REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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 July 17, 2012 Regular meeting be adopted.

4. **CREDENTIALS:**

   BCGEU Local 803
   Liz Magee-Davis

   Burnaby Teachers' Association
   Dave McPhee

   CUPE Local 873
   Bronwyn Barter
   Al Boulier
   Rachel Niblock (A)*
   Lindsay Penarsky
   James Towle
   Country Waring *

   TSSU
   Murray Martin

   MSC to obligate/seat the delegates.

5. **GUEST SPEAKER(S):**
   Mae Burrows – Living Wage Campaign on behalf of BC First Call
   BC First Call: Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition includes many unions. They produce the annual child poverty report which will be released in October. BC continues to have the highest rate of child poverty in Canada. This is a direct result of parents in BC not earning enough money despite sometimes working multiple jobs, which is why BC First Call is involved in the Living Wage Campaign. There is a huge difference between the minimum wage in BC and what has been deemed a living wage. A living wage has been calculated to $19.14 for the Lower Mainland, minimum wage in BC is $10.25. The campaign is calling on unions to call on the building managers of their offices to look at the wages of the "invisible staff" (i.e. custodial workers, security staff, etc.) and ensure that they are being paid, at minimum, a living wage. We have the power to lift people out of poverty, let's use it.

President Joey Hartman commented that it is easy for unions to register as living wage employers, and this can build momentum for the campaign in addition to the steps recommended by Mae Burrows. She hopes that delegates go back to their unions and encourage this.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Joey Hartman reported on activities since the July 17 meeting.

Job Action and Bargaining Support

- Teamsters Local 31 locked-out by Rocky Mountaineer – after 15 months the members ratified an agreement on September 8. This dispute has demonstrated the challenges to the labour movement when the bosses, courts and law combine to oppress workers' rights with the use of scabs, unfair bargaining practices, severe injunctions and heavy fines.

- COPE 378 and ICBC – COPE 378 members took full strike action for one day on September 5, 2012 and again today, September 18.

- BCGEU and the Government of BC – BCGEU had a full strike for direct provincial employees on September 5. Over 27,000 public sector workers were on strike in hundreds of communities around BC. News on September 13th that the provincial government overestimated natural gas revenues by over $1.1B may be a tactic to cut back on their bargaining mandate with the unions.

In addition, BCGEU members in Community Health and Social Services are in difficult negotiations. A very successful rally was held with social service workers on September 13.

Support for PSAC Against Federal Cuts

On September 14, a group of 13 labour leaders, fishers and boating enthusiasts commenced a 24 hour sit-in at the Kits Coast Guard Station which is slated for closure as part of the federal budget cuts. The occupation received very good media coverage and was well supported.

On September 15, Joey Hartman spoke at a "We are All Affected" rally for PSAC to highlight the value of federal workers and the services they provide, and to encourage political and union activism. Later in the day several VDLC executive members and activists were present to welcome the Coast Guard Station occupiers as they concluded the sit-in.

Labour Day

The September 3, 2012 Labour Day event at Trout Lake (John Hendry Park) was very successful with over 2,000 participants. The band Chilliwack was a big draw, and booths set up by unions and community organizations were busy all afternoon.

International Solidarity

- Philippines: Pete Pinlac from Makabayan spoke at several meetings. This resulted in a new sponsor for the VDLC "adopt an organizer" partnership.
- Cuba: The VDLC co-sponsored a presentation with Raymundo Navarro of the labour central CTC to 150 Victory Square Law seminar participants on September 14, followed by an informal discussion.

- Pakistan: Over 300 factory workers died in a fire in Pakistan September 12. Tragically, a combination of unsafe working conditions, locked doors and abuse of workers were all contributing factors. Sister Hartman is writing a letter to express our sympathy and outrage.
- South Africa: Striking South African miners were fired upon by police in August, killing 34. The government then charged hundreds of miners with murder, using an archaic, and apartheid-era law. After an international condemnation, the murder charges were withdrawn. Sister Hartman is writing a letter to the South African president with copies to the mine workers' union and the mine owner. *(a resolution was reached)*
- Wisconsin: Last year Governor Scott Walker made it illegal for state employees to bargain anything except wages, and even wages could not exceed the rate of inflation. Last week a judge ruled that the law violates both the state and US Constitution and is null and void.

United Way
The 2012/13 campaign kick-off was September 6. About 80% of all United Way fundraising is through workplace campaigns and unions are encouraged to participate.

Grant's Law
An Ontario gas station attendant was dragged to his death this week trying to prevent a "fill and dash" theft where he worked. The circumstances are almost identical to the tragic death of Grant dePatie that led to BC laws requiring customers pay before they pump gas, as well as requirements that workers not work alone unless they are behind a protective barrier. Those requirements have recently been watered down.

