



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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

Reconciliation

Canadian Governments and the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*

43. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation.

44. We call upon the Government of Canada to develop a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.

Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation

45. We call upon the Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, to jointly develop with Aboriginal peoples a Royal Proclamation of Reconciliation to be issued by the Crown. The proclamation would build on the Royal Proclamation of 1763 and the Treaty of Niagara of 1764, and reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown. The proclamation would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:

- i. Repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples such as the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*.
- ii. Adopt and implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as the framework for reconciliation.
- iii. Renew or establish Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.
- iv. Reconcile Aboriginal and Crown constitutional and legal orders to ensure that Aboriginal peoples are full partners in Confederation, including the recognition and integration of Indigenous laws and legal traditions in negotiation and implementation processes involving Treaties, land claims, and other constructive agreements.

1. LOCATION: Hybrid | Maritime Labour Centre and 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 October 18, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.
5. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
M/S/C that the minutes of the September 20, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.
6. **NEW CREDENTIALS:** Nil
7. **OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**
8. **GUEST SPEAKERS:** Shane Calder, Garth Mullins: Canadian Drug Policy Coalition
(Presentation available upon request)
9. **EDUCATIONAL:** NIL

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Political Action

The October 15th municipal election brought mixed results across the region. Here in our district, we did well in the City of North Vancouver, and maintained incumbent councillors in the District of North Vancouver and West Vancouver as well as electing our endorsed school board trustee in North Vancouver. Sadly, Mayor Mary Ann Booth was defeated in West Van, and none of our non-incumbent endorsements were successful.

Similarly in Richmond, our endorsed candidates were successful, but the power of incumbency was again proved out as our non-incumbent candidate were unsuccessful despite being excellent choices.

In Vancouver, ABC surged into majorities across the board and spelled bad news for our endorsed candidates, including Mayor Stewart. There are many factors, I believe, which led to this; including a general mood of change-seeking across the region, ABC's success in distancing themselves from their further-right NPA roots and appearing more centrist, their success in (inaccurately) pinning the blame for a variety of societal issues which have been worsened by the pandemic on progressive policies and candidates, an over-abundance of left-of-centre candidates and parties with a lack of cooperation amongst them, and more.

Our Political Action Committee will have a full debrief of the election cycle at our next meeting, and I will have more to say after that time. Suffice to say, it is a good time to review the circumstances existing in the City of Vancouver, and our strategy in relation to them.

I want to thank all our affiliates and delegates, and especially everyone who participated in the endorsement process and the campaign. We can be very proud of what we achieved together. We mobilized new voters, engaged new activists, and strengthened our movement and our members' political awareness through our outreach.

We can now celebrate our successes, and mourn our losses, but ultimately dust ourselves off and prepare to continue the fight. We will work hard during this term to support our affiliates

and push back against regressive policies. At the same time, we will start today to prepare for the next big municipal electoral battle in 2026.

Labour Education

Since our last meeting we hosted a two-hour session on Effective Note Taking with Diane Irvine, and a day long class on Investigations & Interrogations with Mary Thibodeau.

Tomorrow we will host a day long class on Drug and Alcohol Policies & Testing with Tamara Ramusovic and Daniel McBain. We also have six other educational offerings coming up before the end of the year.

Unfortunately, we had to postpone the Human Rights Bootcamp with Conni Kilfoil until next Spring.

Asbestos Memorial

I attended the dedication of the Labour Heritage Centre's new asbestos memorial at the Vancouver Convention Centre on September 22. This was a powerful event with several excellent speakers, as well as music and poetry. The memorial itself is the first in North America and is quite eye catching. I would encourage delegates to visit it, and to also check out the other labour history plaques and sites of interest at the convention centre and nearby areas.

National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Our office was closed in recognition of National Day for Truth & Reconciliation on September 30th. I attended the local event at Memorial Peace Park in Maple Ridge. Turnout was very good, and the event featured booths, activities, and a wonderful cultural program, as well as speakers. We release a statement again this year, thanks to the work of the Anti-Racism Committee, and especially Seema Ahluwalia. We also shared content from the Canadian Labour Congress, affiliates, and the Musqueam, Tsleil-Waututh, and Squamish nations on our social media.

BCFED Convention

A reminder that the BC Federation of Labour will host its convention here in Vancouver from November 21-25. The labour council's in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley take turns filling the two Executive Council seats for this region. At this convention it will be our turn to cycle off of the Executive Council. NWDLC will take that seat, and we will cycle back on at the next convention to replace FVLC. I have also been notified that the Community and Social Action Committee, which Janet Andrews and I have co-chaired for several years, will be merged into the Political Action Committee. I intend to continue as a member of the Political Action Committee and the Constitution & Structure Committee of the Federation during this term.

