



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 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**

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:** 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 April 18, 2023 Regular meeting be adopted.*
5. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**  
*M/S/C that the minutes of the March 21, 2023 Regular meeting be adopted.*
6. **REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:**

**BCGEU Local 703**

Ron Tuck

**BCGEU Local 1703**

Doreen Aquino

**CUPE Local 15**

Stephen Anderson  
Christopher Brown  
Stefan Nielsen

**CUPE Local 389**

Dawn Gabert  
Michael Gonzales  
Lisa McIvor  
Cameron Smith

**CUPE Local 718**

Christine Chen  
Tracy Christopherson  
Helen Varga

**TSSU – Teaching Support Staff Union**

Azraf Ahmad  
Sam Spartano

**7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**

- 8. GUEST SPEAKERS:** Christine Boyle, Vancouver City Councillor, OneCity & Jennifer Reddy, Vancouver School Board Trustee, OneCity

*\*Presentation available upon request*

- 9. EDUCATIONAL:** NIL

**10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

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

Political Action

In Vancouver, the ABC-majority school board has taken the unprecedented step of closing its meetings to public participation. It is completely unacceptable that a school board would block the participation of parents, stakeholders, and members of the public, while making critical decisions impacting our public school system, public lands, and public funds. We are once again mobilizing ourselves to provide a broad-based response to this move and continue to fight for democracy at VSB. What is abundantly clear in these first few months since the municipal election is that ABC is a party that abhors consultation and criticism. We need to ensure our voices are heard over their attempts to stifle them.

In other political action news, I attended an excellent meet-and-greet hosted by New Westminster & District Labour Council. The event brought together delegates and labour endorsed elected representatives, similar to what we did prior to the election. We will host a similar event in the future in order to ensure we are connecting with our endorsed politicians in between election cycles.

The HandyDart campaign continues to pick up steam. Now, with an expanded membership, we are looking forward to the release of a report commissioned by ATU Local 1724, which represents HandyDart operators. The report will provide an updated look at the harm caused by the ongoing contracting out of this important transit service and make recommendations for change. The report will be released in late April, in time for a mayor's council meeting, which we intend to have several speakers at. We are also looking at organizing an event around this issue in June.

Shane Polak and I met with representatives of the Jericho Lands planning team from the City of Vancouver last month to get a brief overview of that project. We will look to invite guest speakers on this topic to an upcoming regular meeting in order to brief the delegates and provide information on opportunities to provide input.

CLC Lobby

I am in the process of scheduling meetings for the Canadian Labour Congress lobby of MP's. The lobby will focus on the CLC's key federal legislative priorities: investing in the care economy, jobs in a sustainable economy, anti-scab legislation, and Bill C-228: Protecting Pensions.

The MPs we need to lobby for this are Wilson Miao (Richmond Centre), Hedy Fry (Vancouver Centre), Don Davies (Vancouver Kingsway), Joyce Murray (Vancouver Quadra), Harjit Sajjan (Vancouver South), and Patrick Weiller (West Vancouver-Sunshine Coast-Sea to Sky Country).

The other MP's in our district were already lobbied on Parliament Hill.

If you live in one of these ridings and may be able to attend a lobby meeting with me, please let me know.

#### Labour Education

Our Labour Education Program continues to go well. We held classes on Parliamentary Procedure (our first hybrid class), Discipline & Discharge, WCB Appeals, and Effective Representation in High Conflict Situations since our last meeting. We also started our Labour Economic Series with Jim Stanford.

There are many classes yet to come, please continue to promote to your members.

#### Day of Mourning

The Day of Mourning ceremony will once again take place at Jack Poole Plaza on April 28<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30am. The event will also be live streamed. More details on the events page of our website.

#### International Workers' Day (May Day)

Our May Day rally will take place at Vancouver City Hall at 5:00pm on May 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be focusing on calling for a united response to the regressive approach we have seen from the new ABC municipal government in Vancouver, especially in terms of issues like living wage, housing and renters rights, and more. More details on the events page of our website.

