



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 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**

**Child Welfare**

1. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to reducing the number of Aboriginal children in care by:
  - i. Monitoring and assessing neglect investigations.
  - ii. Providing adequate resources to enable Aboriginal communities and child-welfare organizations to keep Aboriginal families together where it is safe to do so, and to keep children in culturally appropriate environments, regardless of where they reside.
  - iii. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the history and impacts of residential schools.
  - iv. Ensuring that social workers and others who conduct child-welfare investigations are properly educated and trained about the potential for Aboriginal communities and families to provide more appropriate solutions to family healing.
  - v. Requiring that all child-welfare decision makers consider the impact of the residential school experience on children and their caregivers.

1. **LOCATION:** ZOOM Video Conference – 7:00PM
2. **CHAIRPERSON:** 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Bal Sandhu
3. **NOTICE OF VDLC POLICY ON HARASSMENT:** Circulated prior to meeting
4. **MOMENT OF SILENCE:** Gord Dolyniuk, CUPE Local 1004
5. **ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**  
*M/S/C that the agenda of the January 18, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.*
6. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**  
*M/S/C that the minutes of the December 14, 2021 Regular meeting be adopted.*
7. **NEW CREDENTIALS:**  
**VESTA Local 39-1**  
Vanessa Lefebvre  
Jody Polukoshko

## **8. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**

### **9. GUEST SPEAKERS:** 1. Jonathan Braun, Migrant Workers Centre

*Presentation available on request.*

### **10. EDUCATIONAL:** NIL

### **11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the December 2021 meeting.

#### Political Action

We now have recommendations regarding incumbent candidates, as you will see under motions. These have been made by the Vetting Committee and approved by the Political Action Committee. They cover candidates who are seeking re-election to their current role. School Board recommendations will be coming to a future meeting.

The surveys have been issued to incumbents who may be seeking our endorsement but are not previously endorsed in City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, Electoral Area A, West Vancouver, and Richmond. Following review of the surveys, shortlisting, and interviews the next batch of recommendations will be forthcoming.

#### Labour Education

The Labour Education Program is in the process of being launched for registrations. Unfortunately, it is later than usual this year due to the new website and some glitches that have had to be fixed. Luckily, we still have several weeks before the first course. Please watch for the courses to go live and share them widely.

#### Black History Month

We are planning two virtual events to be co-sponsored with New Westminster and District Labour and the National Congress of Black Women Foundation. Details coming shortly. Content and facilitators provided by Foundation, logistics and support provided by Labour Councils, and promotion by all.

#### Merchandise

We are extending the deadline for orders of our two new shirt designs until January 22 in order to compensate for the holidays.

#### Labour Disputes

Please continue to show your support for both Unite Here Local 40 (Pacific Gateway Hotel/Metrotown Hilton), and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 213 (Ledcor Telecommunication Services) by way of picket line visits, sharing social media content, etc. We will continue to share and participate in actions to support these workers. Thank you to Seema for speaking at an event for women labour and community leaders, and co-authoring a follow-up op'ed in solidarity with Local 40 and their Unequal Women campaign.

### Just Transition

Flowing from the Zero Emission Economic Transition Action Plan which we heard about at our November meeting, a new working group has been formed with the task of establishing a permanent Just Transition Council. This Council would be housed with the Vancouver Economic Commission. Our involvement has been invited and encouraged, and I will also work to ensure that labour is engaged more broadly in this project as it develops.

### Events Attended / Dates of Note

December 15 – Community Coordinated Response Network  
December 15 – BC Building Trades open house  
December 20-January 3 – Off (Vacation/stats/holiday office closure)  
January 5 – Community Coordinated Response Network  
January 6 – Vetting Committee  
January 6 – Black History Month planning meeting  
January 7 – Bentall Tower Memorial  
January 10 – Political Action Committee  
January 10 – Meeting with Women Transforming Cities  
January 11 – Anti-Racism Committee  
January 11 – Meeting re: Justice Summer project  
January 11 – BCFED Community and Social Action Committee planning meeting  
January 12 – Quarterly Meeting with Mayor Stewart  
January 12 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society directors meeting  
January 13 – Meeting with Vancouver Economic Commission  
January 13 – Executive Board  
January 17 – YVR Joint Union Committee Q1 touch-base with CEO/VP  
January 17 – YVR Joint Union Committee  
January 18 – BCFED Community and Social Action Committee  
January 18 – Political Action Committee meeting with OneCity  
January 18 – Regular Meeting

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

## **12. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

*M/S/C to adopt the Treasurer's Report and the 2022 VDLC Budget.*

## **13. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:**

Ron Stipp reported on the Canadian Labour Congress since the December 2021 meeting.

It's been an interesting month for the CLC and this region in particular. A month ago we were ready to go to Harrison and this would have been week one. Initially, before Christmas we had cancelled the first two weeks thinking that we could go through with the last two weeks. About a week ago, we pulled the plug on everything. On the advice of the health ministry and affiliates as well the decision was made. Last year, you'll recall that we did have everything online and thought we might be able to pull it off but it was way too late and would have been too cumbersome to switch everything over to this format. We hope that next year we can get together for the Harrison Winter School. It's sad and we know a lot of people are disappointed but it's for the best. Another issue is with the hotel and keeping staff due to staff illnesses.

So we are sitting down and planning things. One thing we need your help with as delegates and as executive members is we are going to launch in the next few weeks a major lobby of all your members of parliament regardless of political party. It will not be in person but via zoom. The important thing for your labour council is that we need to have a delegate that lives in the riding. Members of Parliament will not take a delegation without at least one person from their riding. Hopefully, we can get your help with this. We're only looking for a couple of people for these lobbies that need to be covered off. Please help out when Stephen puts out the call.

