



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 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

Newcomers to Canada

93. We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with the national Aboriginal organizations, to revise the information kit for newcomers to Canada and its citizenship test to reflect a more inclusive history of the diverse Aboriginal peoples of Canada, including information about the Treaties and the history of residential schools.

94. We call upon the Government of Canada to replace the Oath of Citizenship with the following:

I swear (or affirm) that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, Her Heirs and Successors, and that I will faithfully observe the laws of Canada including Treaties with Indigenous Peoples, and fulfill my duties as a Canadian citizen.

- 1. LOCATION:** ZOOM Video Conference – 7:00PM
- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** Treasurer Stefan Nielsen
- 3. NOTICE OF VDLC POLICY ON HARASSMENT:** Circulated prior to meeting
- 4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**
M/S/C that the agenda of the June 21, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
M/S/C that the minutes of the May 17, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 6. NEW CREDENTIALS:**

BCTF - TFEU

Cathy Flores

CUPE 1004

Adwin Pal
Scott McIntosh

CUPE Local 2950

Chloe Martin-Cabanne
Adam Huizinga

ILWU Local 500

Lukhvir Sandhu
Michael Carrigan

IUOE Local 963

Chad Stuart

7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES

8. **GUEST SPEAKERS:** 1. Karen Dearlove – BC Centre for Women in the Trades
Re: Be More Than a Bystander

Presentation available upon request.

9. **EDUCATIONAL:** NIL

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Meetings

The July regular meeting will be hybrid – with a Zoom option and an option to attend at the Maritime Labour Centre auditorium. We will endeavor for this to be a straight-forward and accessible experience but ask for patience as this will be our first attempt at this format.

Political Action

Most recommendations for endorsements have been finalized by the Vetting Committee, reviewed by the Political Action Committee, and are coming forward this month. Richmond and City of North Vancouver are exceptions where some final pieces are being sorted out but will be concluded by the next meeting.

The Broadway Plan is being debated by council, after a lengthy public hearing process. There are 42 amendments to the plan coming forward. We are urging adoption of the plan, in keeping with the motion passed at last month's meeting. We are also strongly supporting Mayor Stewart's amendments to improve renter protections.

Labour Education

We had a successful in person Bullying & Harassment course with Conni Kilfoil on May 18th, and virtual Charter Rights in the Workplace course with Craig Bavis on May 25th. Thanks also to Jitesh Mistry for attending the Charter Rights course as a guest speaker. Next we had Unions and the Indigenous Truth & Reconciliation Process with Conni Kilfoil and Tammy Simmonds on June 14th and 15th. This course also included Larry Levigne, David Paterson, and Chief Dr. Robert Joseph as guest speakers/presenters. We will wrap up the session with Duty to Accommodate and Return to Work with Conni Kilfoil on June 22nd-24th. These last two courses were sold out.

The Fall/Winter program is nearly ready, with just two remaining courses being finalized. We are looking at twelve class of various sessions in the Fall/Winter session, which will be a stretch given the municipal election, but we will do it.

Labour Disputes

In addition to the ongoing disputes between Unite Here Local 40 and Pacific Gateway Hotel and IBEW Local 213 and Leducor Telecommunication Services, there is now a new dispute between IUOE Local 115 / Teamsters Local 213 and three concrete companies operating across Metro Vancouver. A rally was held on June 7th, which I attended. Picket lines are up at a long list of locations, which we have shared (from BC Building Trades) and can make available to anyone who needs it.

Labour Day

Plans for Labour Day at Trout Lake Park are moving ahead nicely. The event will start at noon with a rally. Premier Horgan, MP Don Davies have both been invited to speak. We are also booking an Indigenous speaker to open the event and have reached out to the BCFED and CLC. Following the rally we will have live music, children's entertainment, food, and labour/community booths. The event fun, family friendly, and entirely free. We are seeking participation from affiliates in the form of hosting a booth, offering volunteers, and contributing to costs.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

