



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 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:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Nick Aubichon

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

**4. MOMENT OF SILENCE for Gail Meredith** (past delegate of the VDLC)

**5. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**

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

**6. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

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

**7. NEW CREDENTIALS:**

**BCGEU Local 703**

Jason Blackman

**8. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES:** Not present at meeting.

**9. GUEST SPEAKERS:**

International Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (ICHRIP)

Aiyanas Ormond and Beth Dollaga

Thank you so much for hosting us tonight. I'm with a local community organization called the Alliance for People's Health, I'm joined by Beth who's with the Canada Philippines Solidarity for Human Rights. Both of our organizations are members of ICHRIP. We here to speak with you tonight as there is an upcoming conference with ICHRIP to shine a light on the human rights situation in the Philippines which is currently quite dire. Beth is going to do a short power point presentation and an overview of the conference and I'll have a few words for the end.

*Power point presentation available on request.*

**10. EDUCATIONAL:** No Education this meeting.

## **11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

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

### Political Action

Our Political Action Committee had its first post-summer meeting on September 9 and is now picking up the municipal work again.

However, the main political event recently has of course been the federal election, which will have taken place the day before this regular meeting.

We joined with NWDLC to co-host labour canvasses in target ridings. We also promoted CLC hosted virtual canvassing activities, reshared campaign content, and encouraged delegates and other workers to support their local candidates.

### Digital Toolbox

Later this month our new website will roll out, featuring improved design, campaigning features, and event hosting/registration functionalities. This will be another step forward in our digital presence. We will also be the first Labour Council on this new platform.

### Labour Education

All but one of our courses for this Fall session have registered very well, with a number approaching sell-out capacity and one being expanded (at the consent of the facilitator) to allow additional participants. Please continue to help promote the courses to your members.

### Worker Education and Labour Learning Society

WELLS brought on Summer contract worker, who did great work designing, populating, and launching the WELLS website ([www.workereducation.ca](http://www.workereducation.ca)) and beginning efforts toward building partnerships. The WELLS website will feature a Workers Compensation Café by Janet Patterson and guests, and a WELLS Labour Education blog by myself and Joey Hartman. It will also feature labour education resources for learners and facilitators alike. Our next step will be to build partnerships and look towards options for developing new resources. Our second AGM will take place later this Fall, date TBA.

### 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 will be the keynote speaker.

### 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.

There will be a rally to support Ledcor LTS workers on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1055 W. Hastings, at 11:00am.

### Labour Day

This year's virtual Labour Day "The Elsie's" event was a success. The event once again recognized Awesome Union Activists, Dedicated Front Line Workers, Outstanding Shop Stewards and Caring Community Activists while drawing attention to the importance of a

just recovery. It also featured guest speakers including Carleen Thomas from Tsleil-Waututh Nation, Premier John Horgan, and CLC Secretary-Treasurer Lily Chang. The event recording is available for viewing on our YouTube channel, link can be found on our website and social media accounts.

### Union Protein Project

The Union Protein Project Community Events had to be cancelled again this year due to COVID. We are exploring whether there is another way to work with UPP in reaching out to the communities we would have hosted events in.

### Toques

We have ordered toques from OneMovement Threads and the mockups look fantastic. Unfortunately, there was a delay in production, but we should have them in hand within the next couple of days. These will be used for facilitator gifts, and Labour Day prizes. They are also available for sale (\$30) while quantities last.

### United Way

As a result of the merger of six United Ways across BC this is expected to be the final year for the United Way Labour Appreciation Dinner in its current form. Discussions are underway regarding how to replace the event going forward. One idea is to create a new event in December of each year which would merge that event with The Elsie's, which we have now co-hosted twice in a row for Labour Day. This also makes sense since assuming we can have an in-person event next year it is not likely that The Elsie's will continue as our Labour Day activity.

### Re-Opening

As a result of the rise in COVID numbers over the past weeks we will continue with virtual meetings next month and then reassess our options for November.

### Events Attended / Dates of Note

July 21-August 6: Vacation

August 9: Weekly touch-base with WELLS contract

August 10: Meeting with BC Health Coalition

August 11: Community Coordinated Response Network

August 11: BC Employment Standards Coalition re: paid sick leave campaign

August 12: BC Federation of Labour re: paid sick leave campaign

August 12: Worker Education and Labour Learning Society directors meeting

August 16: YVR Joint Union Committee

August 16: Labour Day filming

August 16: Weekly touchbase with WELLS Summer contract

August 17: CLC Labour Council check-in

August 17-20, 23: Vacation

August 24: Downtown Eastside Joint Union Committee

August 24: Meeting with Vancity Labour Rep

August 24: YVR Joint Union Committee  
August 25: ZEETAP meeting  
August 25: BCFED Paid Sick Days campaign  
August 31: New website training  
September 1: BCGEU rally  
September 1: Political Action Committee meeting with OneCity  
September 2: CLC labour canvass  
September 6: Labour Day  
September 7: Trade Unions for Energy Democracy  
September 8: Community Coordinated Response Network  
September 8: BCFED Political Action Committee  
September 8: Burnaby North Seymour labour canvass  
September 9: Political Action Committee  
September 9: New website training  
September 9: CLC labour canvass  
September 10: BCFED Paid Sick Days campaign  
September 14: Labour Education: BC Labour Code  
September 15: Sustainable Communities Initiative Union of BC Municipalities briefing  
September 16: Executive Board  
September 17: Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge labour canvass  
September 18: Labour Education: Steward Level 1  
September 18: Vancouver Granville labour canvass  
September 20: Election Day  
September 21: Regular Meeting

