



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023**

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 for Reconciliation

63. We call upon the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including:

- i. Developing and implementing Kindergarten to Grade Twelve curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal peoples in Canadian history, and the history and legacy of residential schools.
- ii. Sharing information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history.
- iii. Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy, and mutual respect.
- iv. Identifying teacher-training needs relating to the above.

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 January 17, 2023 Regular meeting be adopted.

5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

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

6. REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:

BC Insulators Union Local 118

Declan McGilton

7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES

8. GUEST SPEAKERS: NIL

9. EDUCATIONAL: NIL

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Political Action

Since our last meeting I met with City of North Vancouver Councillor Tony Valente and reached out to other non-endorsed friendly electeds in order to schedule meetings for early this year and build a relationship with them going forward.

Quarterly meetings have also now been scheduled for the labour council and municipal locals with Councillor Christine Boyle, to discuss issues of interest. Similar meetings have traditionally been held with the mayor, and we had requested the same with Mayor Sim. Late last year meetings were scheduled, however they will be with Councillor Klassen as opposed to the mayor.

We have a request from Councillor Boyle and Trustee Reddy of OneCity to attend an upcoming meeting as guest speakers, so watch for that coming up.

I attended the final Sustainable Communities Initiative breakfast of 2022 last month. The turnout was not as large as expected but was reasonable for the time of year. However, the discussion between elected officials and labour leaders was invaluable as ever, as was the information provided by SCI.

I have been hosting some meetings with community allies to discuss the status of the far-right in the Metro Vancouver region, and our response to its activities. So far, the discussion has been good, but far-reaching, and short on consensus. There is a wide array of perspectives on what appropriate tactics are and what the real status of the far-right is, given the steep decline in participation around anti-mandate activities. The dialogue between different groups is nonetheless positive and will continue so long as it remains productive for those involved.

Labour Education

There has been some delay in getting our 2023 program launched as a result of difficulties confirming dates with facilitators, as well as some illness immediately following the holidays. However, it is anticipated at the time of writing that the courses will be up for registration by the time of the Executive Board.

In addition, I am facilitating some steward courses for CUPE 8911 as well as for West Vancouver Municipal Employees' Association in the coming months.

I will be in Harrison for the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School January 23-27 (facilitating Facing Management Effectively) and February 6-9 (Labour Council Officers week).

I am enjoying my time on the SFU Labour Studies Advisory Committee since being appointed last year. The program is working through the remainder of the original seed money that was donated for its establishment but has been taken into the SFU budget going forward. This ensures funding stability for the program going forward, which is very exciting.

The Young Workers Committee is organizing a workshop on organizing for February 25th at the Maritime Labour Centre. Stay tuned for details.

Committees

Our committees are seeking new members for the new year – these include Women’s Committee, Anti-Racism, Solidarity in Action, Political Action, Young Workers Municipal Affairs & Housing, and more. Please reach out to me or our office if you are interested.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

December 12: Meeting with community allies re: response to the far-right
December 12: VDLC Young Workers Committee
December 13: SFU Labour Studies Advisory Committee
December 13: Meeting with CNV Councillor Valente
December 15: BC Building Trades Open House
December 19-23: Holiday office closure
December 26-30: Vacation
January 2: New Year’s Day stat in lieu
January 6: Bentall Tower Memorial
January 9: Meeting with community allies re: response to the far-right
January 9: Political Action Committee
January 10: Anti-Racism Committee
January 11: Facilitated Steward Level 1 course for CUPE Local 8911
January 12: VDLC Executive Board
January 16: Meeting with Vancouver Councillor Meiszner
January 17: Meeting with Women Transforming Cities
January 17: Regular Meeting

M/S/C to adopt President’s report.

11. TREASURER’S REPORT:

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the December 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 December 2022.

