



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022**

The VDLC acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and other First Nations people.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission – Calls to Action

Language and Culture

14. We call upon the federal government to enact an Aboriginal Languages Act that incorporates the following principles:

- i. Aboriginal languages are a fundamental and valued element of Canadian culture and society, and there is an urgency to preserve them.
- ii. Aboriginal language rights are reinforced by the Treaties.
- iii. The federal government has a responsibility to provide sufficient funds for Aboriginal-language revitalization and preservation.
- iv. The preservation, revitalization, and strengthening of Aboriginal languages and cultures are best managed by Aboriginal people and communities.
- v. Funding for Aboriginal language initiatives must reflect the diversity of Aboriginal languages.

- 1. LOCATION:** ZOOM Video Conference – 7:00PM
- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** 1st Vice President Bal Sandhu
- 3. NOTICE OF VDLC POLICY ON HARASSMENT:** Circulated prior to meeting
- 4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**
M/S/C that the agenda of the April 19, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
M/S/C that the minutes of the March 15, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 6. NEW CREDENTIALS:** No new delegates this evening.
- 7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**
- 8. GUEST SPEAKERS:** 1. Canadian Labour Congress President Bea Bruske

Sometimes it's hard to measure how effective our work is but, with this agreement between the Liberals and the NDP, it is not. Our issues, workers' issues run through the entire document.

- Pharmacare
- Dental care
- Childcare
- Anti-scab
- Just Transition, the list goes on.

The relationships we have build with the Government and the NDP along with our efforts to mobilize workers and **most importantly, demonstrate widespread support for our issues** is why they featured so prominently in this agreement and why the parties were able to find common ground.

Since 2004, we have had 7 elections, 5 of which ended in minorities. None of them had parties formally working together like this agreement lays out. But it's also important to remember – our system was designed for this to be ow our democracy works.

In fact, you have to go back to the 1960's to find federal parties working together like this and that brought us transformative changes like Medicare and the Canada Pension Plan.

The next thing that is remarkable about this agreement, and I've already touched on it, is that it's built on **our** issues. Some of which we have been working on for decades. This is what makes me so excited about the opportunity in front of us. If we are successful, if we keep the parties working together and keep public support for these issues high, we are going to get some transformative things done in this country.

So, what's in the agreement?

- **Implementing 10 days paid sick leave** as soon as possible in 2022. This year.
- **Anti-scab legislation** by the end of 2023 for federally regulated industries, covering both lockouts and strikes (Let's not forget that the Liberal Platform only called for lockouts).

On Healthcare:

- **Pharmacare**, with substantial steps towards universal Pharmacare including a Canada Pharmacy Act in place by the end of 2023; followed by a national formulary for essential medicines and a bulk purchasing plan in place by 2025 (Is this everything? NO – but the essential medicines list and the bulk purchasing plan are key steps in completing our goal of a **universal single payer Pharmacare**).
- **Dental care for low-income Canadians**, beginning with those under 12 years old in 2022; under 18's, seniors, and people with disabilities in 2023; and all those making less than \$90,000 by 2025 (Clearly an NDP victory, it was a pillar of their platform in the last election).
- **Safe Long-term Care Act**, to ensure seniors get the care they deserve, regardless of where they live in Canada (We were concerned that the Government was trying to get away from this because of jurisdictional concerns but the agreement puts the issue of LTC on the front burner again).

- **Immediate increased health funding**, working with provinces to deliver more primary care nurses and doctors, medical health support, homecare, better data, and improved health outcomes (This has already started rolling out with the announcement last week of 2 billion dollars to the provinces to help clear the surgery backlog caused by the pandemic).

With rising cost of living and stagnant wages, families are facing a squeeze. As you know, we have been fighting to make life more affordable and this deal delivers:

- **Affordable housing**, through the extension of the Rapid Housing Initiative, the agreement focuses the Rental Construction and Financing Initiative on affordable units;
 - A Housing Accelerator Fund, which would mark the first time since Paul Martin that the Federal government is getting in the business of building affordable housing.
 - A \$500 top up to the Canada Housing Benefit in 2022.
 - As well as a Homebuyer's Bill of Right and a commitment to tackle housing market speculation by the end of 2023.
- **Early Learning and Child Care Act**, introduced this year to enshrine affordable child care agreements in law and protect long-term funding for non-profit and public spaces, to make sure working families have access to high-quality affordable childcare (I want to highlight the not-for-profit and public space aspects here. This is where we need to be strongest).

