



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 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**

**Professional Development and Training for Public Servants**

**57.** We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

- 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. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**  
*M/S/C that the agenda of the March 15, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.*
- 5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**  
*M/S/C that the minutes of the February 15, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.*
- 6. NEW CREDENTIALS:**  
**HESU-PEA**  
Linda Schulz  
Thi Vu
- 7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**
- 8. GUEST SPEAKERS:**
  1. Ellen Wordsworth – Women Transforming Cities re: Hot Pink Paper Community Engagement
  2. Harley Augustino – Justice Summer Organizer Training Program*Presentation available on request.*

**9. EDUCATIONAL:** NIL

**11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

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

Political Action

Our Vetting Committee interviewed all of the shortlisted North Shore candidates since our last meeting, and we can expect recommendations coming forward for your consideration next month.

We have continued discussions with Vancouver progressive parties regarding the election and are anticipating candidate surveys from them all shortly.

The proposal for a Metro Vancouver union member get out the vote campaign has been given the go ahead by both Labour Council PAC's and Executive Boards following our discussion of it and agreement around it last month. Janet Andrews and I presented on it to the CLC's Municipal Working Group, where there was also broad agreement. Both Councils have proceeded to send a letter to affiliates requesting cooperation in this campaign, the first step of which involves providing data as to how many union members each affiliate has in each municipality. We are following up with phone calls to affiliate leaders and have had a very strong response so-far, with data coming in from many of our major affiliates. I believe this is shaping up to be a very exciting initiative, which has the potential to make a significant difference for endorsed candidates across the region.

Labour Education

We have sold out four of our Spring courses already and are very close to the same for a few others. Registrations have been pretty strong across the board.

Our first course, which was on Employer Access to Medical Information, was held late last month and was sold out. The next courses were Steward Level 1, and Discipline and Discharge which took place last week, and were within a few seats of selling out.

More courses are taking place this week and over the next couple of months, registrations are going well.

We have also added a lunch and learn event at noon on April 7. "Inflation: Myths, Realities, and Solutions" with Jim Stanford. This will be a free event co-sponsored by us and New Westminster and District Labour Council.

Unfortunately, one of our facilitators has unexpectedly had to back out as a result of a surgery. One of their courses is being covered by their co-facilitator and will go ahead as planned. Two others will be rescheduled to the Fall. Thankfully these are later in the program and were not yet heavily subscribed, although we do anticipate most people will hold onto their registration till the new date.

### Black History Month

The two Black History Month events “Facing Facts and Finding Feelings”, which we co-hosted with NWDLC and the National Congress of Black Women Foundation, were decently attended. The presentations were great, and it was a good, positive, collaboration with the other groups.

If you were unable to attend you can view the recordings on our YouTube channel.

### Gratitude Gathering/Anti-Convoy Organizing

On Family Day a broad group of community and labour folks organized a Gratitude Gathering for Frontline Workers in order to bring a positive message in contrast the hate and vitriol of the convoy movement. I represented the VDLC on the organizing team and we were able to provide substantial resources to help make the event happen through our office and gathering support from affiliates. I also want to recognize that numerous VDLC delegates and affiliate members assisted on the day of the event including Executive Board members Shane Polack, Jason Woods, Russ St. Eloi, Jason Sullivan, and Bal Sandhu.

The following weekend there was another action to block a convoy that headed downtown, with mixed results. I was not able to attend as I was facilitating the Steward 1 course. However, ongoing efforts are occurring and if you are interested in helping out please let me know.

### 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.

There is a rally on April 14 at the Metrotown Hilton at 4:00pm to mark the 1-year anniversary of that strike and demand a fair settlement.

### Just Transition

So far two meetings have been hosted by the Vancouver Economic Commission to explore the possible founding of a Just Transition Council. I feel that the meetings were positive and the effort to engage labour is honest. I think our ongoing participation is warranted.

### Downtown Eastside Joint Union Committee

Another positive meeting with Attorney General/Minister Eby, ministerial representatives, and BC Housing representatives, took place shortly after our last meeting. Flowing from this was an offer from BC Housing to engage in a further roundtable regarding concerns raised by affiliates representing workers in social housing. The committee is meeting shortly to plan for this discussion.

