



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 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 June 15, 2021 Regular meeting be adopted.

5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/C that the minutes of the May 18, 2021 Regular meeting be adopted.

6. CREDENTIALS:

Vancouver Musicians' Association

Local 145, AFM

Dusty Kelly

Noah Reitman

7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES: Pledge of New Delegates

8. GUEST SPEAKERS:

Labour Forward – CLC Leadership Slate

Julius Arscott – I'm speaking to you from the City of Toronto. I'm an executive board member of the Ontario of the Public Service Employees Union and I'm running for President of the Canadian Labour Congress. We have a choice; a choice between the status quo and radical democratic change. The Labour Forward team did not support strike breaker, former Liberal Finance Minister Bill Morneau, in his bid to be the top dog at the OACB. We protested it and demanded that the CLC president resign.....

Labour Forward – CLC Leadership Slate's full presentation is available upon request.

9. EDUCATIONAL: Nil

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Discovery of the remains of 215 children at Kamloops Indian Residential School site

We were all heartbroken and horrified to hear about the discovery of the remains of 215 children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School site on Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Territory. Sadly this discovery does not come as a surprise, given what we already know from the surviving victims of the residential school system and their families. These schools were part of a colonial system of genocide, and while the schools are no longer in operation their legacy and the system they formed part of continues. Similar discoveries are likely imminent.

The labour movement must examine its silence during the operation of the residential school system and continue to commit itself actively to truth and reconciliation – in that order.

The Assembly of First Nations 2020 report card on the implementation of the 94 calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission also show that not enough progress is being made on implementation including little progress on Church Apologies and Reconciliation and moderate progress on missing children. We must continue to use our voices to support the implementation of the 94 calls to action as well as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

BC Re-Opening Plan

On May 25th, the BC Re-Opening Plan was announced. The plan includes a staged re-opening between now and September dependent upon meeting targets for vaccination and keeping case counts low.

We will plan to proceed via Zoom in September and will reassess at that time regarding moving to an in-person/virtual hybrid later in the Fall.

Political Action

This month we saw two by-elections take place. One was Richmond City Council, where our endorsed candidate was Karina Reid. Regrettably, Karina was not elected. Voter turnout was extremely low. Retired VPD Superintendent Andy Hobbs was elected with 3,095 votes, and in second place was Jonathan Ho with 2,785 votes. Just 18 votes behind Ho was Karina Reid with 2,767 votes. The other by-election was North Vancouver School Board. We did not endorse a candidate, but Linda Munro was elected.

I participated in giving a presentation this month at Richmond City Council encouraging them to become a living wage employer. I will continue to work on this alongside Anastasia French from the Living Wage for Families campaign and De Whalen from the Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition.

Along with another member of our Political Action Committee I attended a meeting called by Team Kennedy Stewart regarding progressive unity in the 2022 municipal election. In attendance were representatives of Team Kennedy, OneCity, and Vision Vancouver. This process does not supplant our own endorsement process but I believe it is important that we are at the table and aware of whatever discussions proceed there.

Since the last meeting I have engaged in lobbying municipally around compulsory trades, contracting-in, pay equity, fire service funding, and housing issues as well as provincially around paid sick leave, ending privatization of healthcare, card check certification, housing, and compulsory trades.

Labour Education

Since our last meeting we held our last two courses of the Spring session; Privacy Rights and Charter Rights. Both were well attended and received positive feedback. The Fall program will be launched shortly and may be added to slightly as we approach Fall.

Labour Disputes

Labour disputes noted last month between Unite Here! Local 40 and Metrotown Hilton/Pacific Gateway, and IBEW and Leducor Telecommunication Services are still ongoing. We raised the issue of the LTS strike with Mayor Stewart, who issued a statement in support of the workers and sent a letter to Labour Minister Tassi urging action.

CLC Convention

The Canadian Labour Congress convention is this week. I am representing the VDLC at the convention along with Seema and Lauren. We have several motions submitted including the emergency resolution on anti-racism. Hoping for positive outcomes on those.

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.