This agreement also has some important sections dealing with the Climate Crisis and a Just Transition. The agreement commits to working with unions on **Just Transition legislation** and moving forward in 2022 with a **Clean Jobs Training Centre**.

Home efficiency retrofit programs, with multiple streams that include low-income and multi-unit residential, which will create good jobs in Canada.

And, after we have seen companies making huge pandemic profits, this deal delivers and takes steps to a fairer tax system:

- The agreement commits to a pandemic profiteers' tax changes for financial institutions who have made large profits during the pandemic (This is a good start, but we will be pushing for more on this front).

Canada's unions have also been urging the government forward on Indigenous reconciliation, in a meaningful and substantive way – and this deal delivers:

- **Significant new investments in Indigenous housing** in 2022
- Action on the missing and murdered Indigenous women recommendations.
- Supporting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities to undertake the work of **burial searches at former residential school sites**.

So, as you can see, this agreement touches on so many things that we have been calling for. The agreement is very ambitious with some fairly quick timelines. There are parts of the Just Transition section, the dental care, childcare, affordable housing and the reconciliation sections that have to be dealt with this year. We are going to have to work quickly to make sure these pieces of legislation meet the needs of our members and workers across the country.

The Congress is in the process of retooling our campaign to reflect this new reality and we have already begun to mobilize our members.

The budget was the first real test of the agreement and I think so far, the government has kept up their end of the bargain. This year a whole lot of low-income children are going to have access to dental care. That in of itself is worth the fight, but the budget also included some important steps around childcare, fair taxation (15% one-time premium for banks and insurance companies and 1.3% increase to their corporate tax rate) and housing.

We will be paying close attention to how all this rolls out but, my friends, in these unprecedented times, we have an unprecedented opportunity in front of us. If we are successful, I promise you, Canada will be a better place at the end of this agreement than it is today.

9. EDUCATIONAL: NIL

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the March 2022 meeting.

Meetings

The Executive Board will be conducting a trial run of a hybrid meeting and then making some decisions about how to proceed going forward. We are discussing utilizing Zoom, in-person, hybrid, or a combination of these different options to ensure that delegates are afforded the best possible opportunity to participate.

Political Action

There have been two big stories in politics and the advancement of labour issues since our last meeting.

The first was of course the announcement of a confidence and supply agreement between the Federal Liberal government and the NDP. This is a historic agreement which sees the NDP leveraging the Liberal minority to secure progress on long standing labour priorities.

Some key pieces of the agreement include:

- Implementing 10 days paid sick leave as soon as possible in 2022.
- Anti-scab legislation by the end of 2023 for federally regulated industries, covering both lockouts and strikes.
- Pharmacare, with substantial steps towards universal pharmacare including a Canada Pharmacare Act in place by end of 2023; followed by a national formulary for essential medicines and a bulk purchasing plan in place by 2025.
- Dentalcare for low-income Canadians, beginning with under 12-year-olds in 2022; under 18's, seniors and people with disabilities in 2023; and all those making less than \$90,000 by 2025.

- Safe Long-term Care Act, to ensure seniors get the care they deserve, regardless of where they live in Canada.
- Immediate increased health funding, working with provinces to deliver more primary care nurses and doctors, mental health support, homecare, better data and improved health outcomes.
- Affordable housing, through the extension of the Rapid Housing Initiative, focusing the Rental Construction and Financing Initiative on affordable units; a Housing Accelerator Fund; \$500 top up to Canada Housing Benefit in 2022; and a Homebuyer's Bill of Rights and tackling housing market speculation by the end of 2023.
- Early Learning and Child Care Act introduced this year to enshrine affordable childcare agreements in law and protect long-term funding for nonprofit and public spaces, to make sure working families have access to high quality affordable childcare.
- Working with unions on Just Transition legislation and moving forward in 2022 with a Clean Jobs Training Centre.
- Home efficiency retrofit programs, with multiple streams that include low income and multi-unit residential and invest in building Canadian supply chains for this work, creating good jobs in Canada.
- Pandemic profiteers tax changes for financial institutions who have made large profits during the pandemic.
- Beneficial ownership registry by the end of 2023.
- Significant new investments in Indigenous housing in 2022.
- Accelerating the implementation of the Federal Pathway to Address Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People
- Federal-Provincial-Territorial table on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People, to better facilitate and coordinate this work.
- Supporting First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities undertake the work of burial searches at former residential school sites.