### International Women’s Day

By the time of our Executive Board meeting, this year’s International Women’s Day event will have taken place and I will be able to provide a verbal report. The event is virtual again this year, and the topic is Truth and Reconciliation. The event featured wonderful presentations by Delhia Nahanee and Shelley Sage-Ricci, as well as greetings from Jagmeet Singh. Thank you to the Women’s Committee and Chairperson Caitlin Davidson-King for organizing.

### Day of Mourning

The Day of Mourning ceremony is moving ahead as an in-person event, livestreamed, with a limited onsite audience this year. A back up plan is in place in case we have to pivot to an online event. All the usual players are at the table – WCB, VDLC, BCFED, and BCBC. Full details coming shortly.

### May Day

The Anti-Racism Committee will be hosting an event on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Full details coming shortly.

### Labour Day

We have a tentative booking for an in-person event at Trout Lake Park this year. The booking should be confirmed within the month, at which time I will convene the Labour Day Planning Committee.

### Events Attended / Dates of Note

February 16 – Community Coordinated Response Network  
February 16 – Meeting with OneCity  
February 16 – Facing Facts and Finding Feelings, Part 2  
February 17 – CLC Municipal Working Group  
February 17 – Anti-Convoy/Gratitude Gathering planning meeting  
February 18 – Vetting Committee  
February 18 – Meeting with Park Board Commissioner John Irwin  
February 21 – Family Day  
February 21 – Gratitude Gathering for Frontline Workers  
February 22 – Meeting with Team Kennedy Stewart  
February 22 – Downtown Eastside Joint Union Committee  
February 22 – BCFED Community and Social Action Committee  
February 22 – Anti-convoy/far-right meeting  
February 23 – Pink Shirt Day  
February 23 – Living Wage for Families Campaign meeting  
February 23 – Sexual Violence in the Hospitality and Service Industries Working Group  
February 23 – Labour Education: Employers’ Access to Medical Information  
February 24 – Meeting with Green Party of Vancouver  
February 24 – Day of Mourning planning committee  
February 24 – Meeting with Harley Augustino re: Justice Summer initiative  
February 24 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society directors meeting  
February 28 – Vetting Committee  
March 1 – Political Action Committee  
March 1 – Anti-convoy/far-right meeting  
March 2 – Master Trade Union Group Employers’ Council Bargaining Committee  
March 2 – Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Budget Briefing  
March 3 – MoveUP Job Steward Seminar  
March 4 – MoveUP Job Steward Seminar  
March 5 – Labour Education: Steward Level 1 (facilitated)  
March 7 – Meeting with Team Kennedy Stewart  
March 7 – Anti-Racism Committee  
March 8 – Labour Education: Discipline and Discharge

March 8 – International Women’s Day (Women’s Committee event)  
March 9 – Community Coordinated Response Network  
March 9 – BCFED Political Action Committee  
March 9 – BC Labour Heritage Centre AGM  
March 9 – YVR Joint Union Committee  
March 9 – CLC Labour Council Check-in  
March 10 – Downtown Eastside Joint Union Committee  
March 10 – Executive Board  
March 10 – Simon Fraser University Labour Studies Program Advisory Committee  
March 14 – Meeting with Team Kennedy Stewart  
March 14 – Political Action Committee  
March 15 – BCFED Community and Social Action Committee  
March 15 – Regular Meeting

*M/S/C to adopt President’s report.*

**12. TREASURER’S REPORT:**

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

A little bit on the municipal election and the municipal working group that is meeting again on Thursday. October 15<sup>th</sup> is election day and your labour council is leading the pack with getting stuff done, but there are other ones that are too. We have early endorsements happening around the province and endorsement committee’s set up in every labour council now. We are starting our training, it will be candidate training, in-person candidate training. It will begin on April 30<sup>th</sup>. There are two for your region with the one beginning on April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Maritime Labour Centre, then June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Steelworker’s Hall in Burnaby. We’re also doing two on the Island, one in the Interior, one in the North and one in the Fraser Valley. These are very intensive training sessions; they learn about messaging, public speaking, q & a, how to look, how to deal with audiences, etc. Registration will open early next week and there will be a cost. These are for candidates that are seeking endorsement or who have endorsement. We’re hoping to have a good crowd.

