



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 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

Justice

41. We call upon the federal government, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations, to appoint a public inquiry into the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls. The inquiry's mandate would include:

- i. Investigation into missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls.
- ii. Links to the intergenerational legacy of residential schools.

1. LOCATION: Hybrid | Maritime Labour Centre and ZOOM Video Conference – 7:00PM

2. CHAIRPERSON: 2nd Vice President Seema Ahluwalia

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

4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

M/S/C that the agenda of the December 8, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.

5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/C that the minutes of the November 15, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.

6. REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:

PEA – HESU Chapter

Chrissy Sprott (Alternate)

Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association (VSTA) Local 39-2

Carl Janze

Omar Kassis

7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES

8. GUEST SPEAKERS: Neil Adolph, United Way of BC, to co-present the Syd Thompson Community Service Award with Stephen von Sychowski to recipient Conni Kilfoil

9. EDUCATIONAL: NIL

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Meetings

While this meeting is in-person only due to the award presentation and year-end social, we will return to the hybrid format in January.

Political Action

The new municipal governments have been sworn in and are getting to work. A great amount of concern exists right now around where the City of Vancouver budget process will go, given the massive expenditures approved by the new council for hiring additional police and nurses. ABC has promised to keep property taxes low, but has started with a potential 5% increase, which would grow to at least 7% with these new expenditures. There is serious concern that cuts may be on the horizon, or the implementation of regressive funding models such as user fees.

Unfortunately, an area that ABC did have success was in the adoption of the controversial IHRA definition of antisemitism. This was passed by the ABC mayor and councillors despite opposition from academic groups, some organizations in the Jewish community, the BC Civil Liberties Association, and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. We also opposed the adoption, in keeping with a motion adopted by our council in 2019, when we were successful in helping to block an earlier attempt at its adoption. Christine Boyle voted against, while Peter Fry and Adriane Carr abstained.

Christine Boyle has brought back her motion to expedite the approval and construction of social, non-profit, and co-op housing across the city. ABC signed onto similar commitments through the Women Transforming Cities "Pink Paper" campaign prior to the election, and a campaign is underway to have the honour those commitments and support the motion.

I continue to reach out to friendly electeds to meet and establish lines of communication during this term. I also wrote to Mayor Sim and received a brief response on December 1. I hope to open lines of communication with his office and schedule the periodic meetings that municipal locals are accustomed to with previous administrations.

I also recently met, along with Stefan Nielsen and Shane Polack, with representatives of OneCity. We had a very productive conversation about working together throughout this term, and beyond. I look forward to continuing that.

Labour Education

We wrapped up our 2022 Labour Education Program with a successful and well attended workshop on WCB and Vocational Rehabilitation, with Sarah O'Leary.

The first half of the 2023 program will open for registration later this month, and this coming year will be the largest yet for our program. Some new topics that are being added include

Arbitration Level 2, Domestic Violence in the Workplace, and Intro to Workplace Law. We will also offer the Law of Protest and Striking with History courses that were previously cancelled due to facilitator health issues. In addition, we will offer the usual recurring classes, see the return of both Collective Bargaining and Effective Grievances, as well as a new Labour Economics series.

A new fee structure will provide a fairer rate for virtual vs. in-person offerings, better affiliate discounts, and prices that better reflect today's costs associated with running this program.

In short, 2023 should be a very busy but exciting year in labour education.

BCFED Convention

The BCFED Convention took place from November 21-25 and was a successful return to in-person proceedings. The motions we submitted calling for an investigation into genocide through the residential school system and supporting the Anti-Oppression Educators Network call for training in the Truth & Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action were both adopted by the delegates. Also adopted were the motions on science-based drug policy, submitted by BCGEU, which we voted to support at our October meeting.

Sussanne Skidmore was acclaimed to the role of President, and Hermen Kailey to the role of Secretary-Treasurer. Graeme Hutchinson (FVLC), and Janet Andrews (NWDLC) are the new labour council representatives on Executive Council for our region. Also notable, our own Shane Polak was acclaimed as Alternate Trustee.

Adrienne Smith, who received the Syd Thompson Community Service Award last year, received the Joy Langan Award at convention.