We're also launching a campaign on the care economy. You'll see this in February. It will be a campaign dealing with that part of the economy dealing with healthcare and childcare to really emphasize the care economy and what has happened during the pandemic. It will be an active campaign across the board and also part of the lobby.

The thing that will take up most of the labour councils work is the municipal election campaign. We've got endorsements happening here tonight and other labour councils are starting early endorsements. We'd like this wrapped up by June. We will be doing a number of new candidate workshops which we hope to be doing in person. Any new candidates that you are endorsing will have access to a one-day training session on various topics in April, May and June.

We will be producing poll cards for affiliates to distribute to their members. We are coordinating a number of activities throughout the province to ensure that we have a really good campaign.

We have two events coming up. International Women's Day in early March and we'll have materials for this and the second one is the Day of Mourning on April 28. Materials will be out early for these major events.

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

**14. CORRESPONDENCE:** Circulated prior to the meeting.

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

**15. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

Subject: Per Capita Increase

BECAUSE operational costs including rent, salaries, and supplies continue to increase; and

BECAUSE the last per capita increase was implemented in 2015; and

BECAUSE the revenue of the Labour Council has been significantly negatively impacted by the loss of affiliates in recent years due to disputes within the Canada Labour Congress,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL increase its per capita tax by two (2) cents per member per month, to fifty (50) cents.

- b) *M/S/C that the following amended 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, beginning with consideration of previously endorsed candidates, followed by other incumbents and finally new candidates; and

BECAUSE this Fall, the Vetting Committee has interviewed and reviewed all previously endorsed incumbents, and 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 re-endorse the following candidates for their respective roles in the City of North Vancouver:

Linda Buchanan – Mayor  
Angela Girard – City Councillor

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

Subject: Incumbent Endorsement Recommendations – City of 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, beginning with consideration of previously endorsed candidates, followed by other incumbents and finally new candidates; and

BECAUSE this Fall, the Vetting Committee has interviewed and reviewed all previously endorsed incumbents, and 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 re-endorse the following candidates in the City of Vancouver:

**Vancouver City Council**

Christine Boyle  
Adriane Carr  
Pete Fry  
Jean Swanson  
Michael Wiebe

**Vancouver Park Board**

Gwen Giesbrecht

*Note: School Board endorsements will be forthcoming at a future meeting.*

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

Subject: Injured Workers Deserve Better

BECAUSE it has been over two years since Janet Patterson's report on the workers compensation system was received by the BC government; and

BECAUSE the report drew on input from over 1,000 workers and families, and detailed how WCB often acts like a for-profit insurance company, uses a cookie cutter approach, and fails to adequately support injured workers; and

BECAUSE the BC Federation of Labour has launched a new campaign ([www.WorkersDeserveBetter.ca](http://www.WorkersDeserveBetter.ca)) highlighting injured workers' stories, and demanding immediate action by government,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the BC Federation of Labour's Workers Deserve Better campaign, and its calls for the following reforms to the workers compensation system:

- creating a Fair Practices Commission independent of the WCB to deal with complaints and implement solutions,
- removing binding policy provisions so decisions can be made on the merits of each case,
- ensuring an equal balance of worker and employer representatives on the WCB Board of Directors,
- mandating vocational rehabilitation to get workers back to real and sustainable jobs,
- ending discriminatory barriers to compensation for psychological injury and chronic pain,
- paying interest to workers when the WCB wrongly denies them benefits, resulting in a lengthy delay,
- ensuring the WCB makes the changes set out in the Patterson report to create a worker-centered approach

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

Subject: Affiliation of The Canadian Animation Guild, IATSE Local 938

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL accept the application of The Canadian Animation Guild, IATSE Local 938 to affiliate 250 members.

**16. REPORT OF UNIONS:** None submitted  
Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes.

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

**17. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:** None submitted.  
Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes.

**OTHER REPORTS:** Nil

*M/S/C to adopt reports of committees.*

**18. REPORTS OF LABOUR COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES:**

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

**Agnes Jackman – BC Forum**

BC Forum’s Winter Advocate has been distributed. It can be found on our website, <[www.bcforum.ca](http://www.bcforum.ca)>. The information that this issue contains can be used by more than older persons, as per usual. On the front cover you can see “Tips for Healthy Digital Hygiene”, “Thinking of Travel: Looking for Out of Country Medical, make sure to read the fine print”. You can request that a printed copy be mailed to you by emailing the office @ <[bcforum@bcfed.ca](mailto:bcforum@bcfed.ca)>. Also inside are such articles as “Breaking the Stronghold of Big Pharma” and “Bottled water: a colossal waste”.

We have recently had 2 more unions join the ranks of unions that support our campaigns and our work: CUPE 402 and the BC Ferry and Marine Workers Union. Many unions cover the first year of the BC Forum dues for their qualified retired members. You could ask if your union is one of these unions and if it is not, you might suggest that it do so. BC Forum is the only BC provincial organization that represents union members who have retired or are nearing retirement. BC Forum members have access to BC Forum Health and Dental Plans for themselves and their families.

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

**19. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Nil

**20. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:** Nil

**21. NEW BUSINESS:** Nil

**22. NOTICE OF MOTION:** Nil

**23. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Dal Benning – President, CUPE Local 718

I’d like to recognize the contributions of former NDP Leader, Alexa McDonough. She passed away last Saturday at the age of 77 after struggling with Alzheimer’s Disease. She paved the path for women in politics. She was the first woman to head a major political party in Canada when she was elected leader of the Nova Scotia New Democrats in 1980 and became leader of the Federal NDP in 1985 and served in the party’s top post until 2002.

*Moment of Silence*

**24. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:56pm.*

**25. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022** at 7:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference.



Please visit website for event listings and more – [www.vdlc.ca](http://www.vdlc.ca)