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

#### **11. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

I'm going to start with the obvious which is last night, the federal election. Not much changed. There was quite a lot of money spent by political parties and not much by us as taxpayers. Overall, the Liberals won 15 seats in BC (26.8% of the vote), the NDP won 13 seats (29%), the Conservatives won 13 seats (33.4%), and the Green's won 1 seat (5.3%). We think that with the opening of further mail-in ballots, the Liberal and NDP percentage will go up slightly and the Conservative and Green percentages will go down. Both the NDP and Liberals did well, not so the Conservatives with a loss of seats and the collapse of the Green vote in BC. At the moment, the NDP is ahead in Nanaimo-Ladysmith. Port Moody-Coquitlam the NDP won by 2100 votes and for Vancouver-Granville, the Liberals are ahead by 230 seats. Nationally, there are a couple of other NDP seats that we're looking at. The NDP is behind the Liberals in Toronto-Davenport and there are a couple of other.

For the CLC, our campaign was mostly digital but we did do a lot of labour canvasses. Thanks to you labour council and others around the province we did have an impact on some of the key races. We did have two major targets and we did win them both. There was

some secondary targets and some that came together as the campaign developed with Burnaby-North Seymour and Pitt Meadows-Maple Ridge that were not as successful as we hoped. The labour canvasses led by councils as well as the officers of the CLC went exclusively to support NDP candidates across the country but particularly in BC. We had our presidents in labour canvasses in Port Moody-Coquitlam, Nanaimo-Ladysmith and Victoria in seats we won. We didn't win in Burnaby-North Seymour. We'll have a final result by the end of the week. Ballot envelopes will determine Vancouver-Granville.

We will again be tackling Pharmacare, our number one issue, and Childcare, pensions and other issues. We are looking at a virtual parliament hill lobby to involve labour councils where we will be lobbying all the members of parliament in this region. Your participation as delegates will be crucial to this.

Harrison looks like it's a go. COVID protocols will be in place, like passports according to what the FHA states. We're really hoping that we can do this.

We are not looking at going live for meetings. The numbers in BC are finally starting to decline; everything is on hold right now until October's meetings for November.

*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.*

**15. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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

Subject: Syd Thompson Community Service Award

BECAUSE each year the Vancouver and District Labour Council designates a recipient for the Syd Thompson Community Service Award, which is presented at the United Way Labour Appreciation Dinner; and

BECAUSE Leo McGrady is lawyer specializing in labour law, human rights, class actions, intellectual property, and libel law, all on behalf of unions and employees; and

BECAUSE Leo McGrady has volunteered to provide education, training, and assistance to countless labour and progressive organizations over the years; and

BECAUSE Leo McGrady, along with former VDLC President Joey Hartman, was one of the originators of, and first facilitators in, our Labour Education Program which began in 2012 as the Anita Yan Memorial Labour Law Series; and

BECAUSE Leo McGrady continues to this day to provide invaluable facilitation, materials, and expertise to our Labour Education Program and many other labour education initiatives,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL designate Leo McGrady as the recipient of the 2021 Syd Thompson Community Service Award, to be presented at this year's Labour Appreciation Night.

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

Subject: City of North Vancouver Rent to Own

BECAUSE the City of North Vancouver will be debating the following motion, submitted by Mayor Linda Buchanan and Councillor Angela Girard, at an upcoming City Council meeting:

Whereas a key priority of the City of North Vancouver (City) council is to provide a diverse housing supply that meets the needs of all residents and;

Whereas the City is a partner with other levels of government, community agencies and the private sector to deliver housing and;

Whereas regional and provincial housing trends have pushed market housing beyond the reach of many working households in Metro Vancouver and;

Whereas despite the job opportunities within the City having grown, homeownership within the City is increasingly unattainable for moderate to middle-income households and;

Whereas rental vacancy rates are at historic lows and the cost of renting is high making it difficult for moderate to middle-income earners to save for a down payment and;

Whereas the City has been exploring through the Balanced Housing Lab project innovative solutions to address the housing challenges facing middle-income earners and;

Whereas new innovative housing models such as rent to own are being explored by the private sector, and the public sector through BC Housing and;

Whereas a private development within the City with 8 rent to own units has over 800 people expressing interest;

Now Therefore be it Resolved that staff be directed to explore the Rent To Own Model working with the private sector (development industry and financial institutions) an report back to Council with recommendations on how this model could apply to the City to increase home ownership for moderate to middle-income earners.

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support the exploration of rent-to-own as an option which could assist with creating home ownership options for middle-income earners while freeing up existing rental units and increasing vacancy rates, and;

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL continue to campaign for more affordable housing units and for more subsidized housing units including housing for low-income people.

*M/S/C to adopt change to the amendment to the motion brought forward by Stephen von Sychowski.*

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

Subject: Vision Vancouver

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL decline to endorse candidates for the offices of Mayor and City Councillor from Vision Vancouver in the 2022 municipal election.

**16. REPORT OF UNIONS:** None submitted.

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/C to adopt reports of committees*

**18. 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.*

**19. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Nil

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

**21. NEW BUSINESS:** Nil

**22. NOTICE OF MOTION:** Nil

**23. GOOD AND WELFARE:** Nil

**24. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:59pm.*

**25. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021** at 7:00 pm

Zoom Video Conference.

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