for more at the Facilities Bargaining Association bargaining table and were refused. The LPNs have now been recertified. HEU has called for a strike vote for October 30, 2012. They were offered a small wage increase but it was tied to having to co-pay 25% of the premiums for benefits.

b) HEU North Shore Community Local – Reported by Graham O’Neill

As reported in the President’s Report, LPNs are being transferred to the BC Nurses’ Union (BCNU) due to their raid resulting in a successful vote for them. Needless to say this is disheartening for HEU and many believe a negative move for LPNs. It was the HEU, not BCNU, who worked hard to increase the utilization and scope of practice of LPNs - BCNU fought against the increased utilization of LPNs. Furthermore, the Facilities Bargaining Association (FBA) is still the LPNs bargaining unit and collective agreement. FBA bargaining continues at a snail’s pace after HEU had information meetings with its membership. Strike votes next week are being prepared for with less than 24 hours of scheduled bargaining time left on the clock.

c) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Sheryl Burns

Community Social Services began their strike today. Members from selected agencies demonstrated in front of Christy Clark’s office. There was an excellent turnout from many allies, so thank you to everyone who came to support the Local. There will be job actions in Kamloops tomorrow and in Prince George Thursday. There will be further strike actions next week as well as the union continues in the escalation of job action.

d) TSSU – Reported by Murray Martin

TSSU is now on strike. Present job action is an overtime ban and work to rule. They will escalate action in the next week with actions such as withholding grades until the

dispute is over. The university is bargaining in bad faith; they will not even meet with the union on issues that are no cost, such as a centralized/standard job posting procedure.

e) COPE Local 378 – Reported by Caitlin Gilroy

On October 3, 1/3 of COPE Local 378 members at ICBC walked the picket line. The employer's proposals would put the members behind the rising cost of living. The union has been asking for an investigation into workload issues but the employer isn't prepared to look at that issue for another two years. Despite everything the mood on the picket line was great with lots of public support. On October 4, 30 COPE Local 378 members at the UBC Alma Mater Society took a day of strike action in support of a fair deal for AMS Security Workers and in solidarity with CUPE Local 116. The security workers there make \$11.50, which is significantly less than other security workers on campus.

In organizing news, COPE Local 378 has just organized the first unionized veterinary clinic in BC, approximately 20 members in North Vancouver.

Konica Minolta members just took a 100% strike action vote. The main issues in the dispute are wages and the employer's proposed changes to the benefits plan.

COPE Local 378 will be sending 11 young worker delegates to the BC Fed Convention. The young workers' committee is now a standing committee.

November 15 to 17, COPE Local 378 will be holding their convention in Vancouver.

f) CUPE Local 116 (UBC) – Reported by Harry Easton

Strike action started Thursday, October 4 with a rally of 500 of Local 116's 2000 members. The action has continued and escalated every day since and will continue to so until an agreement is reached. There are strong concerns by the local regarding information about the strike action not getting out to the labour movement. Local 116 requests support from all unions as actions are now 24/7. This dispute is not just about wages, as there is a "shared services" review for all post-secondary public sector institutions presently underway and the multinational company Aramac is on campus looking at our services

*MSC to adopt the reports of unions.*

**9. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:** (in order reported)

a) Women's – Reported by Ingrid Kolsteren

The committee has been involved with Women Transforming Cities, which is having a really great impact. Their café's have been great for discussion and generation of ideas. The last café was about what women think would make a great city for women and girls. Their next café will be a discussion on adequate housing.

October 23 and 30, Public Speaking for Women is being offered at the Maritime Labour Centre. The committee's next meeting is October 29, open to all women who may be interested. They intend to spend time discussing what it means to be a feminist and what it means to be a unionist and how those two can work together.

b) Strike Solidarity – Reported by Stephen Von Sychowski

At their October 2 meeting, they discussed the tentative BCGEU deal and what that might mean for the various public sector unions still in bargaining. They've also heard

reports of on-going job action by both COPE at ICBC and CUPE at UBC and ways to continue supporting those unions. They are looking at ways to get the word out about job actions and how to get a little more organized and coordinated around their support; such as the possibility of sending delegations from the labour council and increasing the visibility of their support.

c) Young Workers' – Reported by Bonnie Hammond

At their last meeting they had a report back from the International Transportation Federation Conference which Bonnie attended in Montreal in September and from the BC Fed Young Workers' Committee. The next fundraiser needs to be postponed until the new year, likely February or early March. Pledge forms will be ready to go out November 25, they will be handing those out at the BC Fed Convention. The Young Workers' calendar should be ready to go to print by the end of the week.