The deal is of course opposed by the Conservative Party, who have cynically attacked the notion of parliamentary cooperation as something underhanded. As we know, the

Conservatives are currently in the process of selecting a new leader, and there is a real chance of a hard rightward shift. The outcomes of the Conservative leadership race and the confidence and supply agreement will surely play a significant role in how parliament looks and functions not only this term, but beyond.

The first outcomes of the agreement were seen in the budget announced on April 7th.

The second big item was the announcement by the BC NDP of labour code reforms including single step certification and the opportunity for workers in construction to change representation annually. These are very positive developments, which have been priorities for labour at the provincial level for some time.

Single step certification of “card check” means that going forward if 55% of workers sign union cards they will be certified. If 45-55% sign there will be a representation vote. This removes the fetters on the right to organize which were instituted by the BC Liberal government in 2021 and opens the door for more workers to join a union freely, in keeping with their charter rights.

April 30th will be the date of the Vancouver Quilchena byelection. BC Liberal Party leader Kevin Falcon is hoping to secure a seat and is being challenged by NDP candidate Jeanette Ashe.

On the municipal scene, you will see that we have recommendations for endorsements of incumbents on the North Shore this month. Our Vetting Committee and Political Action Committee have both been exceptionally busy over this past month, and we will see all other recommendations for endorsements coming forward in May and June. The main focus this month has been the City of Vancouver and moving toward concluding the remainder of our endorsements there.

Also in municipal news, Adrienne Carr announced she is in fact running for re-election to Council, not for Mayor. This is a good decision, which means that there is not anticipated to be a split in the mayoral race this election on the left of center. Meanwhile Team Kennedy Stewart re-branded at Forward Together Vancouver. Finally, three former-NPA City Councilors have joined Ken Sim's "A Better City" party; a right-wing splinter from the NPA. The step in the consolidation of the right-wing candidates is a reminder that we should allow ourselves to become complacent in the idea that right-wing division will give progressives a boost in this election.

Labour Education

Between our March and April meetings we will have held seven courses, all of which were well attended and at least three of which were sold out. The course on Election Rules was rescheduled to May 5th as the facilitator lost her voice the day before.

We also co-hosted a lunch & learn with NWDLC on April 7. The topic was Inflation: Myth, Reality, and Solutions with Jim Stanford. We had 186 registrations and 71 participants; the session is now available to be viewed on our YouTube channel.

Labour Disputes

Labour disputes between IBEW 213 and Ledcor (LTS), as well as Unite Here Local 40 and Metrotown Hilton/Pacific Gateway are still ongoing.

Executive members attended the Local 40 rally marking the anniversary of their strike on April 14th.

Just Transition

The Just Transition Working Group met again on April 11 and discussed the mission statement and next steps in forming a Just Transition Council.

Downtown Eastside Joint Union Committee

The committee had a productive meeting with BC Housing representatives late last month. Training, casual pools, and staffing were identified as key topics for further discussion.

Day of Mourning

On April 28 each year we come together to remember those who were killed on the job, and to recommit to working to ensure that every worker goes home safe at the end of every shift.

We are co-sponsoring a Day of Mourning ceremony once again this year along with the BC Federation of Labour, the Business Council of BC, and WorkSafeBC.

We will hear from speakers, including workers who have been impacted by a workplace death or serious injury.

April 28, 2022 at 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Jack Poole Plaza, 1055 Canada Pl., Vancouver, BC
Livestream available at <https://www.dayofmourning.bc.ca/>

May Day

On May 1st the Anti-Racism Committee is hosting Building Anti-Racist Solidarity in our Workplaces and Unions.

