



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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

Justice

38. We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to commit to eliminating the overrepresentation of Aboriginal youth in custody over the next decade.

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 February 21, 2023 Regular meeting be adopted.

5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/C that the minutes of the January 17, 2022 Regular meeting be adopted.

6. REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:

North Vancouver Teacher's Association Local 44

Clarice Scop
David Murton

PSAC-UCTE Local 20088

Carol Wagner

7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES

8. GUEST SPEAKERS: Candace Knoll and Youth speaker: Nico
Junior Black Achievement Awards

**Presentation available upon request*

9. EDUCATIONAL: NIL

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the January 2023 meeting.

Political Action

Since our January meeting I have continued my outreach to municipal politicians, including meetings with City of North Vancouver Councillor Shervin Shahriari, and Vancouver Park Board Commissioner Tom Digby (Green). Leaders of our municipal locals also held their first quarterly touch-base with Councillor Christine Boyle (OneCity).

Late last month Vancouver's ABC majority city council made the regrettable decision to defund the Vancouver Renters Office. This office was established by the previous council to assist renters with questions and issues related to their tenancy rights and entitlements. ABC claimed that the office was minimally used and was duplicating the work of the Residential Tenancy Branch. However, many renters took to social media to contradict this narrative, while renter advocates and others pointed out that Vancouver, a majority renter city, has many municipally determined renter protections and rules beyond that which is provided for in the Residential Tenancy Act. Therefore, a dedicated office in Vancouver to provide assistance made sense. Councillor's Boyle (OneCity), Carr (Green), and Fry (Green), released a very good joint statement opposing ABC's decision.

Councillor Boyle has also been vocally advocating for the UBC extension, a project we have endorsed. This comes in light of Mayor Sim's apparent deprioritization of this particular project, which had been a major focus of Mayor Stewart. This extension to the new rapid transit line serving the busiest bus route in North America is a crucial piece of infrastructure for the future of the region. Extending SkyTrain to UBC will help to eliminate congestion (estimated 3,000 cars daily), encourage commuting via public transit, decrease the number of cars on the road, help meet emissions reduction targets, improve accessibility, and shorten travel times. It will also have broader benefits derived from connecting UBC with large employment centres, Vancouver International Airport, and large portions of Metro Vancouver. It is clear that the extension will be a great benefit to workers and students alike, and we should support Councillor Boyle and OneCity in pressing for it to go ahead as planned, as opposed to ending the new line at Arbutus St.

I have also been working with affiliates representing workers at the Vancouver School Board this month. The ABC Chair of the Board brought forward the notion of merging the Finance and Personnel Standing Committees. This would further reduce the already limited access to stakeholder information and feedback and reduce transparency. A joint letter and media advisory were issued by the VDLC, all of the VSB unions, and the District Parents Advisory Council. Trustees Reddy (OneCity) and Mah (COPE) replied indicating their agreement with our concerns and opposition to this change. No responses were received from other trustees. Trustee Fraser (Green) has now moved the motion to proceed with the merger, signifying a very unfortunate ABC-Green alliance on this issue. Public feedback can be made at a meeting on February 22nd or submitted in writing.

I was one of 23 interviewees as part of a TransLink stakeholder study being conducted by Earncliffe on behalf of the Mayor's Council. I provided feedback about the need for improved transit, affordability, board representation, public funding vs. P3's and fare increases, and other items.

I have also been engaged in discussions with ATU Local 1724 (HandyDart operators), NWDLC, and Sunshine Coast Labour Council, regarding HandyDart service and contracting out/privatization. More on this as it develops.

If you are interested in getting involved in labour council activities around municipal affairs or housing, please reach out as we will be looking to re-activate this committee shortly.

BC Employment Standards Coalition

I continue to represent the VDLC at the BC Employment Standards Coalition and was acclaimed to another term as a director of the coalition last month. The coalition is doing lots of good advocacy around employment standards reform. One item since last meeting was a letter on the pay transparency act, which the Executive Board signed onto.

Labour Education

This month has been heavily focused on labour education. I spent two of the last four weeks in Harrison for the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School, first facilitating Facing Management Effectively, and then attending the annual labour council officer's workshop. These weeks are also excellent networking opportunities, and I was able to have numerous conversations about the work of the labour council, our education program, and the benefits and importance of affiliation.

Registrations are coming in steadily for our Winter/Spring classes. Please continue to help promote these opportunities to your fellow union members. We have also added a Labour Economics Series in the Spring, with Jim Stanford.

I also facilitated a couple of steward courses this month for locals. These entry level classes are always a very enjoyable opportunity to arm newly engaged union activists with basic knowledge and skills to go back to their workplace and represent their members.

Black History Month

Last year we co-hosted some excellent virtual events with New Westminster & District Labour Council and the National Congress of Black Women Foundation. Unfortunately, this year many of those involved in organizing and hosting these events did not have the capacity to do it again, and we did not have time to arrange something new from scratch. However, we do have some guest speakers from the Junior Black Achievement Awards proposed for our regular meeting, including Candace Knoll, who was a panelist at the events last year. I am also proposing we sponsor an award.

International Women's Day

Unfortunately, the Women's Committee is not able to proceed with an IWD event this year. It is my hope that in 2024 we will be back to the in-person event at Fraserview Hall, and that we will be able to raise funds for Winter School scholarships, or such other activities at the committee deems appropriate.

May Day

We are proposing organizing an event for May Day. If you are interested in helping with organizing around May Day, please let me know.

