



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021**

1. LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference – 7:00PM

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.

2. CHAIRPERSON: 2nd Vice President Bal Shandhu

3. NOTICE OF VDLC POLICY ON HARASSMENT: Circulated prior to meeting

4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

M/S/C that the agenda of the July 20, 2021 Regular meeting be adopted.

5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/C that the minutes of the June 15, 2021 Regular meeting be adopted.

6. CREDENTIALS: NIL

7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES: NIL

8. GUEST SPEAKERS: No Guest Speakers this meeting.

9. EDUCATIONAL: No Education this meeting.

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Summer

I will be taking the bulk of my vacation during the months of July and August. Specifically, I will be away during the weeks of July 5, 19, and 26 as well as August 2 and 16. Please also be reminded that we do not meet in August, therefore our next meeting will be September 21.

Political Action

This was another interesting month for Political Action. Our committee met, and also began its next round of meetings with progressive political parties to discuss such things as the 2022 budget and election.

Meanwhile, Team Kennedy Stewart announced that in addition to the previous announcement that Mayor Stewart was seeking re-election they would also be looking to field candidates for City Council and endorse candidates from other parties.

Our focus remains on our own endorsement process. Our PAC adopted a timeline for that process at a recent meeting. We will begin considering incumbent candidates in the Fall, with an aim to endorse applicable incumbents for all positions at our January regular meeting, following the 2022 budget adoption in December.

After this we will begin to look at newly announced or “aspirant” candidates with an aim to endorse those in March.

Alongside all of this is of course a lot of work to try to build a solid slate of progressive candidates who will work collaboratively post-election on the key issues we face. It also means minimizing vote splitting and finding common ground. At this point we have not counted out any of the progressive parties but whether that continues to be the case will depend upon their commitment to working with labour and with other progressives as well as the performance of their elected representatives in this term, and their commitments going forward.

Digital Toolbox

I am excited to announce that in the Fall we will be moving onto a new NationBuilder template which will improve our digital presence even further. This new template will allow us do ticketing for both free and paid events on our own website rather than using third party services. It includes new layout features and access to an image gallery so that we always have compelling images to go with our content. Perhaps most importantly, it will allow for the creation of proper petitions and digital campaigns.

Labour Education

The Fall program is on its way and looks fantastic. Registration is open over the course of the Summer, with the first courses starting in September and then running until late November.

Worker Education and Labour Learning Society

WELLS hired a Summer contract to work on establishing partnerships with other organizations involved in labour education, build out a website, develop branding, etc. I have taken on managing this contract outside of the weeks I am away on vacation. So far it has been going very well. No money for WELLS activities comes from the Labour Council, everything is paid from donations.

The organization will be a great resource for our education program and our facilitators when up and running. It has already provided very useful training on facilitating via Zoom. As noted previously, it will not be running courses in conflict with our program but there may be opportunities to partner on things down the road.

Trade Unions for Energy Democracy

In follow up to the webinar this Spring, TUED is now looking at an event on October 24 regarding bargaining for climate. This event may be in-person, if things continue to go positively in terms of the COVID restrictions lifting. Full details will be coming shortly, but the event will feature a keynote from Seth Klein. We are also happy to be anticipating CUPE joining the group shortly.

Labour Disputes

Labour disputes noted last month between Unite Here! Local 40 and Metrotown Hilton/Pacific Gateway, and IBEW and Ledcor Telecommunication Services are still ongoing.

CLC Convention

Team Unite was elected across the board at the CLC Convention, including Bea Bruske for President, Siobhan Vipond for Executive Vice President, and Lily Chang for Secretary-Treasurer. Also re-elected as Executive Vice President was Larry Rousseau.

Darlene Rotchford was acclaimed as the new Vice President representing Pacific Region Labour Council's.