My apologies for not making it to last month’s meeting because I was stuck in the airport in Kelowna. I’m in Harrison right now; Winter school is now on. Week 4 is labour council development course which we’ll be spending a large amount of time on municipal issues. We’ve had some interesting speakers. Last night was Premier David Eby. It was very well received and a very good speech. We have almost 300 students here this week so it’s a very full school. The room last night was standing room only. We have very interesting speakers coming up; Labour Minister Harry Bains at the end of the month, Parliamentary Secretary Kelly Patton is next week; we have a forum with Kelly and Hermender Kailley from the BC Fed. Parliamentary Secretary Janet Rutledge as well, and the new addition for the week 3 today is economist Jim Stanford. If you’re on your way here we’re encounter some difficult staffing issues at the hotel. They are very short staffed at the hotel. We’ve had to

make some alternate arrangements for some of the meals here, but you will be fed. They are approximately 100 workers short here at the hotel. They are hiring now, but they are having problems retaining people. It is a unionized facility which pays relatively well, but they've not been able to attract workers.

On the federal scene, the House is still adjourned until the end of January. You may have noticed on the news today that we are very close to a Healthcare funding deal between the federal government and the provinces. We expect something quite soon on this. The deal between the NDP and the Liberals that was put together was to be done quickly and we're expecting something soon. Hopefully, we'll get somewhere in the next couple of weeks.

We've heard that anti-scab legislation will be proposed this spring rather than in the fall. It looks like we'll be getting that, and we'll wait on the format. Just Transition plan is in the making. It will probably be released in the federal government sometime in the spring.

The CLC convention is coming up in May. Resolutions are due February 6 and credentials April 6.

The last thing I want to talk about is the face for the municipal program and reaching out to our elected friends and foes and others. It's a very important thing and I think your labour council is doing an incredibly good job talking to the municipal folks and getting relationships so that we can get more of our programs initiated at the municipal level and really keeping this discussion going and open. I want to applaud your labour council for the good work that you continue to do on this.

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: Holistic Mental Healthcare

BECAUSE the pandemic brought forward mental health issues and crises that seem to be more prevalent than ever; and

BECAUSE mental health issues need to be discussed and encouraged to be discussed openly and safely, mental illnesses and issues will not be going away; and

BECAUSE the mental health coverage under most collective agreements is lacking in funds for supports and medication; and

BECAUSE mental health should be treated holistically with both a medical and a social model,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL submit a resolution to the 2023 Canadian Labour Congress convention calling upon the CLC to, with the provincial and territorial federations of labour, start a campaign to both the federal and provincial governments to include psychological counselling and psychiatric medications under provincial and federal medical care plans.

15. REPORT OF UNIONS:

Warren Wulff | PSAC-UCTE Local 20088

Bargaining grinds on between 165,000 federal public servants of the Public Service Alliance of Canada and Trudeau's Liberals. Last month we had our legally mandated Public Interest Commission hearings. We're still waiting for the final report, which hopefully will spur the government to come to the table with a real mandate to bargaining. Let's be honest, the sides are far apart because the government has come to the table with a 2.09% wage offer, per year for four years, and absolutely nothing else on any other area of bargaining. To add insult to injury, the government has filed a legal complaint against the PSAC that the union has not been bargaining in good faith! The word "disappointment" doesn't come close, but the word "shame" does!

PSAC continues to mobilize and give strike training. The Canada Revenue Agency employees, about 35,000, just announced a strike vote, and expect the rest to announce votes soon enough. We have lobbied, campaigned, and bargained, and nothing has gotten through to the Prime Minister.

When 165,000 "core" civil servants and 35,000 CRA employees go on strike together, from coast-to-coast, we have every confidence that some good old fashioned job action will bring real results for workers. Stay tuned!

Gary Jarvis | CUPE Local 391

The employer's review of library branches opening hours, not including the central branch continues. We are hearing from the employer that the uniform opening hours will reduce precarity. But, the employer may push some of our members into layoff positions as it talks of reducing precarity.

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. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

We do have 4 vacancies for Member-at-Large

Ron Stipp – Reopened nominations for position of Member-at-Large.

1st Call – Shane Polak nominated Aaron Cook of Cupe 15 Local. Nomination acclaimed.

20. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

21. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

22. GOOD AND WELFARE:

Russ St. Eloi – UA Local 170

23. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:14pm*

24. NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 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