Just Transition Working Group

The work to establish a Just Transition Coalition in Metro Vancouver is ongoing. This work is being housed at the Vancouver Economic Commission, which is providing staffing and other resources. There is strong representation at the table from all sectors, and additional labour representation has recently been added with BC Building Trades, and NWDLC. We are now in the process of exploring Co-Chair appointments and finalizing terms of reference. The launch of the coalition is anticipated for early 2023.

Labour Disputes

Several labour disputes have been ongoing over the past month. These include IBEW 213 vs. Leducor Telecommunication Services, and ILWU 502 vs. Westshore Terminals. I attended solidarity rallies related to both of these in September, and we co-hosted the IBEW one.

There is also an ongoing dispute between Unite Here Local 40 and Pacific Gateway Hotel.

In addition, there is an ongoing issue between ILWU Local 400 and Vancouver Fraser Port Authority regarding the use of a Quebec company which is undercutting ILWU wages and benefits. I also attended a rally in relation to this late last month.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

September 21 - United Way of BC Campaign Cabinet Labour Caucus
September 22 – Asbestos Memorial Dedication
September 22 – Vancouver Economic Commission Just Transition Working Group
September 24 – Labour Education: Effective Note Taking
September 24 – OneCity labour bbq
September 26 - #LabourVotes2022 phone canvass
September 26 – Weekly campaign touch base
September 27 – ILWU Local 502 rally at Westshore Terminal
September 27 - #LabourVotes2022 phone canvass
September 28 – Labour Education: Investigations & Interrogations
September 28 – IBEW 213 rally at LTS
September 29 – ILWU Local 400 rally at Vancouver Fraser Port Authority
September 30 – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
October 1 – Voted in municipal election
October 3 – Weekly campaign touch base
October 3 – Political Action Committee
October 3 - #LabourVotes2022 phone canvass
October 4 - #LabourVotes2022 phone canvass
October 6 – BCFED Credentials Committee
October 8 - #LabourVotes2022 phone canvass
October 10 – Thanksgiving Statutory Holiday
October 11 – BCFED Community and Social Action Committee
October 11 – Weekly campaign touch base
October 11 - #LabourVotes2022 phone canvass
October 12 – BCFED Political Action Committee
October 12 – SFU Labour Studies Program Advisory Committee
October 13 – BCFED Executive Council
October 13 – VDLC Executive Board
October 13 – BCFED Constitution & Structure Committee
October 13 - #LabourVotes2022 phone canvass
October 15 – Municipal Election Day
October 15 - #LabourVotes2022 phone canvass
October 17 – Clean out campaign office
October 18 – Regular meeting

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

11. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the September 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: Endorsement of Resolutions on Drug Policy at BC Federation of Labour Convention

BECAUSE the BC General Employees' Union has submitted three resolutions to the upcoming BC Federation of Labour Convention proposing new policy and action around the topic of drug policy; and

BECAUSE the VDLC has previously endorsed the policies of safe supply and decriminalization, supported those policies publicly, and advocated for them municipally and provincially; and

BECAUSE the VDLC submitted a resolution on safe supply and decriminalization to the BC Federation of Labour Convention in 2022, which was adopted,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the three attached resolutions on progressive, science-based drug policy which have been submitted by the BC General Employees' Union to the BC Federation of Labour Convention taking place this November; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER direct its delegates to the convention to vote in favour of these resolutions and encourage others to do the same.

BCGEU Resolution #1:

Because there were 10,000 overdose fatalities since 2016;

Because relapse or returning workers that misuse substances must engage in the abstinence model if they seek help through their Employer, to using after abstinence can be fatal;

The Federation will lobby the BC Government and advocate for safe supply and more safe consumption sites; and

The Federation will advocate for harm reduction instead of the abstinence model for workers with substance use issues whenever possible; and

The Federation will demand safe supply for all.

BCGEU Resolution #2:

Because the overdose crisis was declared a public health emergency on April 14, 2016;
and

Because overdose deaths are a result of harmful and outdated policy, not the individual;
and

Because involuntary substance use treatment is shown to have negligible effect in treating
substance use while significantly increasing one's risk of accidental overdose; and

Because the topic of involuntary substance use treatment has become the topic of recent
political debate in British Columbia;

The Federation will lobby the Government of British Columbia, in collaboration with
evidence-based policy groups, to wholly condemn involuntary substance use treatment in
the Province; and

The Federation will lobby the Government of British Columbia, in collaboration with
evidence-based drug policy groups, to implement a system of quality care and oversight
to ensure that privately and publicly funding substance use treatment is culturally safe,
accessible, and informed by scientific evidence.

