



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 20, 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**

**18.** We call upon the federal, provincial, territorial, and Aboriginal governments to acknowledge that the current state of Aboriginal health in Canada is a direct result of previous Canadian government policies, including residential schools, and to recognize and implement the health-care rights of Aboriginal people as identified in international law, constitutional law, and under the Treaties.

**24.** We call upon medical and nursing schools in Canada to require all students to take a course dealing with Aboriginal health issues, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, and Indigenous teachings and practices. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

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

**2. CHAIRPERSON:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Seema Ahluwalia

**3. NOTICE OF VDLC POLICY ON HARASSMENT:** Circulated prior to meeting

**4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**

*M/S/C that the agenda of the June 20, 2023 Regular meeting be adopted.*

**5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*M/S/C that the minutes of the May 16, 2023 Regular meeting be adopted.*

**6. REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:**

**CUPW Vancouver Local 846**

Angelo Alcantara

**HEU – GF Strong**

Yana Shelepova

**MoveUP**

Rhys Coulter

**7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**

- 8. GUEST SPEAKERS:** Andrew Misiak & Scott Bell of City of Vancouver Special Projects Office re: Jericho Lands Planning Program

*\*Presentation available upon request*

- 9. EDUCATIONAL:** NIL

**10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

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

Political Action

The first item I'll mention that happened today. We had a meeting with Ken Sim. Persistence paid off. As you're aware from previous reports we were having trouble getting a meeting with the mayor. We do have a tradition of having quarterly meetings with the Mayor of Vancouver with representatives of the municipal and school board locals, so they have the opportunity to raise issues, questions and concerns with the mayor. We obtained a commitment to continue with these quarterly meetings going forward.

Two provincial by-elections are occurring currently, with voting day on June 24. One of the byelections is here in our district, in Vancouver-Mount Pleasant. The riding was previously held by Melanie Mark of the NDP. Indigenous leader Joan Philip is the NDP's candidate. A labour canvass was organized with the BCFED on June 12<sup>th</sup>. It is important that the re-branded BC Liberals ("BC United Party") are strongly rebuked in this byelection and not allowed to gain momentum in advance of the general election next year. Members and delegates are encouraged to support Joan's campaign however they can.

We are continuing to work in coalition with NWDLC, SCLC, BCFED, accessibility groups, and seniors' groups, on the issue of HandyDart service. The "Access for Everyone?" report has been rolled out and was presented to the Mayor's Council early this month. Individual meetings with mayors are also taking place. We are seeking sign-ons from mayors, and organizations, prior to proceeding to take this to the provincial ministers. We will also be hosting a town hall together in late summer.

Regrettably, the steady stream of bad news continues when it comes to the City of Vancouver. One key item since the last meeting has been the revelation that the Vancouver School Board is proceeding without consultation with the public. This is obviously a terrible development with permanent negative consequences if allowed to occur. Our labour council has always opposed the privatization of public lands. The lack of consultation with the public, stakeholders, and Host Nations, is also alarming and unacceptable. We convened the VSB unions for a meeting last week and are working with our endorsed trustees and other allies to oppose this irresponsible move by ABC.

Labour Education

Since the last meeting we hosted a very successful Unions and the Indigenous Truth & Reconciliation Process class with Conni Kilfoil and Tammy Simmonds. This will be the last of these classes to be facilitated by this fantastic team, and we thank them for everything over the years. In the future, the class will be facilitated by Anjeannette Dawson, who is the Indigenous Education representative at BCGEU.

I facilitated a Steward Level 2 class, and we also concluded our Labour Economics Series with Jim Stanford, which generated rave reviews.

We hosted a sold-out class on Advanced Arbitration & Labour Board Advocacy, with Leo McGrady. This was a new class, and it was very popular and again generated great reviews. We will certainly want to offer it again in the future.

Finally, we hosted Bullying & Harassment, with Dayna Sykes taking over as facilitator from Conni Kilfoil. The class was another success, with a great job done by Dayna and a highly engaged group of participants making for a strong end to the Spring Program.

Our Fall Session program will be released in the coming weeks.