*MSC to adopt the reports of Committees.*

**OTHER REPORTS**

a. CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp  
See attached report

*MSC to adopt the Other Reports.*

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

A motion regarding the BC Federation of Labour elections was referred by the September 18 meeting. The following 4 motions are recommended by the VDLC Executive as substitute motions:

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

Subject: BC Federation of Labour Elections – Organizational Neutrality

BECAUSE the VDLC is an umbrella organization of affiliated unions, with each union taking its own position regarding which candidates to support for the BC Federation of Labour President and Secretary Treasurer,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL take a neutral position regarding the 2012 elections for the BC Federation of Labour President and Secretary Treasurer positions.

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

Subject: BC Federation of Labour Elections – Campaigning

BECAUSE the VDLC's neutrality would be compromised if VDLC delegates were to actively participate in any of the campaigns for these two positions,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL direct VDLC delegates to the BC Federation of Labour Convention to refrain from actively campaigning (e.g. wearing buttons, distributing campaign materials, providing endorsements) for any candidate running for President or Secretary Treasurer.

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

Subject: BC Federation of Labour Elections – Voting

BECAUSE the votes are by secret ballot for the BC Federation of Labour elections,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL permit VDLC delegates to cast a secret ballot for the candidates of their choice for President and Secretary Treasurer.

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

Subject: BC Federation of Labour Elections – Requests by Candidates to Be Guest Speakers at the VDLC

BECAUSE candidates for the positions of President and Secretary Treasurer for the BC Federation of Labour may wish to address a VDLC meeting in advance of the BC Fed convention November 26 to 29, 2012,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL advise all known candidates for BC Federation of Labour President or Secretary Treasurer that they may be a guest speaker at the next VDLC meeting on November 20, 2012.

**11. NEW BUSINESS:** NIL

**12. NOTICE OF MOTION:** NIL

**13. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

- Labour Community Christmas Dinner has only about half the funding they need. If they are unable to raise enough funds, they will have to cancel one of their dinners on Christmas Eve. Delegates were asked to go back to their locals and urge them to donate to this wonderful event and keep it alive. A suggestion for unions that hold Christmas parties for their members where members bring an unwrapped toy is to ask if some of those could be donated to the Labour Community Christmas Dinner; the Dinner provides gifts for children and teens and that can get expensive. Food Bank donations can come directly to that as well where they provide food hampers.
- 50/50 proceeds to benefit the Labour Community Christmas Dinner
- November 21 and 22, Political Action School (see enclosure)
- October 20, Saturday, Pan-Canadian Day of Reproductive Justice in Vancouver at 12 pm at Waterfront Skytrain Station where the BC Fed Women's Rights Committee and Abortion Rights Coalition of Canada will be holding a "freeze mob" to draw attention to some of the remote communities in our province and across the country that don't have access to safe abortion, childcare and/or other health and early child care supports
- November 3 - International Solidarity Event, sponsored by CoDevelopment Canada – Building for International Solidarity, Networking for Strategic Change
- November 3, COPE event *Justice Not Charity* – discussion around charity growth, inner city schools and the encroaching corporatization at the Peretz Centre.
- CAW Local 2002 is celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and has made up calendars which Brother Tim Cheung brought for delegates and guests
- Thank you to everyone that made it out to the World Peace Forum Teach-In, for those that missed it WorkingTV has posted it on their website and on the World Peace Forum's Facebook site. Their next event will be on Remembrance Day at the WISE Hall where they will be showing Catch 22 at 7:30 pm with a talk about war and capitalism by Stopwar's Sarah Bjorknas

- Social Democracy After the Cold War - book by Ingo Schmidt and Brian Evans, available for \$30. Order forms were made available
- Vancouver Committee for Free Expression meets every Wednesday at 7 pm at Joe's Café on Commercial Drive around distribution of literature at skytrain stations.
- November 19 is International Men's Day. Brothers were encouraged to go out and do something nice for themselves

**14. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *MSC to adjourn at 8:53 pm*

**15. NEXT MEETING:** [Tuesday, November 20, 2012](#), 7:30 pm, Maritime Labour Centre.