



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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: 1st 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 October 19, 2021 Regular meeting be adopted.

5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/C that the minutes of the September 21, 2021 Regular meeting be adopted.

6. NEW CREDENTIALS:

Retail Wholesale Union Local 517

Randy Anderson-Fennell

Retail Wholesale Union Local 580

George Siegle

Sheet Metal Workers & Roofers' Union Local 280

Steven Davis

Kelly Lillies

7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES

8. GUEST SPEAKERS:

George Benson, Brianna Bishop and Vanessa Sun, Zero Emission Economic Transition Action Plan (ZEETAP)

Presentation available on request.

9. EDUCATIONAL: No Education this meeting.

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On September 30 we observed the Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The Anti-Racism Committee drafted a statement and list of events/activities which we issued for the day. We

also circulated statements from the CLC and BCFED. I participated in a couple of events on the day, including a webinar with legal scholar Tamara Starblanket on genocide, Indigenous Nations and the Canadian state. I found this webinar very interesting and would like to explore the possibility of an event with Tamara Starblanket in the future, particularly in light of motions we passing earlier this year related to the residential school system as an instrument of genocide.

Political Action

Flowing from the motion passed at September's regular meeting, I proceeded late last month to notify Vision Vancouver and the other municipal parties of our decision not to endorse Vision candidates in the 2022 municipal election. I also notified the media of the decision,

which resulted in a modest amount of coverage but substantial social media buzz for a few days. Indications are that Vision will proceed with their plans to relaunch themselves and may even attempt to field a majority slate of candidates and a mayor. Only time will tell. Many former Vision members have expressed support for the decision or indicated that it will influence them to put their efforts elsewhere in 2022. We are continuing to have discussions with Team Kennedy, OneCity, COPE, and the Greens.

Data from the 2017 byelection showed 51% of the vote split between Vision, OneCity, and COPE and another 21% taken by the Greens. The remaining 28% went to the NPA. The NPA won that election regardless of this as a result of each of the aforementioned parties running their own candidate.

The PAC has directed me to start working on a framework document that would state conditions and benefits of Labour Council support. The idea is that this would be presented to parties and serve to start to firm up the shape of our endorsements in 2022.

The Vetting Committee met for the first time on October 13 and is beginning the process that will lead to recommendations for the endorsement (or not) of incumbents in 2022.

The BC Federation of Labour is continuing its fight for ten paid sick days. The government's consultation ends on October 25. Please fill out the survey and indicate strong support for ten days. The Federation will be hosting a number of actions on the 25th, which we will circulate and encourage participation in.

YVR Joint Union Committee

The committee continues to bring together unions at the airport to discuss and advocate on issues related to reopening, working conditions, etc. Janitors at YVR recently unionized with SEIU Local 2, with the support of the committee.

Digital Toolbox

Content from our current site is currently being transferred to the new one, and I am anticipating launching the new site sometime in the next month.

Labour Education

Regrettably we had to cancel our Unions and the Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation Process course as a result of unforeseen issues arising for the facilitators. We look forward to rescheduling when possible.

Our courses have been successful over-all this Fall including some selling out and even over-selling and being expanded with the consent of the facilitators. Others have registered more modestly, but still well.

We have added two more partial-day sessions; one on Psychological Injuries and one on Duty to Accommodate and the WCB. We are also doing another round of Steward Level 1 and Level 2 as a result of an affiliate request. Following these we anticipate wrapping up for the Fall and preparing for our Spring 2022 program.

Worker Education and Labour Learning Society

Check www.workereducation.ca for what will soon be a growing resource of labour education content. At the moment the highlights at the Compensation Café blog led by Janet Patterson and the Director's blog led by Joey Hartman and myself. The second WELLS AGM will be held next month and will set the direction for the organization over the coming year.

Trade Unions for Energy Democracy

The local chapter of TUED will host a session on bargaining for the climate on October 24 from 2:00 to 4:00pm. The event is being moved onto Zoom as a result of rising COVID cases. Seth Klein, and Tara Peel from the CLC, will be the keynote speakers.

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. A rally in solidarity with LTS workers was held on October 1 to mark the two-year anniversary of the strike. It was co-hosted by VDLC, NWDLC, and IBEW 213. A contingent of Local 40 members from the Metrotown Hilton were among those in attendance.

Union Protein Project

Unfortunately, it appears that the schools cannot accept materials for distribution to students. This, combined with the cancellation of this year's events, means that we will have to go a second year without hosting a UPP activity in our district.

United Way

This year's Labour Appreciation Dinner will take place on December 2 with some in-person attendance at the Anvil Centre and online participation for others. I will be recommending we purchase some tickets again this year since of course we are presenting the Syd Thompson Community Service Award to Leo McGrady.