The general feel of the convention was warm and unified. Many excellent resolutions were adopted. Only one generated significant controversy, which was to call for the voting age to be reduced to 16. This is an initiative our labour council has previously supported. Despite a number of con speakers, the motion passed with a healthy majority.

Thank you to Stefan Neilsen for attending as a VDLC delegate with me.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

November 16: Labour Education – Issues with WCB Vocational Rehabilitation
November 17: United Way of British Columbia, Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee
November 17: Canadian Labour Congress, Municipal Working Group
November 17: VDLC Table Officers meeting with OneCity
November 17: Facilitated Steward Level 1 course for ATU Local 1724
November 21-25: BC Federation of Labour Convention
November 26: Facilitated Steward Level 2 course for ATU Local 1724
November 28-30: Vacation
November 28: BC Cabinet & First Nations Leaders' Gathering Welcome Reception
November 29: Worker Education & Labour Learning Society AGM
December 1: Executive Board
December 2: Union Protein Project webinar

December 5: Political Action Committee
December 5: Employment Standards Coalition
December 6: National Day of Action Against Gender Based Violence
December 6: Sustainable Communities Initiative
December 6: Vigil co-hosted by New Westminster & District Labour Council and Public Service Alliance
December 8: Regular meeting

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

11. TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

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

12. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

No CLC Report this month.

M/S/ 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: Adoption of 2023 Budget

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL adopt the 2023 operating budget as presented.

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

Subject: Fund It Fix It Resolution

BECAUSE the BC Government is currently conducting a review of the post-secondary funding model; and

BECAUSE it is abundantly clear that the existing government funding model does not even remotely cover the cost of delivering many of the post-secondary programs that are vital to the future of British Columbia: and

BECAUSE post-secondary institutions have made up this funding shortfall by shifting the burden on to students through increased tuition and ancillary fees; and

BECAUSE post-secondary institutions have also been driven to go around domestic tuition limits through the exploitation of international students;

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL publicly endorse the BC Federation of Students' Fund It Fix It Campaign and encourage affiliates to do so as well; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL further write to the Minister of Advanced Education asking them to complete the funding review and ensure that funding is distributed in an equitable way that reflects actual costs.

15. REPORT OF UNIONS:

Eric Proulx – VEAES/BCTF Local 391

There is a new BCTF contract ratified at 94% - Wage increases but little to no working condition improvements. Nothing to change long-running staffing across the board.

VPD School Liaison officers are being brought back into schools. ABC School Trustees ignored 1-year previous consultation and steamrolled through the democratic process reducing stakeholder access to school board bodies. We strongly oppose VPD School Liaison Officers because no data exists to prove its effectiveness, it replaces BCTF jobs with police and is empirically proven to increase rates of youth incarceration, especially BIPOC students. Statistics previously unknown number of students incarcerated. One of the ABC School Trustees said when pressed that 2,000 reports were issued by the VPD; 21 students were incarcerated of which 5 students were Indigenous. She claimed that this was not a lot, but if you look at our student body, the Indigenous population is only 4%, meaning that of that 4% of the student body, 20% of the incarcerations are Indigenous children. If you look at our student body, 4% are Indigenous. Another ABC School Trustee said that BIPOC and Indigenous students just need to become friends with the police. This same ABC School Trustee then advertised his private tutoring firm through official VSB channels. They have their priorities and we are at work to resist them.

Gary Jarvis – CUPE Local 391

The Employer, Vancouver Public Library, is conducting a review of services. This is creating new positions with benefits. On the flipside, some members could lose long held part-time hours, that might only be 4-8 hours per week.

We are still having difficulties with employer rigidity, which is resulting in grievances. Some compassion would see less grievances being filed. Unfortunately, that's not currently happening.

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

16. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Nil

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: Nil

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

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

19. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

20. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

21. GOOD AND WELFARE: Nil

22. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:12pm*

23. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY JANUARY 17, 2023** at 7:00 pm
Hybrid meeting will be at the Maritime Labour Centre, 111
Victoria Drive, Vancouver and via Zoom.
Please visit website for event listings and more – www.vdlc.ca