This is a virtual event for all union members who want to learn and share about racism and anti-racism in the workplace. The webinar will look at how to break the silence and be an anti-racist ally; how to document racism and make it visible; where to target our action; updating each other on actions taking place in our unions and workplaces

May 01, 2022 at
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM PST
Register on our website.

Labour Day

We have conditional approval for Trout Lake Park. I am working on next steps, including convening the adhoc planning committee soon.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

March 16 – Labour Education, WCB Level 1
March 17 – Meeting with NWDLC re: municipal election
March 17 – CLC Municipal Working Group
March 17 – Meeting with BCTF re: municipal election
March 19 – Labour Education, Steward Level 2 (facilitated)
March 21 – Master Trade Union Group bargaining committee
March 21 – DTES Joint Union Committee/BC Housing – Recruitment and Retention Task Force
March 23 – Labour Education, WCB Appeals
March 24 – Labour Education, Privacy Rights
March 25 – Vetting Committee
March 25 – Union of Veterans Affairs Employees (PSAC) AGM
March 28 – Political Action Committee
March 28 – Vetting Committee
March 30 – Labour Education, Parliamentary Procedure (hosted by 2nd VP Nick Aubichon)
March 30 – CLC Labour Council Officers Meeting
March 31 – Vetting Committee
April 4 – Meeting with Team Kennedy Stewart
April 5 – Vetting Committee
April 6 – Labour Education, Effective Representation in High Conflict Situations
April 7 – Labour Education, Inflation: Myths, Realities and Solutions
April 7 – Day of Mourning planning committee
April 7 – CLC Budget Briefing
April 8 – BC Federation of Labour reconciliation training
April 8 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society directors meeting

April 11 – Political Action Committee
April 11 – Just Transition Working Group
April 12 – Meeting with Forward Together Vancouver (formerly Team Kennedy Stewart)
April 12 – Meeting with NWDLC re: municipal election
April 12 – Vancouver Plan Information Session
April 12 – Anti-Racism Committee
April 13 – Labour Education, Election Rules for Unions
April 14 – BC Federation of Labour Executive Council
April 14 – Executive Board
April 15 – Statutory Holiday
April 18 – Statutory Holiday
April 19 – Meeting with Forward Together Vancouver
April 19 – YVR Joint Union Committee
April 19 – YVR Joint Union Committee quarterly touch base with YVR leadership
April 19 – BCFED Community and Social Action Committee
April 19 – Regular meeting

M/S/C to adopt President's report.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the March 2022 meeting.

M/S/C to adopt the Treasurer's Report.

12. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

No report from Ron Stipp this month. Orion Irvine reported on behalf of the Canadian Labour Congress this month.

A big thank you to the labour council on all their work on the municipal election. We do have some training coming up in the province for candidate training. Bea did talk about the budget and Russ mentioned lobbying. We will be doing lobbying with both the Liberals and NDP on following through. Business does definitely lobby and government seems to take them much more seriously when it comes to lobbying. It's up to us to continuously bound them on the issues to show that working people are serious and come time to go to the ballot box to back that up with action.

M/S/C to adopt the Canadian Labour Congress Report.

13. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated prior to the meeting.

M/S/C that the correspondence be received and filed for the information of the delegates.

14. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

a) *M/S/C that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Incumbent Endorsement Recommendations – City of North Vancouver
BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council is united in its objective to elect progressive, worker-friendly candidates to all positions in the 2022 municipal election;
and

BECAUSE the Council is now in the process of carrying out its endorsement process;
and

BECAUSE the Vetting Committee has surveyed and interviewed incumbent candidates who were not previous endorsed but have sought our endorsement this year, and has formulated recommendations which have since been approved by the Political Action Committee and Executive Board,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL adopt the recommendation of the Vetting Committee to endorse the following candidates for re-election in the City of North Vancouver:

Councillor Don Bell
Councillor Holly Back

- b) *M/S/C that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Incumbent Endorsement Recommendations – District of North Vancouver