#### Labour Day

We will host a joint Labour Day event with New Westminster & District Labour Council, in Burnaby on September 4<sup>th</sup>. The event will largely mirror previous Labour Day events in terms of format and content, but will be bigger, more exciting, and united for all of Metro Vancouver! More details coming soon.

#### Events Attended / Dates of Note

March 22 – New Westminster & District Labour Council meet-and-greet

March 24 – Meeting with Jericho Lands planning team

March 24 – HandyDart campaign meeting

March 25 – BCNDP Pancakes & Politics event

March 27 – Labour Education: Parliamentary Procedure and Effective Meetings

March 27 – May Day organizing meeting

March 28 – Labour Education: Discipline & Discharge

March 28 – Community Solidarity Network meeting

March 28 – BC Employment Standards Coalition

March 29 – Meeting with CLC Rep. Ron Stipp re: strategic planning

March 29 – The TRC Calls to Action: The Role of Local Governments (Women Transforming Cities)

March 30 – SFU Contract Workers Rights campaign rally

March 30 – Just Transition Coalition – Sustainable Jobs Plan presentation

March 30 – Labour Council president’s meeting  
April 3 – Political Action Committee  
April 4 – Justice Summer meeting  
April 4 – BC Employment Standards Coalition directors meeting  
April 4 – May Day organizing meeting  
April 5 – Day of Mourning planning meeting  
April 6 – Labour Education: WCB Appeals  
April 6 – Labour Economics Series  
April 7 – Statutory Holiday  
April 10 – Statutory Holiday  
April 11 – Just Transition Coalition – Just Transition and Labour presentation  
April 11 – Meeting with VSB locals  
April 11 – Meeting with OneCity  
April 12 – Labour Education: Effective Representation in High Conflict Situations  
April 13 – Executive Board Strategic Planning Session and Meeting  
April 13 – Labour Economics Series  
April 14 – Vacation Day  
April 14 – SFU Labour Studies event  
April 17 – HandyDart campaign meeting  
April 17 – Pacific Blue Cross AGM  
April 17 – OneCity briefing on VSB budget  
April 18 – Meeting with VSB Trustee Suzie Mah  
April 18 – Health Sciences Association panel  
April 18 – Regular meeting

*M/S/C to adopt President’s report.*

#### **11. TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the March 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 March 2023.

I’m going to start off by reading something from Bea Bruske about the situation with PSAC and how we can assist Shane and his colleagues on the picket line. This just went to labour councils about an hour. PSAC has advised that if they do not achieve a deal in their negotiations with the Treasury board and the Canada Revenue Agency, strike action will begin across Canada for over 155,000 workers at 12:01am ET, 9:01pm PT. PSAC has requested solidarity and support of the Canadian labour movement in the following ways: join a picket line before or after work, go to the find a picket line to find the closest picket line to you, avoid crossing a picket line if possible. If an affiliate has members working where a picket line is in place, the member should refuse to cross the picket line until their manager escorts them across the picket line. Share PSAC social media posts with the hashtag #workerscantwait.

These folks have been without a contract for over 2 years and we need to show our support. Please get involved to help these folks.

Very interesting things are going on in the House of Commons right now. The anti-scab legislation is almost drafted. Bill C228, pension protection, is in front of the senate for the last day tomorrow. We learned something kind of interesting in the few hours. There's a rumour that the government may prorogue the House of Commons. That means that this will stop the House of Commons. What happens is that all legislation that is in the pipeline ends and will have to begin again. We have to go back on Bill C228 and anti-scab. This is their way of changing the agenda. They're getting beat up pretty badly; they're about 7 points behind the Conservatives in the polls and they don't like that.

Our convention is May 8-12. Lots of people going to this; it will be a good time. Before I say goodbye, your new rep will be Amandeep Nijjar. I just want to say thank you to you folks for the last 20 years. It's been a great job. I don't want to get emotional, so I'll leave it at that.