Re-Opening

Based on the ongoing high numbers of COVID cases and deaths we will continue as-is for the remainder of 2021. Most regrettably this means no holiday social in December once again, but we have to put safety first. It is also my understanding that in any case the children's choir from Queen Alexandra Elementary School would not be able to attend and perform.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

September 22 – Beyond the pandemic: Paid sick leave for workers in BC
September 22 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society (WELLS) directors meeting
September 22 – YVR Joint Union Committee
September 23 – Municipal Engagement Committee
September 23 – Housing Action Team
September 24 – Vancouver Economic Commission Zero Emission Economic Transmission Advisory Committee
September 24 – BCFED Paid Sick Days Committee
September 25 – Labour Education Program: Effective Note Taking
September 27 – Labour Day Elsie Award package assembly
September 27 – Visit to International Union of Operating Engineers Local 963 office
September 27 – Meeting with Unite Here! Local 40
September 28 – Labour Education Program: Investigations and Interrogations
September 28 – Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (TUED) meeting
September 29 – Living Wage for Families campaign meeting
September 29 – Portland Hotel Society AGM
September 30 – Day for Truth and Reconciliation
September 30 – Squamish Stories with Kung Jaadee
September 30 – “Suffer the Little Children”: Tamara Starblanket on genocide, Indigenous Nations and the Canadian state
October 1 – Rally in solidarity with Leducor Telecommunication Services workers
October 2 – Labour Education Program: Steward Level 2 (facilitated)
October 4 – Political Action Committee
October 4 – WELLS NationBuilder training
October 5 – Downtown Eastside Joint Union Committee
October 5 – Columbia Institute Conversation Series: Municipal Best Practices for Sex Worker Safety
October 5 – BCFED Community and Social Action Committee
October 5 – TUED meeting
October 6 – Community Coordinated Response Network (CCRN)
October 6 – Phone meeting with Elections BC
October 7 – Meeting with Vancity Labour Liaison
October 8 – BCFED Paid Sick Days Committee
October 11 – Thanksgiving Day Statutory Holiday
October 12 – Downtown Eastside Joint Union Committee
October 12 – Canadian Labour Congress: Labour Council Check-in
October 12 – Anti-Racism Committee
October 13 – Community Coordinated Response Network
October 13 – Vetting Committee
October 13 – BC Employment Standards Coalition
October 14 – United Way of BC Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee
October 14 – BCFED Executive Council
October 14 – VDLC Executive Board
October 18 – YVR Joint Union Committee
October 18 – YVR Joint Union Committee Quarterly Touch-base with YVR Executive Leadership

October 18 – Political Action Committee meeting with Green Party of Vancouver
October 18 – Political Action Committee meeting with Coalition of Progressive Electors
October 19 – United Way Labour Committee of the Board (past and current) lunch
October 19 – Regular meeting

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

11. TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

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

12. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

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

I'm going to do this in four parts. On the Federal Election, it came, it happened, it left and there was very little change. It was interesting nevertheless. I'm going to concentrate on BC. Another minority government hopefully that will last more than a couple of years. The leaders of all the parties; everybody lost. The NDP came out the best in terms of percentages. In BC, we have 15 Liberal seats, about 27% of the vote. The Conservatives, 13 seats for 33% of the vote, a drop of one. The NDP, 13 seats for 30%, a gain of 6% for BC. The Green's, one seat with 5% of the vote and a loss of 7% in BC alone. The People's Party of Canada, got almost 5% of the vote in BC. There is some really interesting patterns that developed during the election campaign. The CLC did daily polling and focus groups. It was a bit of a seesaw that happened during the campaign. The Liberals were quite far ahead at the start and then polling numbers plummeted very quickly upon the calling of the election; the call of the election itself, the 4th wave of COVID and the tipping point was Afghanistan. This got people angry that there was an election at this time. As a result their numbers went down substantially. After Labour Day, things started to happen particularly in the last 10 days up to the end of the campaign. The Liberals started their strategic voting arguments in Ontario which have always worked in Ontario. This is why the Liberals have such a huge amount of seats in Ontario, the NDP dropped and the Conservatives stayed the same. They also very successfully, which helped the NDP, tied the Conservatives to Jason Kenney. All the NDP gains across the country were primarily in BC and Alberta. Nowhere else in the country did the NDP increase their vote. Something on the news today is the collapse of the Green vote across the country; they only got 2.3% of the vote nationally this time around. Where that vote went, some went to the NDP, some went to the Liberals. A Green vote went to the PPC which was surprising.

Some interesting things about this parliament; 102 women were elected which is up from 98 for 30%, 60 racialized members up from 50, 12 Indigenous members of parliament up from 11, and 8 LGBTQ and 2 Spirit members of parliament as well. So the diversity is a little better than last time so we're getting there. What does this mean? It means that we go back to our work. We have a number of issues that the CLC will be continuing with. The National Childcare program, Pharmacare was promised again in the campaign so we'll see where that goes. Sick leave was promised and we'll see where that goes. And this ties into some EI updates that we've also been working on.

There will be a Member of Parliament lobby. This will be the week of November 29. We'll be asking for your help to do lobbies of every single Member of Parliament virtually. They will be coordinated as we get closer to the end of November. The Cabinet will be sworn in on October 26 and Parliament reconvenes November 22.

