



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 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

Health

20. In order to address the jurisdictional disputes concerning Aboriginal people who do not reside on reserves, we call upon the federal government to recognize, respect, and address the distinct health needs of the Métis, Inuit, and off-reserve Aboriginal peoples.

21. We call upon the federal government to provide sustainable funding for existing and new Aboriginal healing centres to address the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual harms caused by residential schools, and to ensure that the funding of healing centres in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories is a priority.

- 1. LOCATION:** Hybrid | Maritime Labour Centre and ZOOM Video Conference – 7:00PM
- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** Treasurer Stefan Nielsen
- 3. NOTICE OF VDLC POLICY ON HARASSMENT:** Circulated prior to meeting
- 4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**
M/S/C that the agenda of the July 18, 2023 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
M/S/C that the minutes of the June 20, 2023 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 6. ROLL CALL OF TABLE OFFICERS:** Stephen von Sychowski, Stefan Nielsen, Shane Polak
Regrets: Bal Sandhu, Seema Ahluwalia
- 7. REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:**

<u>BCGEU Local 1203</u> Andii Stephens	<u>HEU – St. Paul’s Hospital</u> Brandon Houston
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- 8. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**
- 9. GUEST SPEAKERS:** NIL

10. EDUCATIONAL: NIL

11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Political Action

Some good news this month, with the June 24th by-elections both being won handily by the BCNDP candidates. Here in Vancouver, Indigenous leader Joan Phillip brought in 67.86% of the vote, with 5,404 votes. She was trailed by BC United Party candidate Jackie Lee at 13.77% and 1,097 votes in second place. In Langford Juan de Fuca, the results for BC UP were even more dismal, with a fourth place showing.

These byelections were obviously very positive indications both in terms of the strength of the BCNDP's support, and the faltering of the BC UP (formerly Liberals) under Kevin Falcon's leadership. The ongoing rise of the BC Conservative Party, a far-right entity which remained on the fringes of BC politics for years, is a cause for concern but will also lead to fracturing of the right-wing vote at least in the short-to-mid-term.

While provincial elections are predominately in the wheelhouse of the BC Federation of Labour, we should be ready to do what we can to support in the next election, and the leadup. An effective way you can do that is to get involved in your local constituency association now and help strengthen it in advance of the election.

Work continues both on issues around HandyDart, and VSB, with meetings this month to plan our ongoing work with affiliates and allies.

Labour Education

The Fall program booklet is being prepared, and the courses online for registration, now that all of them have had dates set and rooms booked.

The classes and workshops we have this Fall are: Law of Protest, Intro to Arbitration & Labour Board Advocacy, Collective Bargaining, BC Labour Code, Employer Policies and Labour Law, Investigations & Interrogations, Effective Note Taking, Drug and Alcohol Policies and Testing, WCB Bill 41 Update Part 2, Age 65: Do Your WCB Benefits End?, Domestic Violence in the Workplace, Steward Level 1, Steward Level 2, Effective Grievances, Advanced Investigations & Interrogations. That's a total of 15 different offerings this Fall!

Please watch for the program to be released and be sure to share far and wide.

Labour Day

Preparations are going well for Labour Day. If your local wishes to have a booth, please book soon!

Committees

In the fall we will launch a new Community & Social Action Committee which will take on responsibility for May Day, Labour Day, Union Protein Project, Queen Alexandra Elementary, and other community-facing activities. Stay tuned for info on how to get involved, and feel free to reach out if you would like more information.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

June 21: Visits to MoveUP (Capilano University) and Unite Here (Sheraton Hotel) picket lines
June 21: National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 23: Vacation
June 26: Ron Stipp retirement event
June 27: DTES Joint Union Committee
June 27: Pacific Region Labour Council touch base
June 29: Vacation
June 30: Statutory Holiday in lieu of Canada Day
July 3-7: Vacation
July 9: ILWU Rally for All Workers
July 9: Visit to SEIU Local 2 picket line at Granville Island Brewing
July 10: HandyDart campaign meeting
July 11: Meeting with Adam Williamson, Vancouver Economic Commission, re: Just Transition
July 11: Meeting with Jonny Sopotiuik, Union Cooperative Initiative, re: Labour Day
July 11: VSB campaign planning
July 11: Meeting with new member of Political Action Committee
July 12: Vacation
July 13: Meeting with Heather McCain, Live Educate Transform Society (LET'S) re: HandyDart
July 13: Executive Board
July 14: Presentation to HEU Lynn Valley local
July 18: Regular meeting

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

12. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on the financials for June 2023.

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

13. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

Amandeep Nijjar, CLC Representative, presented the CLC report for June 2023.

Since the last month a lot has happened. A couple of save the dates. The SCI dinner is November 16. If you know of some of your elected endorsed folks and you would like them to attend the dinners let them know and network. Stephen attends on behalf of the labour council. The Indigenous Lobby Day is October 3. The NDP Provincial Convention November 18. Federal NDP Election second week of October. The CLC is offering a Women in Leadership course from October 16-19. The registration fee is \$250 and will take place at the MoveUP offices in Burnaby. We had a talk at the CLC at what works at Harrison and what doesn't work. The Women in Leadership course fills up quickly, so we thought let's just have another course. Hopefully, this will remove some barriers for parents who are unable to attend Harrison due to childcare and other commitments. We believe this will fill up fast so if you know of someone who might be interested, we suggest you get them to register as soon as possible.