Labour Day

Our 2022 Labour Day event was a big success, which was well attended and enjoyed. However, affiliates have indicated that it puts substantial strain on them to organize booths and staff/volunteers for two events in the Metro Vancouver region, to donate to both events, etc. We are therefore proposing a joint event this year with NWDLC. We will begin planning in the coming months.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

January 18 – Meeting with City of North Vancouver Councillor Shahriari
January 18 – BC Employment Standards Coalition
January 19 – Facilitated Steward Level 2 for CUPE Local 8911
January 22-27 – CLC Winter School, Co-facilitated Facing Management Effectively
January 30 – Meeting with community allies re: countering the far-right
January 31 – United Way BC “hack-a-thon”
February 2 – Facilitated Steward Level 1 for West Vancouver Municipal Employees’ Association
February 3 – Meeting with VSB union locals re: school board issue
February 5-10 - CLC Winter School, Labour Council officer’s week
February 13 – Cascade Region Labour Leadership Initiative gathering
February 13 – Political Action Committee
February 13 – Meeting re: HandyDart service
February 15 – TransLink stakeholder study interview
February 15 – Meeting with Vancouver Park Board Commissioner Digby
February 16 – YVR Joint Union Committee
February 16 – Q1 meeting with YVR management
February 16 – VDLC Executive Board
February 20 – Family Day statutory holiday
February 20 – Labour Education: Human Rights Bootcamp
February 20 – Regular meeting

M/S/C to adopt President’s report.

11. TREASURER’S REPORT:

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the January 2023 meeting.

M/S/C to adopt the Treasurer’s Report.

12. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

Ron Stipp, CLC Representative, presented the CLC report for January 2023.

Harrison Winter school is over. It was very successful; 1100 students. It was interesting to go back to Harrison after 3 years.

We held a very big lobby in Ottawa 2 weeks ago. Care campaign, anti-scab and Bill C228. You’ll get a list of those who we lobbied and those who refused to lobby us. We’ll have some follow up on that. For those who refused to lobby us, it was very few. Even Conservatives met with us this time around.

CLC Convention is May 8-12. Credential deadline is April 6. For those of you going get those into us as soon as possible.

International Women's Day is March 8. Packages have been sent to labour councils. We have a major campaign on this. It's a very important day. Please spend a little bit of time with your affiliates on this.

The Care campaign is a very important campaign to us showwecare.ca. There is a 'Wall of Care.' If you have stories to share around care; giving care and receiving care, please share your stories. This is a very effective tool for us.

Let's talk Municipal. We spent a lot of time in Harrison with the labour councils on the municipal Phase 4. What I'm hearing about what's going on in Vancouver is very disappointing. We spent a lot of time and effort and we can put a lot of pressure on those municipal councillors who are not doing what they promised what they were going to do. Particularly in the City of Vancouver. We want labour councils to do a lot of work on this. Don't let them get away with what they're doing in Vancouver; don't let them off the hook.

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:

- o Sponsorship of one Grade 5-10 writers' scholarship for Junior Black Achievement Awards in recognition of Black History Month, at a cost of \$250

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

Subject: May Day

BECAUSE May 1st is International Worker's Day, or "May Day"; and

BECAUSE the Vancouver & District Labour Council has traditional hosted a march and rally, sometimes combined with an evening event to mark the day,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL host a May Day march & rally and support the Anti-Racism Committee's proposal to host a virtual event on building anti-racist workplaces, to mark International Worker's Day "May Day" 2023.

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

Subject: Labour Day

BECAUSE the Vancouver & District Labour Council traditionally hosts a Labour Day event, sometimes jointly with the New Westminster & District Labour Council; and

BECAUSE some affiliates have questioned the utility of separate events hosted by the two labour councils, and cited the challenges posed by sponsoring, staffing, and otherwise supporting two different yet largely similar events on the same date,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL, pending the agreement of the New Westminster & District Labour Council, organize a joint labour council event to mark Labour Day in Metro Vancouver in 2023.

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

Subject: Labour Appreciation Night

BECAUSE United Way BC is no longer hosting the annual Labour Appreciation Night due to the new provincial nature of the merged organization, as well as high costs and time commitments associated with the event; and

BECAUSE the Labour Appreciation Night was an opportunity for year-end networking, socializing, and celebration for the labour community, as well as the forum for presenting our Syd Thompson Community Service Award, and for the presentation of similar awards,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endeavour to host a year-end event, jointly with the New Westminster & District Labour Council, and United Way BC, in lieu of the Labour Appreciation Night.

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER cancel its December regular meeting in favour of the aforementioned event.

15. REPORT OF UNIONS:

Chloe Martin-Cabanne – CUPE Local 2950

We're in the midst of bargaining. Currently in monetary stages. We're making progress on improvements to the collective agreement (with exception of wages mandated by PSEC). We're still working through issues with inaccurate dues and member report with the ERT workday program. Employer is collecting dues overpaid due to automation error. More overpayment errors occurring. We're working with members and the employer to resolve high workloads.

Our executive has identified member engagement as a priority for the 2022-2023 term. We arranged a very successful skating social at UBC Robson Square, bringing new and 'old' activists out. Seeing increased attendance at GM's and more interest in union education, conferences, and conventions.

I attended the CLC Winter School thru CUPE: Leading Winning Campaigns. I learned a lot about what it takes to manage political campaigns to get progressives elected into office. It takes people power and pounding the pavement to get friendlies elected!

Gary Jarvis – CUPE Local 391

Our part-time and auxiliary employees are facing multiple challenges. The employer is doing a review of services, is continuing to roll out scheduling software and recently terminated the employment of 47 workers in line with a minimum hour collective agreement clause.

Unfortunately, this number of terminations included wrongful terminations. This led to the filing of 19 grievances on February 7. We have upcoming meetings with the employer where we hope to reverse some of the terminations.

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:**

- 20. NEW BUSINESS:** Nil

- 21. NOTICE OF MOTION:** Nil

- 22. GOOD AND WELFARE:** Nil

- 23. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:51pm*

- 24. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY MARCH 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