VDLC staffing
Keziah McCrystal Rothlin returned as the VDLC executive assistant on August 27 after an extended maternity leave. We welcome her back and thank Rachel Abbott for her time in the position.

MSC to adopt the report.

7. CORRESPONDENCE:
List circulated to delegates and is enclosed.

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:
a) *MS that the following recommendation be adopted:*
Subject: BC Federation of Labour Elections
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:
1. take a neutral position regarding the 2012 elections for the BC Federation of Labour President and Secretary-Treasurer positions and VDLC delegates shall not campaign or cast a vote for these two (2) positions; and
2. accept requests from candidates to address the VDLC regular meetings prior to the November 26 to 30, 2012 Convention.

MSC that the motion be referred back to the Executive, with instructions to bring the issue back to the October 2012 meeting with consideration given to the debate.

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:

- BC Federation of Labour – $500.00 contribution towards costs of Labour Day 2012 Picnic
- BC Federation of Labour Convention – Delegate fees @ $150.00 each and in-town per diem @ $35.00 per day for 3 VDLC delegates, for a total cost of $950.00
  Note 1: the VDLC is not able to cover travel, wage replacement or other costs;
  Note 2: Sister Hartman is an executive member of the Federation and is an automatic delegate
- United Way Annual Labour Appreciation Dinner, December 6 – purchase 5 tickets @ $50.00 for a total cost of $250.00
- Oscar Dorval fundraiser, Friday, September 28, 2012 – purchase of 2 ticket at $15 each for a total cost of $30.

Donations:

- World Peace Forum September 29 - $100.00

c) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*
Subject: Farmers and Fishers of Gaza
BECAUSE the fishers and farmers of Gaza have had their ability to earn a living substantially limited by Israeli policies which have reduced fishing territories to less than 3 nautical miles and farmers have had 35% of their land lost to the creation of buffer zones; and

BECAUSE Canadian activists who participated in a delegation to Gaza earlier this year have committed to publicizing the plight of these groups, beginning with a Day of Action for the Fishers and Farmers of Gaza, Palestine,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support Vancouver2Gaza by:

1. endorsing the Day of Action for the Fishers and Farmers of Gaza, Palestine; and
2. providing a speaker for the rally at 1:00 pm on Sunday, September 30 at the Vancouver Art Gallery; and
3. promote the Day of Action on the VDLC events calendar and through affiliated unions, and encourage their participation; and
4. have a presentation at the October 16, 2012 VDLC pizza educational.

d) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*
Subject: Pipelines
BECAUSE the Harper federal government's economic diversification plan relies heavily on the export of raw Alberta bitumen to Asian markets, as well as other raw resource export; and

BECAUSE the oil sands production, proposals for 1,170 kilometres of pipeline across BC poses significant environmental concerns; and

BECAUSE First Nations across BC object to the proposed pipelines and will likely pursue legal and activist based options to prevent such activities,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL oppose the construction of pipelines designed for the transport of raw bitumen until such time as:

- an independent and comprehensive BC environmental impact review has been completed and made public; and
- First Nations communities in BC have withdrawn their objections; and
- opportunities for the processing of bitumen in Canada into synthetic crude oil be considered and implemented where viable; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL further demand that, should the pipeline proceed, that all construction be done by skilled and unionized craft workers who will ensure that best construction and provide the highest regard for environmental protection; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL forward this resolution to the BC Federation of Labour 2012 Convention.

e) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*
Subject: Resolutions to the 2012 BC Federation of Labour Convention
BECAUSE the VDLC has adopted a number of resolutions since the 2010 BC Federation of Labour convention that have province-wide or national significance,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL submit the following resolutions to the 2012 BC Federation of Labour Convention, edited as necessary for length and current relevance:

1. No Closure of Vancouver Coast Guard Station
2. Privatization of BC Liquor Distribution Branch
3. Public Delivery of Publicly Funded Health Care
4. Canadian Peace Alliance Declaration "Peace & Prosperity – Not War and Austerity"
5. Minimum Wage for Agricultural Workers – Eliminate Piece Rates
6. Minimum Age Campaign
7. Bills 377 and M 210-2011
8. Canada – EU Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)
9. Community Plan for a Public System of Integrated Early Care and Learning

f) *MSC that the following amended resolution submitted by ETEA Local 1, be forwarded to the BC Federation of Labour Convention as a VDLC resolution:*
Subject: Twinning of the Kinder-Morgan Pipeline from Edmonton to Burnaby
BECAUSE Kinder Morgan has proposed a $4.1-billion doubling of the capacity of the 1,150kilometre-long Trans Mountain pipeline, to bring the capacity up to 750,000 barrels of oil a day; and

BECAUSE the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation opposes this project,