May 18: Labour Education – Bullying & Harassment
May 18: Spoke at Vancouver City Council re: Broadway Plan
May 18: Community Coordinated Response Network
May 18: BC Federation of Labour Political Action Committee
May 18: Meeting with NWDLC/Metric re: municipal election
May 19: CLC Municipal Working Group
May 19: Contract Worker Justice rally
May 23: Victoria Day
May 24: Meeting with Forward Together
May 24: Vetting Committee
May 24: Weekly touchbase w/ Worker Education & Labour Learning Society (WELLS) contract
May 25: Labour Education – Charter Rights in the Workplace
May 25: VDLC Young Workers Committee event – Mental Health, Substance Use, the Current toxic Drug Supply & Support Services in BC
May 27: Vetting Committee interviews
May 30: Vetting Committee
May 30: Weekly WELLS contract touchbase
May 31: Meeting with Forward Together
May 31: WELLS Directors meeting
June 1: Community Coordinated Response Network
June 1: Meeting with NWDLC/Metric re: municipal election
June 2: Speaking at COPE-SEPB Convention
June 2: Meeting with Kathryn Prinz re: Labour Day
June 2: Visit to IUOE/Teamsters picket line
June 3: Labour Day Planning Committee
June 6: Political Action Committee
June 6: Weekly WELLS contract touchbase
June 7: Sustainable Communities Initiative breakfast
June 7: Meeting with SEIU Local 2 re: MTUG
June 7: BCFED Strike Coordinating Call
June 7: YVR Joint Union Committee
June 7: IUOE solidarity rally
June 8: Meeting with NWDLC re: municipal election
June 9: Vetting Committee interviews
June 13: BCFED Community and Social Action Committee
June 13: Vancouver Economic Commission Just Transition working group
June 13: Weekly WELLS contract touchbase
June 14-15: Labour Education – Unions and the Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation Process
June 14: Meeting with Forward Together
June 14: Anti-Racism Committee

June 15: BCFED Political Action Committee
June 16: BCFED Executive Council
June 16: CLC Municipal Working Group
June 16: Executive Board
June 16: WELLS Directors meeting
June 18: ILWU Battle of Ballantyne Pier commemoration
June 20: Weekly WELLS contract touchbase
June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 21: United Way Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee
June 21: Regular meeting

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

11. TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Very briefly on the House of Commons, this is the last week of Parliament until the end of September. We expect the broadcasting bill, C-10 and 11, will pass this week. This will impact some workers in the broadcast industry. I believe it's being supported by most of the parties except for the Conservatives. The budget implementation act is the act that we've been talking about for months now. It also had the EI changes included in it. Those changes have now been taken out of the act and will come back in the fall in a separate bill with major changes to EI which we hope will be pretty good. We're working closely with both the NDP and government on this so we're hoping that are suggestions and many of your affiliates to the federal government will come into the new EI act.

I mention Bill C-228 to amend the bankruptcy act a couple of times. It's in its second reading and has another few hours of debate on June 15. We're hoping to have this pass; again, it's protection around bankruptcy and pension plans.

Endorsements are happening around the province. The Municipal working group met last week, and we have finalized the orders for poll cards. Our major candidate training is complete; we had six sessions around the province, and we have one small online session targeting the Kootenays on July 9. Everything is on track.

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 Authorization

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL authorize the following expenditures:

- o Donation of \$150 to “Taking a Stand: The Story of the Mac Paps” documentary project

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

Subject: Municipal Candidate Endorsements – Vancouver City Council

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the following candidates for election to Vancouver City Council in the October 15th municipal election:

Mayor

Stewart, Kennedy*

Council

1. Anderson, Dulcy (Forward Together)
2. Bonamis, Iona (OneCity)
3. Boyle, Christine* (OneCity)
4. Carr, Adriane* (Green)
5. Cromwell, Ian (OneCity)
6. Fry, Pete* (Green)
7. Norris, Matthew (OneCity)
8. Swanson, Jean* (COPE)
9. Wiebe, Michael* (Green)

*Candidates marked with an * have already been endorsed at a previous meeting and are listed for reference.*

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

Subject: Municipal Candidate Endorsements – Vancouver School Board

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the following candidates for election to Vancouver School Board in the October 15th municipal election:

1. Brown, Rory (OneCity)
2. Cardwell, Steve (Vision)
3. Epstein, Kyla (OneCity)
4. Mah, Suzie (COPE)
5. Reddy, Jennifer* (OneCity)
6. Sigurdson, Krista (OneCity)
7. Somers, Gavin (OneCity)
8. Trigueros, Rocco (COPE)
9. Wong, Allan (Vision)

*Candidates marked with * have already been endorsed at a previous meeting and are listed for reference.*

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

Subject: Municipal Candidate Endorsements – Vancouver Park Board

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the following candidates for election to Vancouver Park Board in the October 15th municipal election:

