



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 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**

**Sports and Reconciliation**

**90.** We call upon the federal government to ensure that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing:

- i. In collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, stable funding for, and access to, community sports programs that reflect the diverse cultures and traditional sporting activities of Aboriginal peoples.
- ii. An elite athlete development program for Aboriginal athletes.
- iii. Programs for coaches, trainers, and sports officials that are culturally relevant for Aboriginal peoples.
- iv. Anti-racism awareness and training programs.

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

**2. CHAIRPERSON:** 1<sup>st</sup> 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 September 20, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.*

**5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*M/S/C that the minutes of the July 19, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.*

**6. NEW CREDENTIALS:**

**BCGEU Local 503**

Kian Gray  
Kelly Hadden

**BC Ferry and Marine Workers Union**

Bobby Sangara

**HEU – VGH Local 180**

Anjana Lal  
Greg McCann

**7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**

**8. GUEST SPEAKERS:** *No guest speaker this evening.*

**9. EDUCATIONAL:** NIL

**10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

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

Political Action

Our campaign manager Cass Elliot has been working hard to prepare our member-to-member campaign during the month of August. We effectively launched the campaign on Labour Day and began recruiting volunteers.

I want to note again that this is a Metro Vancouver-wide campaign being led jointly by our labour council and New Westminster & District Labour Council. This is a historic level of cooperation on one of the most crucial and important areas of labour council work. The collaboration has been a pleasure, and will no doubt greatly improve our effectiveness in this election.

Now we need your help! We have tens of thousands of union members to have conversations with over the next few weeks. In communities across Metro Vancouver, the union vote is significant and has the potential to shift outcomes – but only if we make sure our members are educated and get to the polls.

Here in Vancouver, the mayoral race is really between Kennedy Stewart and Ken Sim. Sim leads the “A Better City” party, but ran in 2018 for the NPA. His ABC split from the NPA also includes three councillors. Sim has already promised massive cuts to the city budget, which will no doubt mean a huge loss of programs, services, and accompanying jobs. It is crucial that we defeat Sim and return Mayor Stewart and a strong majority of progressive councillors to city hall.

Please sign up today, and we will contact you about upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Labour Education

The Fall/Winter program is live for registrations. We anticipate the possibility of smaller class sizes this session as a result of an otherwise very busy Fall, but registrations are coming in and the program is poised for continued success.

There are eleven classes this session, including a few new ones: Defamation Law for Unions, Basic Human Rights for Union Activists, WCB Pension, and WCB Issues with Vocational Rehabilitation.

Labour Disputes

BCGEU vs. Government of British Columbia

Major Issues: Wages (meaningful cost of living protections)

Commenced: August 15, 2022

Update: Tentative agreement reached

UNITEHERE! Local 40 vs. Pacific Gateway Hotel  
Major Issues: Recall Rights, Concessions  
Commenced: May 3, 2021  
Update: Rally September 28<sup>th</sup>, 5pm, 999 Canada Place

IBEW 213 vs. Ledcor  
Major Issues: First agreement (in bargaining for 2 years), mass terminations, working conditions, pay & benefits, job security & seniority  
Commenced: September 30, 2019  
Update: Rally September 28<sup>th</sup>, 11am, 1055 W. Hastings

Boycott: SAS Group (Scandinavian Airlines System) - CLC  
Boycott: Pacific Gateway Hotel, Richmond, BC - UNITEHERE! Local 40/BCFED

#### Master Trade Union Group

A new collective agreement was ratified between the Master Trade Union Group employers, and MoveUP in early August. It was a productive and respectful round of bargaining between the parties.

#### Labour Day

Labour Day at Trout Lake Park was a big success. We had a tremendous turnout, and everyone enjoyed seeing one another and celebrating together. We had an opening by Sam and Les George, and speeches from myself, Don Davies, Niki Sharma, and Siobhan Vipond. There were also lots of booths, activities, and fun. We served hotdogs and popcorn and had to make a run for more due to high turnout. We also enjoyed great live music, thanks to arrangements made through the Vancouver Musician's Association and Music Performance Trust Fund.

A huge thanks to the sponsors of the event: BC General Employees' Union, Community Savings, CUPE BC, CUPE Local 391, IATSE Local 891, IBEW Local 213 and Local 258, ILWU Canada, IUOE Local 500, and Local 115, IUOE 963 Advancement Fund, MBS Equipment Co., Music Performance Trust Fund, PSAC BC Regional Council, PIPSC – Professional Institute of Public Service Canada, Teamsters Local 31, Teamsters Local 155, USW Local 2009, Vancity Credit Union, Vancouver Musicians Association.