THE BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR WILL:

1. take a stand opposing the twinning of the Kinder Morgan pipeline; and
2. advocate that at least a second oil refinery be built in BC; and
3. call for a new Canadian energy policy based on the refining of oil and gas in Canada with sufficient royalties to provide for the well-being of all Canadians; and
4. development of a national energy policy that puts consideration for the welfare and security of Canadians before maximizing profits for Big Oil monopolies.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS: (in order reported)

a) BCGEU Local 303 – reported by Mike Clarke

Most of BCGEU's activities were around a number of strike actions that took place August 7 and September 5. The August action mainly involved 3 communities while the September action involved all government employees and COPE 378 members at ICBC as well. A huge thank you to all BCGEU's members and staff and the many other union members that attended both actions. They continue to push for a fair settlement.

Also on the dispute front, members at Mainroads in the Kootenays were locked out for two weeks, while their employer continued to receive full pay from the government. A settlement has been reached; however, it highlights the ridiculous government policy of paying privatized employers, despite being of no benefit to the public.

HEU – North Shore Community Local – reported by Graham O'Neill

The Community Health Bargaining Association is in the midst of a strike vote as the employer refuses to budge from their net zero mandate. Brother O'Neill's Local, North Shore Community, will be taking their vote Friday, September 21.

Facilities Bargaining continues. It is clear that the employer is going after benefits and the union is obviously resisting.

The LPN vote has taken place. There are various concerns around assurance that all those eligible to vote were able to do so and that the BCNU's applications were legally valid. No results were in at the time of this report.

b) CUPE Local 391 – reported by Gary Jarvis

Local 391 has had 3 days of bargaining with the Vancouver Public Library. It's still really early in talks and more dates are set. The Local's principal concerns in this round of bargaining are increased rights for part-time and auxiliary workers, pay equity, and job security. The issue of part-time and auxiliary is a concern that will be a struggle to achieve in this round.

c) Teachers' Support Staff Union – reported by Murray Martin

The union is currently in mediation with SFU. The TSSU bargaining team is recommending the union leave mediation and explore job action due to the university's refusal to negotiate in good faith. A strike vote was taken in June with over 90% of votes in favour of striking.

d) CAW Local 2002 – reported by Tim Cheung

The CAW has unanimously agreed at the CAW 2012 Convention to create a new union with the CEP (Communication, Energy, and Paperworkers' Union). CAW is waiting for

the CEP Convention, October 14 through 17 in Quebec to see if the support is there. If the venture is successful, the new union project will create the biggest private sector union within Canada.

e) ETEA Local 1 – reported by Charles Boylan
After certifying in Ling School in mid-July the ETEA now has a bargaining committee there which will soon be starting negotiations for a first contract. In early August, ETEA began organizing Study English in Canada (SEC) School with 20 teachers. The anti-union owners learned about the organizing efforts and fired the two lead organizers after the union had signed 55% of the employees. ETEA filed for a vote and unfair labour practice on August 3. At the LRB the workers were rehired and a certification vote took place August 13. Regrettably the vote was 9 to 9 and the certification was lost, emphasizing the need to return to return to a card signing system to establish certification as used to exist in the BC Labour Code.

f) CUPE Local 1936 – reported by Michael Lanier
CUPE Local 1936 just left the bargaining table September 18. Employers still have no ability to address the monetary items that are priorities of the members who have voted 85 to 90% in favour of strike action. No more dates are set for talks. In two days of bargaining, the union managed to remove a number of concessions from the table. CSSBA is an association of 9 unions with 14,000 members province wide. Strike actions are likely before October 15, unless the government changes its mandate and provides some money. Thanks to the VDLC and affiliates the rally for Community Social Service workers at the Vancouver Art Gallery on September 13 was a success.

g) CUPE Local 116 – reported by Harry Easton
September 19, Local 116 celebrates its 70th Anniversary. The local has been in mediation for the summer months and has finalized essential services. They are working towards what looks to be potential job action soon. The local is participating in strike support for their brothers and sisters at CUPE on strike at U VIC, September 17, and COPE 378 at ICBC on September 19.

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

a) Women's – reported by Ingrid Kolsteren
The committee is getting involved with the organization *Women Transforming the City*. Planning for IWD dinner on March 8, 2013 has started as well.

b) Young Workers' – reported by Kassandra Cordero
Over the summer young workers were big presence at Pride and at Labour Day. In a last minute 50/50 draw the young workers were able to raise over $900. They also held a social at the Maritime Labour Centre; thank you to Brother Terry Engler for facilitating that and to Brother Rob Ashton for supplying a bbq.