*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: Stifling of Public and Stakeholder Consultation at VSB

BECAUSE the Vancouver School Board recently held a special meeting to discuss its budget, and barred public participation in the meeting; and

BECAUSE this meeting involved the discussion of matters of significant public interest, including the potential of school closures, land sales, and the over-all operation of our public education system; and

BECAUSE this is the second attempt to stifle public and stakeholder input in the first few months of this term, with the first being the proposal to merge standing committees, which was referred back to staff after stakeholder outcry,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL condemn the closed-door approach of the ABC-majority Vancouver School Board, which is stifling public and stakeholder consultation in the operation of our public education system, and the use of public funds; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER reiterate its absolute opposition to the closure of public schools, and the sale of public lands.

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

Subject: Endorsement for CLC Canadian Council, Pacific Region Labour Council Vice President

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse VDLC President Stephen von Sychowski for the Canadian Labour Congress Canadian Council position of Labour Council Vice President (Pacific Region) at the 2023 CLC convention.

## 15. REPORT OF UNIONS:

Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes at the meeting or by emailing office@vdlc.ca

### **Shane Polak – PSAC/UVAE Local 20045**

On April 7, 2023, 35,000 CRA workers and on April 12, 2023, 120,000 Treasury Board workers with the Government of Canada announced an overwhelming strike mandate. So, 155,000 PSAC workers were in a legal strike position until now. Effective 9:00pm ET, it was announced that talks between the Government of Canada and the PSAC Bargaining Teams have broken down. Effective 12:01am ET, these workers will be on a legal strike.

There are four Treasury Board bargaining units: the PA, SV, TC and EB groups.

The PA group includes 98,724 employees responsible for program administration, information services, communications, secretarial services, office equipment, administrative services, welfare programs, clerical functions, and data processing.

The SV group includes 9,999 employees responsible for the operation of federal buildings and services, including firefighters, trades workers, stores people, cooks and hospital workers, lightkeepers and ships' crews.

The TC or Technical Services group covers 10,532 members under the following classifications: Drafting and Illustration (DD), Engineering and Scientific Support (EG), General Technical (GT), Photography (PY), Primary Products Inspection (PI) and Technical Inspection (TI).

The EB or Educational and Library Service group covers 1,140 members responsible for education, education support and library services.

The striking workers include workers from 208 different departments and agencies in Canada. Some of these are: Canada Border Service Agency, CMHC, Canada Pension Plan, Canada Post inside workers, Canadian Grain Commission, Canadian Human Rights Commission, Coast Guard, CRTC, Canadian Transport Agency, Correctional Service Canada (Matsqui and Kent), Elections Canada, ESDC, Federal Court of Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, Global Affairs, Health Canada, Immigration and Refugee Board, Indigenous and Northern Affairs, IRCC, Labour Program, National Defence, Natural Resources, Parks Canada, Parole Board of Canada, Public Works Service Canada, Supreme Court of Canada, Transport Canada, Veterans Affairs Canada, and VIA Rail Canada.

The issues remain wage increases to keep up with inflation and the cost of living. We are also asking for market adjustment for workers in private and public comparable work. For example, a chef on a Coast Guard vessel earns about \$30/hour. A BC Ferries White Spot cook earns about \$48/hour. These employees are asking for a market adjustment to make their salaries competitive.

The other issues are remote work. Since the pandemic, countless workers worldwide have proven that not only are they able to work effectively from home, but that they are able to be even more productive. This also reduces the costs associated with transportation to work and back and living near large cities and towns to be able to report to an office.

Another is an Anti-Racism clause. I find it unbelievable TB is fighting us on adding an anti-racism clause and mandatory training for all employees and managers on Anti-Black Racism for instance.

Other contentious issues include TB bargaining demands for concessions and roll backs. For instance, they are demanding we roll over on our Work Force Adjustment clause. It is a job security clause that protects public service workers in the event of a massive government downsizing. Such as happened under the Harper era with their DRAP.

While we were able to come to agreement on some issues, there are these and many more issues that remain to be settled.

Now that PSAC members are on strike, I am asking that the VDLC affiliate members and our allies join us on our picket lines.

CRA picket locations will be up by 8:00am at the CRA buildings on King George Blvd in Surrey and 468 Terminal Ave in Vancouver.

Our Treasury Board member pickets will picket Government of Canada buildings in Vancouver at 800 and 401 Burrard St. Also, to be struck tomorrow morning is the Service Canada Centre at 350-5611 Cooney Rd in Richmond.