1. Giesbrecht, Gwen* (COPE)
2. Hassan, Maira (COPE)
3. Irwin, John (Vision)
4. Jackson, Serena (OneCity)
5. Livingstone, Chris (COPE)
6. River, Kristen (OneCity)
7. Stockwell, Caitlin (OneCity)

*Candidates marked with * have already been endorsed at a previous meeting and are listed for reference.*

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

Subject: Municipal Candidate Endorsements – District of North Vancouver

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the following candidates for election to District of North Vancouver Council in the October 15th municipal election:

1. Back, Jordan*
2. Curran, Megan
3. Johnston, Harrison
4. Mallin, Ellison

*Candidates marked with * have been endorsed at a previous meeting and are listed for reference.*

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

Subject: Municipal Candidate Endorsements – West Vancouver

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the following candidates for election to West Vancouver Council in the October 15th municipal election:

Mayor

Booth, Mary-Ann*

Council

1. Chicoine, Alexis
2. Gambioli, Nora*

*Candidates marked with * have been endorsed at a previous meeting and are listed for reference.*

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

Subject: No Fees in Public Healthcare

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council supports comprehensive, universal health care for all residents; and

BECAUSE international students in BC are required to pay an International Student Health Fee (“ISHF”) of \$75 per person per month; a huge financial burden on families given the lack of a family plan (up to \$1,800/year for families with two children, or \$2,700 with three children); and

BECAUSE in cases where students are also employed a “double-dipping” scenario takes place; their employer pays the Employer Health Tax “EHT”, but no deduction is made to offset this from the ISHF; and

BECAUSE international students contributed \$3.989 billion to BC’s GDP, \$2.454 billion in labour income, and \$392.9 million in income tax in 2018 as well as millions in sales taxes, fees, charges for government programs, and indirect taxes through economic activity; and

BECAUSE universities and colleges in Canada are increasingly relying on international student fees to overcome budget shortfalls due to inflation adjusted decreases in public funding,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the “No Fees in Public Healthcare” campaign led by the Simon Fraser Student Society, Teaching Support Staff Union, SFU Graduate Student Society, Sanctuary City Vancouver, and BC Health Coalition; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL promote the Townhall to Eliminate International Student Health Fee, June 23, 3:30pm, at SFU Burnaby Campus and online (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/no-fees-in-universal-healthcare-tickets-359014601337>).

15. REPORT OF UNIONS: Nil

Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes.

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

16. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

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.

Agnes Jackman – BC FORUM

The BC Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM) has participated, as part of a BC Health Coalition (BCHC) team, in preparing for a General Meeting tomorrow afternoon, June 22, 2022, to launch a Seniors' Care Accountability Campaign. Please refer to the BCHC website for more information about this campaign.

Also, to look for, is the Summer edition of BC FORUM's Advocate, which should be posted on our website soon and has a very nice article authored by VDLC's Stephen von Sychowski. Our great thanks to him. While you wait for the Advocate to come out, you can go to the website <www.cosco.org> to read the Summer edition of the COSCO News, on the last page of which there is an article on the UN International Day of Older Persons (UNIDOP). Here, there is a suggestion that people approach their local municipal, district, or other government councils to request a proclamation for this year's October 1st UNIDOP. Perhaps the VDLC would be interested pursuing this for the regions it covers! I will be doing so, on behalf of COSCOBC, in regard to the Provincial Government.

BC FORUM is working on launching a new website and Facebook page in the next couple of months, which we hope people will find engaging.

M/S/C 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:

Stephen von Sychowski – President, VDLC

I'd like to express my thanks, gratitude and respect to all the members of the vetting committee, political action committee and the executive board for getting us to where we got to in terms of the recommendations that came forward tonight. We changed our process this time around to include interviews of all the candidates which increased the workload and I'd like to recognize that. Everyone put in a lot of work, deliberation and thought into this process and I really appreciate all of it. The recommendations that came forward today was a result of this hard work by a lot of folks.

Chloe Martin-Cabanne – CUPE Local 2950

On June 29, at SFU and in solidarity with SFU, the Teaching Support Staff Union and Contract Worker Justice will be holding a pancake rally at the Board of Governors meeting to bring awareness to the state of labour relations at SFU and to demand that all food service workers and cleaning staff are brought under direct employment with the university as they are currently under contract. If you would like to have breakfast, I'll see you at 7am.

23. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:27pm*

24. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022** at 7:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting in July via Zoom Video Conference and in-person
at the Maritime Labour Centre, 111 Victoria Drive, Vancouver.



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