It was brought to everyone's attention that Sister Cordero was the driving force behind this year's Labour Day Picnic and she deserves a round of applause for her hard work on such a successful day.

c) Strike Solidarity – reported by Stephen Von Sychowski
The VDLC supported the one day job action for BCGEU and COPE. It looks like these job actions are going to become more and more frequent as people are getting tired of zero mandates.

d) Education – reported by Joey Hartman
The VDLC's Fall Education Program starts September 19 with the Occupy This course that runs for 6 weeks. The course on Human Rights Law will be held September 29, registration is $70.

e) Labour Arts & Culture – reported by Joey Hartman
Anne Feeney, labour / folk singer will be in Vancouver, September 20. The VDLC is sponsoring her show at the Tipper Room – tickets $15, $20 at the door.

MSC to adopt the reports of Committees.

OTHER REPORTS

a) CLC – reported by Ron Stipp
The CLC launched their "Union Advantage" campaign on Labour Day. The campaign highlights 29 communities across Canada (Vancouver, Abbotsford, Mission and Victoria in BC) and cites benefits that unionized workers provide to their community and economy. On average unionized workers earn $5.11 more per hour than their non-union counterparts. In Vancouver, the average is just below $4.92 which puts $52 million dollars into the local economy. See enclosed.

CLC Winter School starts January 13, 2013. Initial courses are listed on the website. Programs should be available by the October meeting. Week 5 will be a professional development week with courses only running 3 days.

Weekend School is on October 27. Courses are filling up quickly so if anyone is interested sign up soon. Remember that when you identify yourself as affiliated to the VDLC, the VDLC gets a small return.

b) BC FORUM – reported by Sandy Bauer
BC FORUM had an information table at the Labour Day Picnic at which they obtained 150 signatures on a petition to the House of Commons to Protect Retirement Security. The petition is sponsored by the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC). BC FORUM will also have a booth at the BC Teachers Retirement Association Conference later in September and at November's BC Fed Convention. They are looking ahead to the CLC Winter School where they will have a table at the Sunday Fairs and will make a presentation to the Shareholder Association for Research and Education (SHARE) courses. At FORUM's last board meeting they voted to take on Protein for People as a partnership organization and become a member. The September edition of the Advocate is out and it's one of their best issues ever! Please take copies back to your unions.

MSC to adopt the Other Reports.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

12. BY-ELECTION:

By-election held to fill a vacancy on the VDLC Executive for a position of Member-at-Large, vacated by Sister Megan Adam, delegate of PSAC Local 20147. It was clarified for the delegates that in order to be eligible to run for a position on the executive a delegate must be from an affiliate in good standing and must have attended 50% of meetings held in the 12 months prior to nomination.

VDLC 1st Vice President and Chair Terry Engler presided over the election.
Nominees (in order of nomination)

Devin Gillan	United Association of Plumbers Local 170
Masoud Aminzawar	BCGEU Local 403
Tim Cheung	CAW Local 2002

Each candidate was given the opportunity to address the delegates. Cast ballots were counted by the VDLC Credentials Committee and CLC Representative Ron Stipp.

Brother Tim Cheung, delegate from CAW Local 2002, was elected and sworn in.

MSC that the ballots be destroyed.

13. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- The EI Board of Referees has been eliminated by the federal government. The Board acted as advocates for workers appealing EI decisions. Now workers wanting to appeal will be required to contact EI directly. Employment insurance legislation, disability insurance legislation and immigration legislation are being rolled into one act and overseen by one office. Workers ability to appeal EI or any other of these is virtually gone.
- October 19, Friday – Laska Dinner fundraiser for Under One Umbrella Society – an organization that brings together organizations and service providers for homeless and at-risk people – tickets are $25
- Co-op Radio is on a new frequency – 100.5 FM
- Women's Right to Choose rally Tuesday, September 25 – Vancouver Art Gallery – protesting Bill M-312
- AIDS Walk September 23
- BC Health Coalition – Medical Services has finally audited Dr. Day's clinic and there are findings of double billing and possibly even fraud – now we have to push the BC Government to actually do something about it
- World Peace Forum Society holding "The War on the Workers" Conference, September 29 at Harbour Centre – tickets available at the door
- Oscar Dorval Fundraiser – 4 year old Oscar is battling cancer for the second time - funds will help his family off-set expenses –September 28, tickets $20 – Event is hosted by Terry David Mulligan, music by the Odds, Dead Voices, Ché Dorval, Late Thaw, Wyckham Porteous and more

- 50/50 Benefits went to the Oscar Dorval Fundraiser
- Tower of Babel film being shown at the COPE BBQ, Wednesday, September 19 – suggested donation of $20
- WTF (Where's the Funding) CUPE initiative – information made available to delegates

16. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 9:35 pm*

17. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, **October 16, 2012**, 7:30 pm, Maritime Labour Centre.