Our emergency resolution on anti-racism was composited with other similar resolutions and was passed. I was part of a long queue of speakers waiting to support it but unfortunately the question was called before it was my turn. Because of the recent bombing of Gaza and other horrible events taking place in Israel/Palestine a movement took form to submit an emergency resolution on the issue. I was asked if we would be one of the submitting organizations and since the content was in keeping with previously adopted motions I agreed to do so. That motion was later adopted by Canadian Council with minor amendments. The rest of the motions that did not get to the floor will be dealt with by Canadian Council at their first meeting.

Labour Day

We are proceeding with another virtual Labour Day event jointly with New Westminster and District Labour Council. The event will be produced by Valu Coop. Pre-filming has been underway and is going well. The event will have a live feel and live aspects. Details coming soon.

United Way

All six United Way organizations that were engaged in talks of a possible merger voted last month to merge.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

June 16-18: Canadian Labour Congress Convention
June 16: Labour Day Planning Meeting
June 18: Battle of Ballantyne Pier commemorative event
June 19: Labour Day event filming
June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 21: Worker Education and Labour Learning (WELLS) weekly touchbase
June 22: Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) breakfast
June 22: Downtown Eastside Joint Union Committee
June 22: Trade Unions for Energy Democracy meeting
June 22: Anti-Racism Committee
June 23: Community Coordinated Response Network
June 23: Employment Standards Coalition
June 24: Political Action Committee meeting with OneCity
June 24: Municipal Engagement Committee
June 27: Global Solidarity with Indian Farmers

June 28: Political Action Committee meeting with Green Party of Vancouver
June 28: Weekly WELLS touchbase
June 29: United Way Joint Board Integration Committee (final meeting)
June 30: YVR Joint Union Committee
July 1: Statutory holiday
July 5-9: Vacation
July 12: YVR Joint Union Committee meeting w/YVR CEO & VP
July 12: Weekly WELLS touchbase
July 13: Political Action Committee
July 13: Meeting with Mayor Stewart
July 13: Anti-Racism Committee
July 15: Meeting with Michael Roy, Metric
July 15: Executive Board
July 15: DTES Joint Union Committee meeting with Attorney General/Minister Eby
July 16: WELLS meeting
July 16: Meeting re: NationBuilder upgrades
July 16: BCFED Precarious Work Working Group
July 19-August 6: Vacation
July 20: Regular meeting

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

11. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the June 2021 meeting.

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

12. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

No Canadian Labour Congress report this month.

M/S/ 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.

15. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Supporting the Construction of More Affordable Housing

BECAUSE last month Vancouver City Council unanimously adopted a by-law amendment which allows for housing developments up to six stories to proceed without a rezoning and public hearing process; and

BECAUSE these processes can delay construction by 1-2 years, cost as much as \$800,000, and are not required for the construction of less affordable housing options;
and

BECAUSE a massive build out (estimated at 10,000 units annually in Metro Vancouver by CCPA) of non-market affordable housing is needed in order to address the longstanding housing affordability crisis; and

BECAUSE the City of Vancouver approved record numbers of housing units over the past year, but many remain tied up in zoning and public hearing processes; and

BECAUSE the median renter household income in Vancouver \$50,250 a year; and

BECAUSE the average renter household cannot reasonably afford to rent housing in the private market; and

BECAUSE public support of housing construction should result in broad public benefit, and build housing for workers who are currently underserved in the housing market,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support efforts to reduce barriers to the construction of housing that is affordable for renter households that are not served by the private market; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER continue to call for all levels of government to explore and utilize all avenues to end the housing affordability crisis, including significant investment in non-market public housing.

16. REPORT OF UNIONS: Nil

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

M/S/ to adopt the report of unions.

17. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Nil

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

OTHER REPORTS: Nil

M/S/ to adopt reports of committees

18. REPORTS OF LABOUR COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES: Nil

M/S/ 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:

Karen McVeigh – HEU

Moment of silence for the passing of the 5 crane workers in Kelowna.

24. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:14pm.*

25. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021** at 7:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference.

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