The Federal scene is generally frozen. We now have a war in the Ukraine which has stopped the House of Commons from doing any of their regular business. So, any of the bills put forward are moving extremely slowly including C-11, Anti-hate legislation; they are just not moving. We were expecting a budget to happen around now. It was delayed two days ago until the end of April. All of the ministers have been told to go back to the drawing board and cut into most of their budget items so most of the money can go into the defense department as a result of what is happening in eastern Europe. We’ve heard now that they’re moving it back up again, perhaps by early to mid-April. We’ve done our budget presentations to the finance minister and ministry.

Our Care campaign had a soft launch. Our next campaign will be around EI reform. Another thing that has been held up. We have presented to the committee in the House of Commons our thoughts on EI reform, but legislation is still pending. Hopefully, it will come in the spring session. Our other priority is Just Transition and Climate Action; you'll see a role out on both in the coming months.

The two days coming up; the Day of Mourning. Materials have gone to labour councils on that. The theme is still being worked on for Labour Day, but we are having labour days across the country. Pretty much most of them will be live and in-colour. We'll be able to meet each other and talk to each other; we're just hoping the numbers stay low.

*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 expenditure:

- Renewal of BC Poverty Reduction Coalition membership at a cost of \$150.

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

Subject: Approve the UBCx Route

BECAUSE this Spring Vancouver City Council will vote on a proposed route to extend the Broadway SkyTrain to the University of British Columbia (UBCx); and

BECAUSE the Broadway corridor sees up to 57,000 bus riders per day, and is the busiest bus route in North America; and

BECAUSE extending SkyTrain to UBC will help to eliminate congestion, encourage commuting via public transit, decrease the number of cars on the road, help meet emissions reduction target, improve accessibility, and shorten travel times; and

BECAUSE UBCx will also have broader benefits derived from connecting UBC with large employment centres, Vancouver International Airport, and large portions of Metro Vancouver; and

BECAUSE the extension to UBC has the support of all three host nations; the Musqueam Indian Band, the Squamish Nation and the Tsleil-Waututh Nation,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL publicly support the extension of Broadway SkyTrain to the University of British Columbia and write to Vancouver City Council encouraging them to endorse the UBCx route.

**16. REPORT OF UNIONS:**

Shane Polak – PSAC UVAE Local 20045

PSAC has been bargaining with Treasury Board since the summer of 2021. We have 4 groups at the table that include over 100,000 PSAC members. These groups have been without a contract since June of 2021. These four groups have bargained separately in the past but we are now engaged in two levels of talks. One at a common issues table and then talks specifically to each group. Bargaining proposals include but are not limited to improvements to vacation leave, job security and contracting out, language on remote work. Wage demands have been tabled for the table that I belong to, the PA table, for 4.5 percent per year over a three-year period ending June 2023.

In addition to Treasury Board, we have CRA, CFIA, Parks, Statistical Survey Operations, and RCMP members who are also in bargaining or preparing for bargaining. Statistics Survey Operations is heading to arbitration as talks have broken off.

Our Swissport members at YVR who are fuelers and workers at the tank farm at Vancouver airport reached a tentative agreement on March 7. The new contract will expire in October 2024.

In other PSAC news members are fighting for Phoenix general damages compensation to be tax-free by filing individual tax appeals to the Canada Revenue Agency this tax season.

Treasury Board treated Phoenix general damages as taxable income – deducting tax from the payment PSAC members received – but we maintain that these damages should be tax-free like just like other damages agreements.

The PSAC's 2022 National Triennial Convention was going to be in person but will now be held virtually from May 26 to June 3.

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/ to adopt reports of committees.*

**18. 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.*

**19. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Nil

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

**21. NEW BUSINESS:** Nil

**22. NOTICE OF MOTION:** Nil

**23. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Stephen von Sychowski – VDLC

Reminder about our “Lunch & Learn” webinar with Jim Stanford on April 7<sup>th</sup>. You can find the registration link on our website. Also, of note, we got our new t-shirts in last week. Contact the office if you’re interested.

**24. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:37pm*

**25. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022** at 7:00 pm  
Zoom Video Conference.



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