



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 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

Education

7. We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate educational and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

1. **LOCATION:** ZOOM Video Conference – 7:00PM
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 May 17, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.
5. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
M/S/C that the minutes of the April 19, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.
6. **NEW CREDENTIALS:** No new delegates this evening.
7. **OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**
8. **GUEST SPEAKERS:**
 1. Deanna Fasciani, CoDevelopment Canada: Presentation of Cuba Solidarity Bat
 2. Jenelle Davies, BC Federation of Students: “Fund It, Fix It” Campaign

Presentation available upon request.
9. **EDUCATIONAL:** NIL
10. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**
President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the April 2022 meeting.

Meetings

Our goal is to host a hybrid meeting in July. This is expected to be a fairly light meeting and a good opportunity to test this technology and approach.

Political Action

Our endorsement process is still underway, with the remaining decisions to be made at our June regular meeting. Please try to ensure you can attend that meeting as it is important to have all affiliate voices heard on these important decisions.

On May 18th the Broadway Plan will be debated by Vancouver City Council. The plan goes live on May 11th and registration will then open for speakers. A motion to support the plan is on this month's agenda.

Unfortunately, Jeanette Ashe was not successful in the Vancouver Quilchena byelection. Kevin Falcon is now headed to the legislature and aims to rebrand the BC Liberals and steer them back into government. We cannot allow the BC Liberals to obscure the truth about their legacy in government, with Falcon was a leading part of. While their name may change, it is clear that we are still dealing with the same old Liberal Party which did so much harm to working people and families. We need to keep BC moving forward.

On that note, there is also good news this month on the provincial scene, with the tabling of the Anti-Racism Data Act by the BCNDP, which aims to collect data which will be used to identify gaps in programs and services, and allow government to better meet the needs of Indigenous, Black and racialized British Columbians. The act is the first of its kind in Canada to be co-developed with Indigenous Peoples. We also saw the expansion of the BC PharmaCare formulary to include additional medications, including some ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, severe hypoglycemia, migraines, the treatment of low white blood cell levels, multiple sclerosis, heart failure, and birth control.

Labour Education

Our course on election rules took place on May 5, having been previously postponed due to facilitator illness. It was well attended and very informative. We now have four more classes to complete before our summer break. On May 18 we will host our first in-person course since the beginning of the pandemic.

The Fall/Winter program is currently in development.

The Worker Education and Labour Learning Society has brought Justin Chen back on a second contract term this May and June to further develop its website by populating its various sections content and resources. I am acting as the contract manager for this short term.

Labour Disputes

Delegates are reminded to show their support for striking members of IBEW 213 at Ledcor LTS and Unite Here Local 40 at Pacific Gateway Hotel.

An agreement has been reached at Metrotown Hilton – congratulations to Unite Here Local 40!

Day of Mourning

The Day of Mourning ceremony at Jack Poole Plaza was a success. Participants in-person and online heard from myself, BCFED President Laird Cronk, Minister of Labour Harry Bains, and speakers from the BC Business Council and WCB. We also heard from Tracy Ford, whose father passed away from mesothelioma and who founded the AREA fund to raise awareness of the dangers of asbestos.

May Day

The Anti-Racism Committee organized an excellent event on May 1st, bringing together many labour activists for important discussions around building anti-racist workplaces and unions. We also shared CLC and affiliate content to mark the day. I look forward to returning to our traditional in-person march and rally next year and feel it could also exist in tandem with another anti-racism event if the committee wishes to do so.