United Way

Memberships of six United Way's across the province will vote on the proposed merger this month. United Way of the Lower Mainland votes on June 15. At the time of writing this report the meeting has not yet occurred. The special meeting of UWLM to vote on amalgamation occurred immediately prior to this meeting.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

May 18 – Meeting with Team Kennedy

May 19 – YVR/Unite Here meeting re: Lufthansa

May 19 – BCFED Community Social Action Committee pre-meeting planning

May 19 – BC Health Coalition – Cambie case update

May 20 – Labour Education: Privacy Rights in the Workplace

May 20 – YVR/Unite Here meeting re: Lufthansa

May 21 – Peninsula Group

May 24 – Victoria Day

May 25 – DTES Joint Union Committee

May 25 – Quarterly Touch-Base with Mayor Stewart and municipal locals

May 26 – Community Coordinated Response Network

May 26 – “I Love My Human Rights” series launch with Brandon Yan, hosted by the Office of the BC Human Rights Commissioner

May 26 – Progressive Majority Working Group, convened by Team Kennedy Stewart

May 26 – Asian Canadian Artists Against Racism, hosted by Asian Canadian Labour Alliance

May 27 – Meeting with MLA Henry Yao
May 27 – SFU Labour Studies – Mega Sporting Events: The Policies, Politics, and Practices of Oppression
May 27 – Municipal Engagement Committee
May 27 – Housing Action Team – meeting took place but I could not attend
May 27 – Meeting with Chairperson, Anti-Racism Committee
May 27 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society candidate interviews for summer job
May 29 – Richmond City Council and North Vancouver School Board by-election
May 31 - Worker Education and Labour Learning Society candidate interviews for summer job
June 1 – United Way Joint Board Integration Committee
June 1 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society Directors meeting
June 2 – Labour Education: Charter Rights in the Workplace
June 3 – YVR Joint Union Committee
June 3 – Unite Here! Local 40 solidarity car rally
June 7 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society Directors meeting
June 7 – Labour Council’s meeting re: CLC Convention
June 8 – BC Federation of Labour Community and Social Action Committee
June 8 – CLC Labour Council check-in
June 9-12 – BC Government and Service Employees’ Union convention
June 9 – BC Federation of Labour Political Action Committee
June 10 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee
June 10 – Executive Board
June 10 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Labour Committee of the Board
June 13 – CLC Convention Labour Council Caucus
June 14 – Political Action Committee
June 14 – Labour Day planning meeting
June 14 – Richmond City Council, Living Wage presentation
June 15 – Meeting with Mayor Stewart
June 15 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Board of Directors
June 15 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Special General Meeting
June 15 – Regular Meeting

M/S/C to adopt President’s report.

11. STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2022:

Draft document provided to delegates through email.
Motion to add amendment suggestions by Marion Pollack (Alt), CUPW Local 846, brought forward by Stephen von Sychowski: Protecting pensions, advocating for the expansion of public services, add October 1 International Day of Older persons to days of acknowledgement. M/S/C to add motion.

M/S/C to adopt Strategic Plan 2021-2022.

12. TREASURER’S REPORT:

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

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

13. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

Ron Stipp reported on the Canadian Labour Congress since the May 2021 meeting. We do have a CLC Convention which starts tomorrow at 9:30 in the morning. It will be 9:30 every day till 2:00pm.

I'm pleased to announce that we are starting planning for the Harrison Winter School for next year, 2022. If all goes to plan we will be at Harrison. It will not be as large as it has been in the past. We are going to have to try it out this time. We won't be having classes as large as 30 people and we can't use some of the smaller classrooms but we going to give it a go and planning has already started.

Municipal Elections – The main thing we have been focusing on is candidate training which is training for those people who are thinking of becoming a candidate. It's a 90 minutes course which we've already held with 30 people and we have another class of 30 coming up next Tuesday from across the province. We have a panellist of elected folks and we really put people through their paces. It's a real eye opener for some and it gives them a lot to think about and gives them a good idea what they'll be facing and what they have to think about before putting their name forward. We might be having another in the summer or September and after that will be the rollout when we can have people together in a room to do some formal candidate training including public speaking, messaging and other things heading into the spring.

Federal Election Update – Well, it didn't happen. Parliament may wrap up by this Friday. We believe the next election window will open up sometime around August 20 to 22nd for an election day of September 27 or October 4. It looks like a distinct possibility that's what they're aiming for. Anything later than that is problematic for them because of municipal elections in Alberta and Quebec. The strange thing about this is next year is totally problematic for a federal election because of major provincial elections coming up around the country in Ontario, Quebec and a couple of other provinces as well. If they don't go this summer, late summer or early fall there is the possibility that this parliament will go the full term to 2023. I do think they will go this fall so be ready for that.

The CLC campaign will commence shortly after the convention. We will have a new administration coming in next week or as early as this Friday. There may be a bit of change in focus and we will of course adapt to that. It may be a little bit more on the activist side for labour councils for this upcoming election campaign beginning in August.

