



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 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 May 18, 2021 Regular meeting be adopted.

5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/C that the minutes of the April 20, 2021 Regular meeting be adopted.

6. CREDENTIALS: NIL

7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES: Pledge of New Delegates

8. GUEST SPEAKERS:

Karine Ng, Asian Canadian Labour Alliance re: Asian Heritage Month, An Evening for Resistance Event. (*Presentation starts at 1:10 as Karine was attending her AGM*)

I'm sorry for joining late today as I was at my local's AGM and it ran late. I'm here to speak about Asian Heritage Month and an event that the Asian Canadian Labour Alliance is organizing and hosting, next Wednesday, May 26. A little bit about myself. I'm a recent delegate of the VDLC. I represent the Vancouver Union of Elementary School Teachers and Adult Educators. I represent that local and I have also been on the executive of the Anti-Oppression Educators Collective, which is a provincial specialist association of the BCTF. We have been doing a lot work around anti-oppression and anti-racism, primarily with teachers in the K-12 system, but with other unions as well. ACLA, the Asian Canadian Labour Alliance, has been approached to do some workshops with different organizations so there is a lot going on.

First and foremost, what does being Asian even mean? In a settler colonial society that we live in that category is very much racialized, meaning that it is something that is done to us. That the Asian-ness is not something that we were empowered historically to call ourselves, rather it was a label being placed on us. This is a category that captures such a large area and

so many ethnicities. A category as wide as a continent and beyond. We are calling into question what that even means. However, the reports of increased anti-Asian hate and experiences are still very real. So, I just want to take a moment to reflect on that social construction, what being Asian means, but also looking at the causes and effects of the uptick of anti-Asian racism in Canada in an all-white settler colonial state.

I don't think we can delve into this topic without anchoring our history and systems. What came before becomes the present. What we are witnessing currently is just a continuation of racist colonial history of these lands and beyond. I urge you all to join me in taking a systemic lens and a long temporal view at our history and applying that to the analysis of injustices to fully capture the problem...

Karine's full presentation is available upon request.

9. EDUCATIONAL: Nil

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Political Action

At our last meeting we endorsed Karina Reid in the Richmond City Council By-Election. We have distributed a poll card to our affiliates, delegates and contacts and have been sharing Karina's campaign materials as well. The election takes place on May 29, but mail-in and advance voting is underway as well. If you are a Richmond resident, please be sure to vote in this important by-election, and please help spread the word to your members and other Richmond voters you may know.

In other Richmond news, on May 25th I will be joining with representatives of the Living Wage for Families Campaign and Richmond Poverty Reduction Coalition to present to City Council about becoming a living wage employer. We are hopeful that after our recent success in North Vancouver we will be able to repeat that in Richmond as well. Karina Reid is also supporting this initiative.

As you may recall, a couple of months back a motion supporting paid sick leave was passed at Vancouver City Council with our support. We are now working to bring this forward in North Vancouver and Richmond as well. I also met with our local MLA Nikki Sharma on this topic earlier in the month.

Of course, an announcement was made last week for a three-day paid sick leave plan. While three days is obviously better than none, this plan falls short of what is needed and what has been called for by the BC Federation of Labour, Worker Solidarity Network, our Labour Council, and others who have been pushing on this issue. Unfortunately, this means that we need to keep up the pressure to improve the plan and ensure that it is adequate, universal, sufficient, and accessible for all workers.

Labour Education

Our Labour Education Program continues to go well, we had several courses during the past month, including two fully sold-out sessions on effective note taking. We are currently shortlisting for a third session later this year.

The Labour Economics Series concluded after six highly successful and sold-out sessions. Feedback was incredibly positive across the board and I'm happy we could offer this type of education, which is not readily available. All of the other courses registered well also.

The two exceptions unfortunately were the planned courses on Benefit Plans and COVID-19, and Canada Labour Code Part 2, which we had to cancel due to low registration. We still have courses on privacy rights and charter rights yet to come before the conclusion of the Spring Session. We will look to reschedule Canada Labour Code Part 2 in September and hope to get a stronger registration then.

The Fall/Winter 2021 session will be released shortly.