I'll touch on municipal, particularly in Alberta in Edmonton and Calgary. We had Progressive majorities in both of these cities. In Edmonton, huge majority of labour council endorsed people won. The majority of city councillors elected are women in Edmonton. Calgary, first women elected. It was labour council endorsed candidates that won in these seats so what we do in our municipal campaign is very important as it really does work.

Harrison Winter School is coming along. It begins in January and goes to February. Brochures are out now and classes will be slightly smaller at 15. It will be mandatory vaccination for all participants according to Fraser Health Authority along with the hotel. We continue to watch the covid numbers in this area.

The last item I have is today's decision by the health officer is a number of places are opening up to full capacity, including hockey games, wedding's which also opens up other venues for meetings with the contingency that everyone be fully vaccinated. That is my report and I'm happy to take any questions.

M/S/C 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.

14. 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:

- Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 118 – wreath for 2021 Remembrance Day ceremony at a cost of \$85
- Replacement computer (laptop with docking station and peripherals) for Executive Assistant at a cost of up to \$2,500
- Tickets to United Way Labour Appreciation Night at a cost of up to \$300

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

Subject: Action to End the Eviction Crisis

BECAUSE a new study from the University of British Columbia indicates that 10.6% of renters in British Columbia were evicted from their homes over a five-year period; and

BECAUSE in many cases these evictions the rent was increased substantially following the eviction, thereby contributing to the decline of affordable rental stock; and

BECAUSE by comparison, a study in the Toronto area showed an eviction rate of 5.8%; and

BECAUSE the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's annual rental market survey indicates that the average rent for a one-bedroom apartment has increased more than 30% over the last five years in Metro Vancouver,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on the provincial government to immediately release all data on evictions in its possession, and implement a system for tracking evictions province-wide while protecting tenant's privacy rights; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER call on the provincial government to implement rent control that ties the cap on rent increases to the unit rather than the tenant.

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

Subject: Oposing Foundation Skills Assessments

BECAUSE the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is a standardized test administered to all Grade 4 to 7 students across BC, which is not a required part of the BC Curriculum; and

BECAUSE although the results of the FSA are collated by the Ministry of Education, they are not used to direct resources to schools; and

BECAUSE these test results are used by the Fraser Institute to create school ranking which unfairly disproportionately affect low-income and racialized communities; and

BECAUSE the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) opposes the FSA as unreliable and unhelpful, a distraction more helpful forms of assessment, and a social justice issue; and

BECAUSE parents may withdraw their children from participation in the FSA according to Ministry of Education policy; and

BECAUSE the BCTF is seeking our support for a petition calling on the provincial government to scrap the FSA (<https://act.newmode.net/action/bc-teachers-federation/its-time-government-scrap-divisive-foundation-skills-assessment>),

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL sign the BC Teachers' Federation petition to scrap the Foundation Skills Assessment, and will circulate it to its affiliates, delegates, and contacts.

15. REPORT OF UNIONS:

Randy Anderson-Fennell, Retail Wholesale Union Local 517

We just wanted to give a report about one of our shops, Lantic Canada. Lantic Canada used to be Rogers Sugar and is the cornerstone shop our union was built on. Right as we speak this shop is being attacked by a raiding campaign by the Public and Private Workers of Canada, known as the PPWC. If you haven't heard of them, it's because they sit outside of the CLC as part of the Confederation of Canadian Unions.

Recently, In a submission to the Labour Relations Board over the way the PPWC and the onsite organizers conducted themselves; **the PPWC has admitted to the following points:**

- PPWC has admitted that its statements in its pamphlets regarding **“the information communicated about changes in the Employees benefits was not accurate with respect to the pension, dental, and long-term disability benefits”**
- The PPWC claim that any misrepresentation either by written material (pamphlets) or by PPWC organizers to you is justified as **“a certain amount of ‘puffery’ to occur, as the vying unions seek to gain support by making promises and representations as to what they can and will do for them”**.
- The PPWC now tells the LRB that **“even if the information the PPWC communicated was not accurate, the fact remains that the Retail Wholesale Union effectively set the record straight through its memorandums that there would be ‘adverse consequences’ to the membership in such an event”**.
- The PPWC has justified these actions with these following statements **“a reasonable employee would understand the difference between whether a benefit is employee run or union run, even if they did not understand, they would make inquiries from the incumbent union (RWU)”** and **“members are adults, not children. They are capable of, and responsible for, gathering all the necessary information to make an informed decision”**. The PPWC have also asked that the Labour Relations Board to not **“police election and play labour relations detective”**.

So I just wanted to let other unions know of the tactics the PPWC are willing to use to raid, and a warning to be vigilante and watch out for them, and what seems to be a very ambitious raiding campaign. In solidarity, Randy Anderson-Fennell.

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

16. 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

17. REPORTS OF LABOUR COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES:
Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes.

None submitted

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

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

19. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: Nil

20. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

21. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

22. GOOD AND WELFARE:

Agnes Jackman – BCFORUM

There has been such a focus on everyone becoming vaccinated against COVID-19 that we forget that cold and flu season is coming up and that many of us may have forgotten to get our flu shot. I'd like to remind everyone that this is just as important as they are predicting a bad flu season.

23. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:47pm.*

24. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021** at 7:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference.



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