I also want to give special recognition to event organizer Kathryn Prinz, our staff Elizabeth Buckham, and all of the volunteers – especially Shane Polak, Jason Sullivan, Mike Logan, Stefan Nielsen for staffing our booth and running the button maker.

#### Events Attended / Dates of Note

July 20 – Meeting with OneCity  
July 20 – Weekly WELLS contract touch base  
July 21 – Master Trade Union Group bargaining  
July 25 – Political Action Committee  
July 26 – Meeting with Forward Together  
July 27 – Meeting re: member-to-member campaign planning  
July 27 – Weekly WELLS contract touch base  
July 28 – WELLS Directors meeting  
July 28 – Peninsula Working Group  
August 1 – BC Day

August 1 – Meeting with Forward Together  
August 2 – Meeting re: member-to-member campaign planning  
August 2 – Vancouver Economic Commission Just Transition Working Group  
August 2 – Weekly WELLS contract touch base  
August 4 – Master Trade Union Group ratification meeting  
August 4 – WELLS Directors meeting  
August 8 – Weekly WELLS contract touch base  
August 9 – Meeting with Forward Together  
August 9 – Delivery of materials to VDLC archive at UBC Rare Books and Special Collections  
August 15-19 – Vacation  
August 22-26 – Vacation  
August 30 – Meeting with Forward Together  
August 30 – Meeting with Mayor Stewart  
August 31 – Meeting with Cass Elliot re: campaign  
September 1 – BCFED Constitution & Bylaws Committee  
September 2 – Meeting with Kat Prinz re: Labour Day  
September 5 – Labour Day  
September 8 – Labour Education: Defamation Law for Unions  
September 8 – CLC Municipal Working Group  
September 9 – Kennedy Stewart campaign launch  
September 9 – Deadline for candidate registration  
September 12 – SFU Labour Studies Advisory Committee  
September 12 – Hybrid meeting prep  
September 13 – Labour Education: BC Labour Code  
September 13 – Meeting with Forward Together  
September 15 – BCFED Executive Council  
September 15 – Executive Board  
September 20 – Political Action Committee  
September 20 – Candidate meet and greet  
September 20 – Regular meeting

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

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

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the July and August 2022 meeting.

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

#### **12. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:**

Ron Stipp, CLC Representative, presented the CLC Report for July and August 2022.

I have several things I want to discuss and to begin it's my first hybrid meeting with this labour council. I've done them with others but it's exciting to be back in person.

I'll talk a bit about the municipal program which is province wide. You guys are doing fantastic work with Cass here between the two labour councils. From the CLC, part of this, we are the ones who coordinate the endorsement process with the affiliates across the

province. We have to date about 250 endorsed candidates in BC. For those of you who haven't been involved in the process over the years, we elect between 75-80% of those candidates we endorse. With that number, which is more than last time, it looks pretty good for election day if we can get our vote out. We produced about 200,000 poll cards, about

20,000 of them are in the Vancouver region. A number of affiliates are mailing those poll cards to their members. There are a number of poll cards for different unions. Those unions who are mailing them to members are Steelworkers, HEU, BCTF, PSAC and MoveUP. Those in addition to all the other affiliates, are also sending e-cards to folks across the province. What happens is, the poll card produced for this area will be mailed for those living in Vancouver. HEU will mail to Prince George only those members living in Prince George. It's member to member and we're following the rules of Elections BC.

So now it's all about getting the vote out, which is the poll cards, doing what Cass has asked you to do which we're doing province wide. To talk about CUPE, they have their own process. CUPE does their own poll cards as well as their own phone banks. This is a massive effort, this is the number one thing we want labour councils to do over the four-year period, and I believe that we are getting a lot of people involved this time. It's crucial that we have our folks elected, not only at the city council level, but the school board level, and park board level which really impacts what happens at the UBCM, School Trustees Association, and Metro Vancouver.

Federal politics – so the regular session is back in as of today. The House of Commons is back; last week they were back for two days for the death of Queen Elizabeth II. So, we're expecting a number of things that we've been pushing for. Number one is the dental care plan, that we have a commitment from the federal government through the NDP. That we'll have a dental care plan put in place in the next few weeks. It's just the first step, it's not everything we want, but it will give a check of about \$600-\$700 to people with children when they have to go to the dentist. It's a step in the right direction, it's not everything we've asked for. It's step one; their excuse is that it takes a long time for these things to be put in motion. We have to keep their feet to the fire, and we will do that.