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council is united in its objective to elect progressive, worker-friendly candidates to all positions in the 2022 municipal election;
and

BECAUSE the Council is now in the process of carrying out its endorsement process;
and

BECAUSE the Vetting Committee has surveyed and interviewed incumbent candidates who were not previous endorsed but have sought our endorsement this year, and has formulated recommendations which have since been approved by the Political Action Committee and Executive Board,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL adopt the recommendation of the Vetting Committee to endorse the following candidate for re-election in the District of North Vancouver:

Councillor Jordan Back

- c) *M/S/C that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Incumbent Endorsement Recommendations – West Vancouver

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council is united in its objective to elect progressive, worker-friendly candidates to all positions in the 2022 municipal election;
and

BECAUSE the Council is now in the process of carrying out its endorsement process;
and

BECAUSE the Vetting Committee has surveyed and interviewed incumbent candidates who were not previous endorsed but have sought our endorsement this year, and has formulated recommendations which have since been approved by the Political Action Committee and Executive Board,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL adopt the recommendation of the Vetting Committee to endorse the following candidates for re-election in West Vancouver:

Mayor Mary-Ann Booth
Councillor Nora Gambioli

d) *M/S/C that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Affiliation of Service Employees' International Union, Local 2 (Janitorial)
THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the application of Service Employees' International Union, Local 2 (Janitorial), to affiliate four hundred members.

15. REPORT OF UNIONS:

Chloe Martin-Cabanne, President – CUPE Local 2950

CUPE 2950 is working through a grievance regarding issues with the Workday system. We have received incorrect dues reports and a payment was missed entirely for December, as well as late payments for our January and February dues. The Employer has finally recognized these problems and is working with the union to solve them. We are now receiving up to date members lists with contact information that includes municipalities which is helpful for our political action work. CUPE 2950 is gearing up for bargaining. We have organized Bargaining Listening Sessions across campus and are hearing directly from members about issues within their workplaces. We are looking forward to hearing how contract negotiations are going for other affiliates.

Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes.

M/S/C to adopt the report of unions.

16. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Anti-Racism – Seema Ahluwalia

This year for May 1, the VDLC Anti-Racism committee will be hosting a webinar entitled “Building Anti-Racist Solidarity in our Workplaces and Unions.” This virtual event is open to all union members who want to learn and share about racism and anti-racism in the workplace. We will focus on:

- A. How to break the silence and be an anti-racist ally;
- B. How to document racism and make it visible;
- C. Where to target our action;
- D. Sharing about actions taking place in our unions and workplaces today.

This event takes place on Zoom – Sunday May 1, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:00pm.
Registration link: <https://vdlc.ca/events/building-antiracist-solidarity/>

We would be honoured to have members of our Executive Board attend. The ARC is grateful for your help in circulating this information through your union and networks.

*Why this day is important for the labour movement: **May 1 was designated International Workers' Day** in 1889 by labour organizations and activists to commemorate the struggles and gains of workers and the labour movement, in particular the Haymarket Massacre. In 1886, what started as a peaceful rally in support of an 8-hour workday in Chicago ended with police killing of one worker and injuring several others. The next day, a bomb exploded in Haymarket Square, the site of the rally, resulting in 11 deaths and dozens of injured people.*

Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes.

OTHER REPORTS: Nil

M/S/ to adopt reports of committees.

17. REPORTS OF LABOUR COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES: Nil

Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes.

M/S/ to adopt reports of labour council appointed representatives.

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

19. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: Nil

20. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

21. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

22. GOOD AND WELFARE:

Russ St. Eloi – UA Local 170

On the subject of reconciliation; I don't know if you saw the news this morning or this evening but there was an Indigenous couple from the island who wanted to name their baby's first name after their tribe which represented faith in their tribe. The department of Statistics turned their request down saying it was not eligible; you can only have letters coming from the Latin alphabet. As a citizen of Métis nation, Red River Valley, I find it disgusting that we still find the white colonialist attitude in our government who are supposed to be working towards reconciliation.

23. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:24pm*

24. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022** at 7:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference.



Please visit website for event listings and more – www.vdlc.ca