Labour Day

We held the first Labour Day Planning Committee meeting on May 3rd and there was agreement from the affiliates represented with the proposal to host an in-person Labour Day picnic at Trout Lake Park. This would include food, children's activities, music, speeches, and booths. We may also collaborate with the BC Building Trades to incorporate their parade with our event.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

- April 20 – Vetting Committee
- April 20 – BCFED Political Action Committee
- April 21 – CLC Municipal Working Group
- April 22 – Meeting with PointBlank re: Action Network
- April 22 – Union Protein Project event – Building Food Security in BC
- April 23 – Vancouver Quilchena labour canvass
- April 25 – SFU Labour Studies Advisory Committee
- April 26 – Meeting with Forward Together Vancouver
- April 26 – Free Them Now – May Day conference
- April 26 – Political Action Committee
- April 26 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society (WELLS) contract touchbase
- April 28 – Day of Mourning
- April 30 – Vancouver Quilchena By-election
- May 1 – International Workers Day
- May 1 – Anti-Racism Committee event – Building Anti-Racist Unions and Workplaces
- May 2 – Weekly WELLS contract touchbase
- May 3 – Meeting with Forward Together Vancouver
- May 3 – Labour Day Planning Committee
- May 4 – Community Coordinated Response Network
- May 4 – WELLS Directors
- May 4 – Webinar - Fighting for the 8-Hour Day in US & Canada (Pacific Northwest Labour Heritage Association)
- May 5 – Labour Education: Election Rules for Unions
- May 5 – BC Employment Standards Coalition
- May 7 – Hybrid meeting test run
- May 8 – Political Action Committee
- May 8 – Just Transition Council Governance Team
- May 8 – WELLS contract weekly touchbase
- May 10 – Meeting with Forward Together Vancouver
- May 10 – VDLC Trustee training workshop
- May 10 – Trade Unions for Energy Democracy
- May 10 – Anti-Racism Committee
- May 11 – BCFED Political Action Committee

May 11 – Quarterly Meeting with Mayor Kennedy Stewart
May 12 – Executive Board
May 12 – Unite Here Local 40 Pacific Gateway 1 year strike anniversary rally
May 16 – Weekly WELLS contract touchbase
May 17 – Meeting with Forward Together Vancouver
May 17 – BCFED Community and Social Action Committee
May 17 – Regular meeting

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

11. TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Federally, we are still working very diligently on the supply and confidence agreement between the two parties in government and ensuring that the deal is adhered to. We are not having a lot of problems with it, but the devil is in the details, and we continue to be very vigilant that the Liberals adhere to the agreement. If need be, we will ask people to apply pressure to Liberal MP's in our region. From the few rumblings that we hear on a few bills, we have managed to shut that down.

One is the budget implementation bill, which is going through the House of Commons right now. There is a lot of work being done on the EI part of this. There will be improvements to the EI program, but we are having problems pushing through some of the things we'd like to see. The NDP is working extremely hard on our behalf on this, and we hope by the end of this we will see these improvements on the EI program. The rest of the implementation stuff is going well. There will be a lot of bills coming up in the fall around dental care, Pharmacare and things like that.

There is a private members bill on pension protection, Bill C-228. It's a Conservative bill, which is being amended by the NDP and the Bloc. It's pension protection that we've been requesting for years around bankruptcy of companies that pensions go up to the top. It's interesting that it's a Conservative, private member's bill. It's being improved with the help of the Conservative's on this as well. There is also a second bill by the NDP, by MP Daniel Blaikie out of Manitoba. There will be a combination of these two bills in the next while. We are on the second reading and are hoping for a third so we can propose some good amendments to the bill. We are hoping we get this bill passed this session before the end of the year.

On the provincial scene, very good news on card check. It is in third reading in the provincial legislature. We suspect that the third reading will go well, and this will be in place in early June. We have every indication that it will receive royal assent in June and then will be implemented and we will finally have card check in BC and for the labour movement is phenomenally important and very good news.

On the Municipal front, we are doing candidate workshops now. We've completed two and have five to go in Kelowna, Victoria, Nanaimo, Lower Mainland, and Prince George. We have mainly new candidates participating in these 6-hour workshops. Thanks again to Stephen and the Political Action Committee to get people to participate in them and they are going very well.