There are also substantial GST rebates coming in the next few months which will help low-income people which we have been asking for. One thing that has changed is the election of Pierre Poilievre as the Conservative leader. He's now in the House of Commons, an effective politician but not a great buddy of labour. So, we'll have to watch his rhetoric very carefully when he talks about working people. We'll have to watch that side of the house. His record on workers issues and poverty issues is abysmal, but he is an effective communicator which we'll have to watch carefully.

We launched on Tuesday the Care Campaign, which has not gone to labour councils yet. This is a CLC campaign about people who care for folks and people that need care. There is a website that you can go to. It is [showwecare.ca](http://showwecare.ca). It outlines the program we have launched, and we'll be sharing information shortly. We're looking for stories about people who give care and need care.

I'd like to give a big thanks to people who were involved in labour day events across the province, especially here in Vancouver and New Westminster. We had a fantastic labour day

and it's the first we've had in years. The work that was put in and participation was tremendous, and I really, really want to thank everyone on behalf of our officers at the CLC for your event. The music was fantastic.

*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 Authorizations

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

- A new laptop computer for use by the VDLC President, at a cost of up to \$2,000.00
- A 14" wreath for the North Vancouver Remembrance Day ceremony, at a cost of \$90.00

b) *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; and

BECAUSE Conni Kilfoil is a retired labour and human rights lawyer who, after 28 years in the BC Labour movement, continues to be a human rights advocate, facilitator, trainer, and mediator, specializing in human rights in the workplace, accommodation of disabilities, and bullying and harassment in the workplace; and

BECAUSE Conni Kilfoil has been a long-time facilitator with our Labour Education Program, and has developed or co-developed many popular courses including Human Rights Boot Camp, Unions and the Indigenous Truth & Reconciliation Process, Duty to Accommodate, and Bullying & Harassment; and

BECAUSE Conni also has a long history of work and volunteerism with labour and community organizations, including current work with Disability Alliance BC, and as Chair of the Surrey Food Bank; and

BECAUSE this year marks Conni's final year facilitating with the VDLC education program, as she transitions her courses over to new facilitators and prepares for a well-deserved retirement,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL designate Conni Kilfoil as the recipient of the 2022 Syd Thompson Community Service Award, to be presented this Fall.

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

Subject: Affiliation of Public Employees' Association

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the request to affiliate 151 members of the Public Employees' Association (PEA), representing government licenced professionals, health care workers, and lawyers in Vancouver, West Vancouver, and North Vancouver.

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

Subject: Endorsement of OneCity Housing Platform

BECAUSE the ongoing housing affordability crisis remains a top issue in this municipal election campaign; and

BECAUSE the OneCity, whose candidate have been full endorsed by our Labour Council, is presenting a comprehensive housing platform promising to 1. Build the housing we need, 2. Prioritize people marginalized by the market, and 3. Build vibrant and inclusive communities across the whole city,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse OneCity's "You Belong in Vancouver" (<https://www.onecityvancouver.ca/youbelong>) housing platform and encourage support for its proposals.

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

Subject: Municipal Candidate Endorsements – City of North Vancouver

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

Kathy McGrenera

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

Subject: Municipal Candidate Endorsements – North Vancouver School Board

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the following candidate for election to the North Vancouver School Board:

Lailani Tumoneng

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

Subject: December 2022 Meeting Date

BECAUSE the Maritime Labour Centre auditorium is not available for the evening of December 7th; and

BECAUSE, pending public health orders, we hope to host an in-person meeting in December and include our traditional year-end social event,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL move its December 2022 meeting date from December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM to December 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**15. REPORT OF UNIONS:**

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

*M/S/ 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.

*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:**

**21. NOTICE OF MOTION:** Nil

**22. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Stephen von Sychowski – President, VDLC

I'd like to thank all of you for being here tonight, this time of year is especially busy and with an election year, things are even busier for all of us. Thank you for also attending the meet & greet this evening. We're still working out some of the glitches with our hybrid meeting. Our tech guy, Shane Polak, is in Ottawa at PSAC meetings so I'd like to thank Jason Sullivan, from our executive, for a job well done to help get things up and running for this meeting.

Just a heads up that this year is not only an election year for municipalities but also labour councils. Our executive board elections take place at our November meeting. Nominations open at the October meeting and will re-open in November, so if you're interested in running, please check with the office to make sure that you have the necessary attendance. If you have any dispute with the attendance, please contact the office. It is a two-year term.

**23. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:31pm*

**24. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 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.