### Labour Day

All affiliates should have received a letter inviting them to this year's Labour Day, jointly hosted by VDLC and NWDLC in Edmonds Park, Burnaby, on September 4. Please be sure to book your booth! Community partners and endorsed elected representatives have also received invitations.

### Committees

Our Municipal Engagement & Housing Committee re-formed and met this month for the first time since before the municipal election. This committee offers a space for delegates and other affiliate members to come together and take action around municipal and housing issues. I'm looking forward to seeing the committee get to work!

In the Fall we will be launching a new Community & Social Action Committee. This committee will take on responsibility for May Day, Labour Day, Union Protein Project, Queen Alexandra Elementary School support, and other activities which are currently done on an ad hoc basis. The intent is that creating an ongoing space for this work will allow for the building of capacity over time, as opposed to forming and disbanding ad hoc committees annually.

### Job Action

I joined Teaching Support Staff Union members on the picket line at SFU on June 15<sup>th</sup>, as did Executive Board members Chloe Martin-Cabanne and Jason Woods. The one-day strike action is likely to be followed by escalating action, unless a deal is reached. The university has shamefully ended payment of medical benefits in response to the job action, after having failed to bargain in good faith with the union. Class sizes, wages, benefits, and contract duration are all issues.

I also joined MoveUP members on the picket line earlier this month at Capilano University. Their gradually escalating job actions have now built to a full-scale strike in response to the employers' refusal to come to the bargaining table and seriously consider the unions concerns around wages, equity, and work from home language.

Unite Here Local 40 members began strike action at the Sheraton Hotel in Richmond on June 14. The workers are fighting for living wages and family supporting jobs.

International Longshore & Warehouse Union obtained a 99% strike vote mandate from its membership recently and may be in the midst of job action in the near future.

I will be making further picket line visits next week. Please visit the websites and/or social media accounts of the various unions engaged in job action for more information on how you can support.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

May 16-17: Labour Education - Unions and the Indigenous Truth & Reconciliation Process

May 17: Meeting with Labour for Palestine

May 17: BC Employment Standards Coalition

May 18: Labour Economics Series

May 19: HandyDart campaign meeting

May 22: Victoria Day

May 24: BC NDP Vancouver-Mount Pleasant nomination meeting

May 25: BCFED Strike Coordinators call

May 27-28: Labour Education – Steward Level 2 (facilitated)

May 29: Meeting with endorsed elected representatives

May 29: Meeting with Janet Andrews, NWDLC

May 30: Housing Affordability Leadership Summit

May 30: CLC Labour Council touchbase

June 1: Visit to Capilano University picket line

June 1: Meeting with CLC Representative Amandeep Nijjer

June 1: Meeting with Denise Moffat, BCFED

June 2: SFU Labour Studies Advisory Committee

June 5: HandyDart campaign meeting

June 5: Political Action Committee

June 6-7: Labour Education: Advanced Arbitration & Labour Board Advocacy

June 6: BC Regional Energy and Resource Table interview

June 6: Sustainable Communities Initiative dinner

June 7: BCFED Political Action Committee

June 8: Collective Bargaining Rights Day

June 8: Meeting re: VSB lands

June 8: Council of Canadians pharmacare townhall

June 9: Meeting with Living Wage for Families re: Richmond

June 10: BCNDP Labour Canvass

June 12-13: Labour Education – Bullying & Harassment

June 13: Edmonds Park site visit re: Labour Day

June 13: Labour Day planning meeting

June 14: Union Protein Project AGM

June 14: Pacific Blue Cross AGM

June 14: Labour Education Program facilitator gift deliveries

June 15: Teaching Support Staff Union picket line

June 15: Executive Board

June 15: BCFED Climate Action Standing Committee

June 15: Municipal Engagement and Housing Committee

June 19: HandyDart campaign meeting

June 19: BCNDP-affiliated unions meeting

June 20: Day of Action for Political Prisoners in Iran

June 20: Meeting with Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim

June 20: Queen Alexandra Elementary Wishing Tree meeting

June 20: Regular meeting

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

**11. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

No financial report for this month's meeting.

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

**12. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:**

No CLC report for this month's meeting.

*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:            Spending Authorizations

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

- Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, annual organizational support renewal at a cost of \$100.