Stephen mentioned Labour Day. This day is approaching and we're looking forward to all the events that will take place across the country. This one will feel a bit different as we're seeing a lot of strikes happening all over the country and we're seeing workers fight back. I believe this is the first time after a long time that we'll see all person events.

An update on the CLC office move. We'll be moving into our new office in the beginning of September. We have a new hire which is exciting. Crystal Smith will be starting in our pacific office on August 26. Some of you may have already met Crystal while she worked on Jagmeet's campaign. Most recently she was staff in the provincial government working on the labour file such as paid sick leave, workers compensation and immunization rights. We think Crystal will be a great addition to our team.

The Canadian Sustainable Jobs Act that was announced by the Federal government. Thank you to all of you folks for lobbying and letter writing on this campaign. The Federal government released their Sustainable Jobs Act; this was a result of the Supply and Confidence Agreement which we were happy about. We were told that labour would be given 3 seats on the committee; 3 seats to represent workers across Canada is not enough and we're asking the government to do 5. We might have a letter campaign asking the government to increase that to 5 so watch for that. Probably in the next month or so.

Last thing for this evening. Bill C-22, the disability benefits act. We have received royal assent and it became law and we're really excited. Thanks to all of you folks for all of your hard work on this.

M/S/C to adopt the Canadian Labour Congress Report.

14. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated prior to the meeting.

M/S/C that the correspondence be received and filed for the information of the delegates.

15. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: 2024 Meeting Dates

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL hold its meetings for the 2024 calendar year as follows:

Regular Meeting (each at 7:00pm)

January 16

February 20

March 19

April 16

May 21

June 18

July 16

September 17

October 15

November 19

**December meeting will be held as the Labour Appreciation Event. Date TBA*

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

Subject: Banning Discrimination on the Basis of Caste

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL, recognizing caste as a source of discrimination, stand in solidarity with caste-oppressed workers and community members and call on the Government of British Columbia to update the BC Human Rights Code to address discrimination on the basis of caste without delay; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL further call on local governments and school boards in our region to update codes of conduct and enact policies banning discrimination on the basis of caste and create a policy framework to teach their employees, councillors, and managers about what caste is and how discrimination based on caste looks; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL co-sponsor (including promoting the event and contributing \$200) the Second Annual Dr. Chinmoy Banerjee Lecture in Anti-Racism, hosted by the Dr. Hari Sharma Foundation for South Asian Advancement, which will focus on caste discrimination and feature a keynote by Seattle City Councillor Kshama Sawant.

More information:

<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/local-news/burnaby-council-votes-unanimously-to-include-caste-as-a-protected-category>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/10/major-canadian-school-board-recognises-caste-based-discrimination>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/22/seattle-becomes-first-us-city-to-ban-caste-discrimination>

16. REPORT OF UNIONS:

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

Karen McVeigh | HEU – Dogwood

HEU had it's first summer school since Covid at Harrison. It was well attended. I have been attending several picket lines. Several sites doing strike votes.

HEU is doing the Case Can't Wait campaign. You can check the Case Can't Wait website or heu.org. You can also order HEU t-shirts from the HEU store on our website.

We have several section 54's going on as Coastal is moving residents to other care homes. My site, the new Dogwood will open in September.

M/S/C to adopt the report of unions.

17. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: Nil

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

OTHER REPORTS: Nil

M/S/C to adopt reports of committees.

18. 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.

19. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

20. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: Nil

21. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

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

22. NOTICE OF MOTION:

a) Delegate Russ St. Eloi of UA Local 170 brought forward a motion regarding P3's which the executive will bring forward at September's Regular Meeting.

b) Subject: Labour's Participation with Municipal Political Parties in the City of Vancouver **CONFIDENTIAL**

BECAUSE the Vancouver & District Labour Council recognizes the leadership provided by OneCity, and its elected representatives, in providing a consistent progressive counterpoint to the ABC majorities on Vancouver City Council, School Board, and Park Board; and

BECAUSE the VDLC has enjoyed a positive relationship with OneCity, endorsing all its candidates since the party's formation; and

BECAUSE OneCity pulled well above its anticipated weight in the 2022 municipal election, spending more than any left-of-centre party (except for Mayor Stewart's slate) and over twice that of the next largest spender, while engaging a strong base of volunteers, re-electing its incumbents, and bringing most of its other candidates near the finish line; and

BECAUSE OneCity is a party with roots in the labour movement, which has actively sought to build a strong relationship with our labour council, listen to the concerns of workers, and to represent the interests of working people in the city; and

BECAUSE the Labour Council also acknowledges and deeply values its relationship with labour endorsed representatives from the Coalition of Progressive Electors and the Green Party of Vancouver and recognizes their good work during this term of office to-date,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL continue to support and work with labour endorsed elected representatives, and their parties, in the City of Vancouver; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL work to encourage progressive unity in Vancouver municipal politics; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL encourage its delegates and affiliates to support, join, and take an active part in OneCity.

23. GOOD AND WELFARE:

Shane Polak – PSAC Local 20045

I'd like to invite delegates and affiliates to the PSAC and Vancouver and District Area Council BBQ July 29 from noon to 3pm at Memorial Park South at 41st and Fraser.

Angelo Alcantara – CUPW Local 846

I'd like to ask about training opportunities for Harassment in the Workplace. Are there any upcoming classes. (Harassment classes have just taken place. There are upcoming classes in fall session that may be of help).

24. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:11 pm*

25. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19, 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.vdlic.ca