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: Spending Authorizations

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

- Renew annual membership in Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, at a cost of \$100
- Renew annual membership in BC Health Coalition, at a cost of \$75

- b) *M/S/C that the following recommendation be tabled for next executive meeting:*

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 is not required for the construction of less affordable housing options including mansions, single detached homes, and the majority of condos; and

BECAUSE a subsequent motion introduced by Councillor Boyle titled “Reducing Barriers and Deepening Affordability for Non-Profit, Co-op, and Social Housing in Every Neighbourhood” sought to expand the areas of the city where these developments could be approved, increase the height to up to twelve stories, and explore other methods of more quickly delivering much needed affordable housing; and

BECAUSE this motion was defeated after securing only the votes of Mayor Kennedy Stewart, Councillor Boyle, and Councillor Swanson; and

BECAUSE a massive build out (estimated at 10,000 units annually in Metro Vancouver by CCPA) of non-market affordable housing including social housing, and co-ops 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 these events have ignited a broad discussion regarding what kind of housing we need, and how to get it built,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support efforts to reduce barriers to the construction of affordable housing, including the types of measures called for in Councillor Boyle’s motion “Reducing Barriers and Deepening Affordability for Non-Profit, Co-op, and Social Housing in Every Neighbourhood”; 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 the option of public housing.

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

Subject: Call for Mandatory Training in TRC and UNDRIP for all K-12 Staff in BC
BECAUSE the Anti Oppression Educators Collective (AOEC), a Provincial Specialists Association of the BC Teachers' Federation, has issued an open letter calling on the Ministry of Education to implement two days next school year for mandatory in-service to read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and

BECAUSE it is integral for settlers, including those in the education system, to read, learn and reckon,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support the call for mandatory training in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission report and United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by signing and sharing the Anti Oppression Educators Collective (AOEC) petition

(<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSegNs4wRqFOsXHg LZLCw9IxL9i6Ihf1dMUD6N5ccTcOm3xUCQ/viewform>) and sharing their open letters (www.aeec.ca).

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

Subject: Investigation into Residential Schools (Submitted by Kwantlen Faculty Assoc.)

BECAUSE the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation have announced the findings of the "remains of 215 children of the Kamloops Indian Residential School " on May 27, 2021, and;

BECAUSE there have been repeated calls to action by Indigenous nations, scholars, and activists that crimes of genocide be investigated by independent observers working in international bodies, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), therefore,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support the calls by Indigenous nations, scholars, and activists for an independent, internationally led criminal investigation by the ICC and/or other United Nations bodies into the Canadian state's design, implementation, and administration of the Indian Residential School System and its ongoing destructive impact on Indigenous nations.

16. REPORT OF UNIONS: Nil

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

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

18. REPORTS OF LABOUR COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES:

BC FORUM – Agnes Jackman

Today is World Elder Abuse Day. Elder abuse can take many forms. As a society, it is necessary that we recognize them and do our utmost to squelch them.

BC Forum continues to keep its members, allies and affiliates informed about issues important to seniors through its Advocate publication, its website and email, encouraging them to take action where they can. These issues include income security, which includes bankruptcy protection for pensions and benefits. There are 2 related bills in play at present, with one being from the BLOC, Bill C-23, and the other from the NDP. The NDP is supporting Bill C-23.

Other issues include long term care, affordable and appropriate housing, and of course implementing a national, universal, public pharmacare and the same for dental care. Also, the emerging issue of mandatory withdrawal of RRIFs, which seniors are opposed to, worrying about their future income. Of concern to BC Forum as well are the implications of the growth of virtual healthcare.

BC Forum continues to monitor the Patented Medicines Prices Regulations, which have once again been delayed due to big Pharma's lobbying.

We continue to follow and share info on the United Nations Decade of Healthy Aging.

BC Forum is working with other organizations who are calling for a UN convention on the Human Rights of older Persons.

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

M/S/C Motion to continue past 9:00pm

22. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

23. GOOD AND WELFARE:

Peter Marcus

Next meeting I'm hoping to see resolution of the killing in London, Ontario and secondly, the HEU is mounting a campaign to bring back contracted out workers back into the public service. I'm wondering if that includes long term care facilities that should be publicly owned and the results of the horrific situation during the COVID-19 pandemic and they need to be put under public ownership.

Bal Sandhu in answer – The short answer is yes. The care homes under the health authority's ownership they have private companies contracted to do housekeeping and laundry, they will be coming back with HEU collective bargaining units in place.

24. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 9:04pm.*

25. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021** at 7:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference.



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