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

Subject:            Protections for Workers in App-based Jobs

BECAUSE last year the provincial government began the process of developing employment standards and other protections for app-based ride-hail and food-delivery workers, with public consultation in fall of 2022 and a report published this April; and

BECAUSE the current business model of platform firms relies on exploiting gaps in the current employment standards regulation and enforcement system, transfer costs and risks from business to workers and artificially reduce labour costs; and

BECAUSE without strong policies and enforcement to curb this worrying trend, the exploitation of workers employed by these app-based companies will continue, and the proliferation of these employment practices may expand and menace workers' rights and working conditions across the economy,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the open letter issued by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and the Centre for Future Work, which presents the following five core principles for regulating platform/app-based businesses and providing protection to workers:

- A clear test should be established to evaluate whether workers on a platform are genuinely independent businesses or contractors in their own right or are in effect employees (based on factors including the extent of platform control over the worker's assigned tasks, compensation, equipment, and service standards, and the diversity of the worker's customer base).
- Where this test confirms that platform workers are not genuinely independent businesses in their own right, full coverage by minimum wage, notice for

termination, WorkSafe, and other normal employment standards must be guaranteed and enforced.

- Any business entity that engages workers (including platforms) must accept full legal responsibility and liability for protecting the health and safety of workers engaged in its service.
- All provincial payroll-based programs (in particular, WorkSafe and the Employer Health Tax) must apply equally and fairly to platform businesses and their workers.
- The government should confirm that platform workers have full rights to organize unions (utilizing B.C.'s single-step certification procedure), negotiate collectively with their platforms, and take collective action (including strike action) in support of their demands.

; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER urge the adoption of regulations based in these principles, with strong enforcement mechanisms, by the provincial government.

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

Subject: Transit for Teens Campaign

BECAUSE the BCNDP provincial government implemented the Get on Board campaign, providing free public transit for children and youth up to the age of 12; and

BECAUSE this was a demand of the Single Mothers' Alliance (now Centre for Family Equity), through its All On Board campaign, which our labour council supported; and

BECAUSE the Centre for Family Equity is now calling for the expansion of this program to the age of 18, through their Transit for Teens campaign; and

BECAUSE youth aged 13-18 are in the crucial developmental stage of adolescence, and need basic mobility more than ever to ensure access to education, services and supports, family and friends,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the Centre for Family Equity's Transit for Teens campaign and support its efforts to bring free public transportation to all children and youth in British Columbia.

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

Subject: Parliamentary Petition e-4470 (Employment and labour)

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse MP Taylor Bachrach's parliamentary petition e-4470, which reads as follows:

Whereas: Flight attendants in Canada perform duties that are essential to the safety and comfort of air passengers; and whereas flight attendants are not paid for many of these duties including but not limited to boarding, pre-flight safety

checks, ground delays, or are paid only half their hourly rate for Transport Canada-mandated training;

and whereas, according to a survey conducted by the Canadian Union of Public Employees of over 9,000 flight attendants, flight attendants in Canada work unpaid for 35 hours per month, on average;

and whereas the Government of Canada, through the Canada Labour Code, currently provides flexibility to employers in Canada to define work and what is to be paid, including training, time at the worksite waiting to be assigned work, and time spent on break but remaining at the employer's disposal.

We, the undersigned, citizens and residents of Canada, call upon the Government of Canada to fix the relevant legislation and regulations so that any employee who is performing training required by their employer, or the federal government or regulator; who is required to be at the worksite waiting to be assigned work; or who is at the worksite remaining at their employer's disposal, is being paid at the employee's contractual rate of pay, and no less than federal minimum wage, so that an employee who is at work, in uniform, performing work duties is being paid for their time from the moment work duties begin.

**15. REPORT OF UNIONS:**

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

*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/C 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: Nil**

**20. NEW BUSINESS: Nil**

**21. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil**

**22. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

Jason Woods – ILWU Local 400

I just want to say Thank you to Seema for your very powerful words at the Battle of Ballantyne commemoration at New Brighton Park on Father's Day this past Sunday. My thanks to you and the many others that support this event every year.

**23. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:42pm*

**24. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY JULY 18, 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.vdvc.ca](http://www.vdvc.ca)