Labour Disputes

Unite Here! Local 40 are on picket lines at both the Pacific Gateway hotel in Richmond and the Metrotown Hilton in Burnaby in response to these employers firing workers rather than extending recall rights through the pandemic. An employer's association representing 32 hotels, motels, and liquor stores, has threatened lockout. We will continue to monitor the situation and share opportunities to support the union.

IBEW Local 213 continues to be on strike against Ledcor LTD for a fair first collective agreement. This dispute continues to show the failings of the current Canada Labour Code, and the unwillingness of the federal government to intervene in order to ensure that the constitutional right to join a union is upheld. We have continued to circulate our petition related to this and any materials from the local. I am also working with the mayor's office on a second statement of support and a letter to the federal minister of labour. A number of city councillors have also voiced their support.

It must also be noted that shamefully the Liberal and Conservative parties united once again this past month to pass back-to-work legislation targeting CUPE 375 members at the Port of Montreal. Here in our District only NDP MP's Don Davies and Jenny Kwan, and independent Jody Wilson-Raybould, voted against this. As we enter the next election cycle both the Liberals and Conservatives will attempt to portray themselves as advocates for working people. If such claims had not already been stripped of all credibility by their previous actions, then let this direct attack on the fundamental rights to free collective bargaining and strike be a reminder that they are not friends of workers.

May Day

We marked May Day with a digital campaign on the theme of solidarity. We all look forward to gathering in person, we expect, next year but were glad to be able to do something virtually in the meantime. Thank you to the affiliates who supported, all of the delegates who helped to plan the activity, and especially to Kristie Dukewich and Seema Ahluwalia for their work on the design and the text of the graphics.

Day of Mourning

The Day of Mourning virtual event went ahead as planned and feedback seemed to be positive. Again, we look forward to meeting in person next year, but it was important to mark this day and remember those who have died or been injured while recommitting to working to end workplace deaths.

DTES Joint Union Committee

The DTES Joint Union Committee followed up on our meeting with Attorney General David Eby, MLA Melanie Mark and BC Housing representatives with a letter reiterating some point of concern and areas that need action.

United Way

The United Way amalgamation is proceeding to membership votes at each of the United Way organizations that are participating, following successful votes by their respective boards of directors. While concerns around the unionization status, job protection, and pension of staff threatened to derail labour's cooperation with the merger these items were ultimately resolved.

The Period Promise campaign is now underway and concludes shortly. Please visit our website to donate to the campaign.

Sustainable Communities Initiative

You may recall that a couple of months ago we had Max Gardiner of the SCI as our guest speaker. I am happy to say that SCI is expanding on its good work by now producing the "SCI Rundown" which gives a proactive review of what is coming up in municipal politics in each given week. This should be a helpful resource. If your union is interested in joining the SCI please reach out to me and I will be happy to help you connect with Max and get that process underway.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

April 21 – Sustainable Communities Initiative meeting
April 21 – Hilton picket line solidarity with Unite Here! Local 40
April 21 – Labour Day planning meeting
April 22 – United Way Labour Committee of the Board
April 22 – Political Action Committee meeting with Team Kennedy Stewart
April 22 – BC Employment Standards Coalition
April 22 – Canadian Labour Congress meeting re: United Way amalgamation
April 27 – Downtown Eastside Joint Union Committee
April 27 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Board of Directors
April 28 – Day of Mourning
April 28 – Community Coordinated Response Network (CCRN)
April 28 – Labour Economics Series: Public and Private Debt
April 29 – BC Federation of Labour strike coordination call
April 29 – Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives analysis of 2021 budgets
April 30 – Labour Education: WCB Appeals
May 1 – International Workers Day (May Day)
May 3 – Political Action Committee
May 3 – Meeting re: public housing
May 3 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Board of Directors
May 4 – Canadian Labour Congress – Labour Council meeting re: United Way amalgamation
May 4 – United Way Joint Board Integration Committee
May 4 – Cascade Region Labour Leadership Initiative get together
May 5 – Community Coordinated Response Network (CCRN)
May 5 – Meeting with Team Kennedy Stewart