There are other lower mainland picketing sites: New Westminster (the Service Canada site on Royal Ave), Coquitlam (Service Canada), and Surrey (RCMP-Green Timbers).

Picketing sites may change, as the strike will be fluid, so please feel free to email me if you would like to support us at one of them. My email is [rvpwestern@uvae-seac.ca](mailto:rvpwestern@uvae-seac.ca)

### **Eric Proulx – BCTF: VEAES**

Tomorrow Trustee Mah at COPE will be hosting a rally at the VSB office at 6:00pm. Yesterday, the “divisional budget” released which allows us to guess where cuts might occur. So far, Adult education seems like the target: most vulnerable students trying to complete their education. Also, land “consulting” line items that are vague but add up to at least \$2.5million for this year to date. We don’t know what these consulting fees are. It seems as if there are several schools on the chopping block for closure. The attitude is that it is annoying to have to pay teacher’s salaries. The VSB has lost its way. Between 2088 and 2022, Executive pay has increased by 148% from \$960,000 per year to \$2.4million per year. Meanwhile, student enrolment has dropped 13% at the same time.

There are 2 actions you can take. Visit [veaes.ca](http://veaes.ca) and join our Go Public! Campaign. And send emails to the provincial government and school trustees. There is also a COPE rally at 6:00pm at the school board on 10<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the VDLC for organizing resistance to VSB anti-democratic practices.

### **Azraf Uddin Ahmad – TSSU**

TSSU represents over 3,800 non-faculty teaching and research staff working at SFU’s three campuses. Our members held a Strike Vote in March where 94% of the membership voted to strike. SFU has proposed major concessions to job security, including cutting all seniority,

priority, and job promotion rights. We've been bargaining to get Ras a first contract. Three years later, SFU still has not even proposed a wage offer. Once SFU was notified of the results of the strike vote, they did several things to delay our ability to serve our strike notice.

First, SFU has failed to set its Essential Workers Levels on time and once they finally put in a proposal, they increased the number of essential workers by a factor of 10 since the last round of strikes in 2015 causing a major impasse with all affected organizations. The levels are still not set.

Second, SFU applied for mediation at the Labour Relation Board which we attended at the LRB this past week. They showed up the first day with no proposals, nor any intent to bargain. Mediation was unsuccessful in resolving issues between the parties.

Finally, SFU filed a Part 5 application to declare our strike vote void under Section 59 of the Labour Code because they said 18 sessions of bargaining wasn't enough, that it was unfair that we said we were not available to bargain while the strike vote occurred, that our entire membership should not be able to vote, and that we couldn't talk about Research Assistants during any strike vote because they were voluntarily recognized, not certified. The hearing about a strike vote is ongoing with SFU raising its technical arguments, and TSSU asserting charter right to strike. Litigation could go for quite some time and the LRB is currently encouraging a resolution. We hope to give an update to the next VDLC meeting but expect that protracted strike action will be necessary to get to a collective agreement.

#### **Chloe Martin-Cabanne – CUPE Local 2950**

A very quick report. We need to express our solidarity with the TSSU staff. Our members have donated \$25,000 to their strike fund.

Positive news on our end. We ratified our collective agreement with 97.8% in favour. This is the best deal in 34 years. Wage increased in line with PSEC mandate, low wages redress and these highlights: Pension eligibility for part time and casual (hourly) employees, remote work language in main body of the collective agreement with non-arbitrary criteria, sustainable transportation funding for subsidized Compass cards, among many other wins. Grievances – settled workday dues overpayment (Employer paid outstanding dues), continuing to work through inaccurate dues/member headcounts.

*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.

#### **Chena Binns/HEU Lions Gate – Women and Gender Rights Committee**

The committee will be meeting next Tuesday by zoom. You're welcome to join us.

#### **OTHER REPORTS: Nil**

*M/S/ to adopt reports of committees.*



**17. REPORTS OF LABOUR COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES:** Nil

Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes at meeting or by email at office@vdlc.ca

*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 9:08pm*  
Motion brought forward by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President to past  
9:00pm *M/S/C*

**24. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY MAY 16, 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](http://www.vdlc.ca)