Endorsements are not only going on in Vancouver, but across the province. We have set a deadline for the end of June when endorsements will be completed province wide. This will be so we can get our poll and e-cards and get out the vote effort over the number of months, especially in September. We have received the postal code sort, and this will go to all of your affiliates to sort your membership into labour councils so your members will receive their pole cards to let them know who is running their community.

Finally, the CLC convention dates are set for May 8-12, 2023. This will be an in-person convention in Montreal.

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:

- Up to \$2,000 for the purchase of audio-visual equipment for the facilitation of hybrid meetings and events.

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

Subject: Broadway Plan

BECAUSE the Broadway Plan will be before Vancouver City Council on May 18: and

BECAUSE the Broadway Plan represents an opportunity to improve affordability and sustainability while building thousands of new units of housing in walkable, transit-oriented neighbourhoods with nearby shops, services, and SkyTrain; and

BECAUSE the Broadway Plan will create a "jobs corridor" which allows working people and families to live near where they work while also having access through public transit to the broader region, and to UBC; and

BECAUSE at the same time, redevelopment can mean the displacement of existing tenants which can harm affordability and increase housing insecurity; and

BECAUSE the Broadway Plan attempts to alleviate these concerns through existing tenant protections, and Mayor Kennedy Stewart is asking for City Council's support to further strengthen protections by ensuring that those paying modest rents have the right to return to their new rental building at the same rent as before or lower,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support and encourage the approval of the Broadway Plan by Vancouver City Council; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER encourage the adoption of the strongest renter protections in Canada through the Mayor's proposal to ensure that existing tenants are not displaced from their neighbourhoods as a result of redevelopment.

15. REPORT OF UNIONS:

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: Nil

Agnes Jackman – BC FORUM

The 2022 Federation of Retired Union Members (BC FORUM) AGM has been postponed to June of 2023. So, at the May 10th BC FORUM Board Zoom meeting, an election was held. Sam Wiese has accepted a one-year term as President. Returning to the Executive Board are Gord Savard stepping into the position of 1st Vice President and Danny Bradford as our steadfast Treasurer. New to the Board are Gwenne Farrell as 2nd Vice President and Marion Pollack as Secretary.

The Board meeting and Spring edition of the Advocate are on our website, <www.bcforum.ca>. We are in the process of putting together our Summer edition of the Advocate in which, with our greatest thanks, we hear from Stephen Von Sychowski on issues of intergenerational activism.

May saw our 1st outreach in over 3 years with a BC FORUM table at the CUPE BC Convention. If affiliates are having in-person conferences, please let BC FORUM know whether it would be appropriate to set up an information table, even if for only a few hours. Or, if they would be willing to distribute BC FORUM pamphlets to participants. If virtual conferences, we have willing speakers on the relevance of BC FORUM if they have a spare 5 minutes on their agenda.

BC FORUM continues to educate and encourage its members to take action on various important issues such as the federal government putting off changes to the Patented Medicine Prices Review Board (PMPRB) regulations 4 times in the past, thus effectively caving in to the pharmaceutical industry and its allies when it comes to making prescriptions for Canadians more affordable.

Yesterday, BC FORUM sent an email to its members encouraging them to send an email to their MPs and the Senators from their province and key government ministers in support of

Bill C-228: An Act to Amend the Bankruptcy & Insolvency Act, the Creditors Arrangement Act and the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985. This new Act, sponsored by MP Marilyn Gladu, will be debated and voted on in June. If passed, it would go a long way in protecting pensions.

BC FORUM is also being active in getting out the word about the importance of keeping up with COVID booster shots, particularly for seniors. These are only 3 of the many issues that BC FORUM is currently addressing.

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

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:

Dal Benning – CUPE Local 718

Bernice Kirk, former Secretary-Treasurer and President of CUPE BC, recently passed away. I would like to recognize her work towards the labour movement and what she achieved was significant. She left a great legacy for all of us to follow.

Moment of Silence

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

24. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022](#) at 7:00 pm
Zoom Video Conference.



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