May 5 – Labour Education: Effective Note Taking
May 6 – Period Promise campaign launch
May 6 – BC Federation of Labour Precarious Work Working Group
May 7 – MLA Nikki Sharma re: Paid Sick Days campaign
May 10 – Labour Education: Canada Labour Code Part 1
May 10 – Stand With Asians Coalition: National Day Against Anti-Asian Racism event
May 10 – Anti-Racism Committee
May 11 – Labour Education: Benefit Plans and COVID-19
May 11 – Meeting with BC Government & Service Employees’ Union re: affordable housing
May 11 – Vancity AGM
May 11 – OneCity Labour Listening Session
May 12 – BC Federation of Labour Political Action Committee
May 13 – Executive Board
May 13 – Car Rally in solidarity with Unite Here Local 40
May 13 – CLC meeting re: United Way integration
May 15 – Labour Education: Effective Note Taking
May 17 – Labour Education: Canada Labour Code Part 2
May 18 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society directors meeting
May 18 – United Way Joint Board Integration Committee
May 18 – Trade Unions for Energy Democracy monthly meeting
May 18 – Regular Meeting

M/S/C to adopt President’s report.

11. STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2022

*Motion brought forward to move the Strategic Plan 2021-2022 to June’s Meeting.
M/S/C to bring forward the Strategic Plan to June’s Meeting.*

12. TREASURER’S REPORT:

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

*Due to technical difficulties, Ron was unable to access Zoom or call into the meeting.
Stephen von Sychowski presented notes that Ron requested.*

Possible Federal Election dates would be July 4, being called on May 30. Or, October 4 and being called on August 2. July and October are being seen as the likely election dates. Only time will tell.

M/S/ 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: Compulsory Trades in the City of Vancouver (Submitted by UA Local 170)

BECAUSE compulsory trades protects consumers when obtaining maintenance, repairs or new construction by ensuring an apprentice or qualified journey person performs such work, and

BECAUSE in 2001 the BC Liberal government dismantled British Columbia's system of compulsory trades certification; and

BECAUSE the assault on compulsory trades has resulted in the deskilling of the construction workforce in British Columbia, leading to lower wages and less safe, riskier, workplaces; and

BECAUSE the BC Building Trades Council, to which a number Vancouver and District Labour Council affiliates belong, has called upon the NDP government and Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training Melanie Mark to restore compulsory trades in British Columbia;

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on the NDP government and Minister of Advanced Education, Skills and Training Anne Kang to restore compulsory trades in British Columbia, and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER call upon the City of Vancouver to adopt compulsory trades for all work performed by city staff and contracted workers, working with municipal unions to ensure appropriate training and upgrading or existing staff, or grandfathering where appropriate, and with city inspectors being given authority to enforce the policy.

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

Subject: Vancouver Fire Rescue Service Growth Funding (Submitted by IAFF Local 18)

BECAUSE in 2018 the City of Vancouver commissioned the *Darkhorse Needs Assessment Study*, which recommended a moderate growth plan to meet the needs of residents; and

BECAUSE in 2019, Vancouver City Council approved a 5 year fiscal plan for 2019-2023 which included this growth plan for the fire service; and

BECAUSE Despite having approved the plan, City Council failed to secure any funding for the plan in 2021; and

BECAUSE there are 10% less fire fighters on duty 24/7 today than there were in the mid 1980's, while calls for service have increased 300%, the city's population has grown by 200,000 people, and the overdose crisis continues,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support the International Association of Fire Fighters Local 18 in advocating to Mayor and Council for the restart of Vancouver Fire Rescue Service growth funding in the 2022 City of Vancouver budget.

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

OTHER REPORTS: Nil

M/S/C to adopt reports of committees

18. REPORTS OF LABOUR COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES:

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:

Debbie Mohabir , CUPE Local 15 – Moment of silence for CUPE Local 15 member.

Neal Adolph, United Way – Period Promise Campaign is running its collections right now. Due to the pandemic we are encouraging people to make monetary donations rather product donations. Thank you to all the members and unions who have donated. We believe we will reach our goals this year for our campaign.

Kari Scott-Whyte, CUPE Local 391 – Condolences to CUPE Local 15. Their member worked closely with our members. The week prior our local also lost a member who we are feeling and recognize the impact she had on our members individually and as a whole.

24. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:51 pm.*

25. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2021** at 7:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference.

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