BCGEU Resolution #3:

Because the overdose crisis was declared a public health emergency on April 14, 2016;
and

Because the effects of the overdose crisis have had both averse and fatal impacts on
working people in British Columbia and Canada who have used opiates and other drugs;
and

Because no person in our province or country should die as a result of an unpredictable,
illegal, and poisoned drug supply;

The Federation will lobby the Government of British Columbia and Canada to provide a
safe, regulated drug supply ("safe supply"), for those who currently rely on the illegal
drug market in collaboration with evidence-based drug policy groups; and

The Federation will lobby the Government of British Columbia and Canada to
decriminalize the personal possession of drugs, in amounts deemed appropriate by
evidence-based policy groups.

15. REPORT OF UNIONS:

Chloe Martin-Cabanne, President – CUPE Local 2950

Cupe Local 2278 (TAS & ESL Instructors), are organizing student workers in a massive
campaign to pay them a living wage. CUPE Local 2950 are involved as they work closely
with these students.

We have an ongoing grievance with inaccurate member lists and dues reports. Workday program cap did not collect dues from 600 members totalling \$18,000. We are working to collect and are approaching the finish line. Thank you to affiliates for their patience with this issue.

Bargaining is soon to begin; ratifying proposals September 29th.

CUPE Local 2950 is working on political action to elect progressive candidates.

Jason Sullivan, Regional Vice-President, HEU – St. Paul’s Local

On behalf of all the HEU locals, our master agreement was successfully ratified by membership; a 64% Yes vote. Wage increases tied to BC Consumer Price Index over years 2 and 3 which equals to almost 15% over the next 3 years; retroactive April 1st of last year.

We have the full report on the HEU website. There is almost 100 pages of new language addressing OHS provision’s, workload, reconciliation, awareness and member to member action and education.

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:

Agnes Jackman – BC FORUM

Sam Wiese, President of BC FORUM, today sent me this message to share with you:

“As I write this, Bill C-228, an Act to amend the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, the Companies’ Creditors Arrangement Act and the Pension Benefits Standards Act, 1985, is headed for review with the Finance Committee. While BC FORUM submitted a request to present at the committee stage as a small Provincial entity, I was hopeful, albeit realistic that we would not likely have the opportunity and it appears our hopes are indeed dashed. Thus, we soldier on to next steps.

We know that the committee will address proposed changes to the original Bill as presented by Con MP Gladu, and are quite hopeful that the more protective wording of Bill C-225, introduced by NDP MP Daniel Blaikie on February 2, 2022, as well as additions presented by NDP MP Peter Julian in respect to employees’ severance, will all be accepted as amendments to C-228. I am confident the CLC will continue mobilizing on this issue and in the meantime ask that each of you take this to your affiliates and write to the Senate encouraging them to accept this very important bill.”

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

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

19. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

Stephen von Sychowski (Ron Stipp ill this meeting)

Nominations:

President – Stephen von Sychowski

1st Vice President – Bal Sandhu

2nd Vice President – Seema Ahluwalia

Treasurer – Stefan Nielsen

Recording Secretary – Shane Polak

Member at Large:

Chloe Martin-Cabanne

Frank Warwick

Jason Sullivan

20. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

21. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

22. GOOD AND WELFARE:

Russ St. Eloi – UA Local 170

Two weeks ago, we had our 50th Annual Convention of the Building Trades. There were various activities throughout our convention. We did have a meet & great with local politicians. Most of those that were there are friendly to labour. One that I was surprised by and who was at the meet & great was Kevin Falcon. On Tuesday afternoon of the convention, we walked over to the legislative buildings and people were designated to talk to various politicians.

The Building Trades is still going forward with our campaign called “Flushing”. Construction sites still have porta-potties and year-round these can be a problem. These one-seater toilets are unsanitary and the CLRA, the management association, feels that there is no need for flushing toilets for those workers in the building trades. There’s no reason why workers can’t have flushing toilets while on work sites. You see the flushing toilet trailers at the PNE.

On a positive note, women are continuing to come into the building trades. The building trades needs workers. If anyone knows anyone who wants to come into the plumbing industry, which includes plumbing, steam fitting, pipefitting, sprinkler fitting and welding, you would be able to start an apprenticeship in one of the new jobs up North. These jobs are between 4-5 years, and you would pretty much be able to complete your apprenticeship in this time. There is no wage disparity in the building trades, whether you are a brother or sister going through your apprenticeship, you make the same wage. It’s nice to see that sisters are coming into the trades.

23. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:43pm*

24. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 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