



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 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**

**Commemoration**

**80.** We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Aboriginal peoples, to establish, as a statutory holiday, a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process.

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 September 19, 2023 Regular meeting be adopted.*
5. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**  
*M/S/C that the minutes of the July 18, 2023 Regular meeting be adopted.*
6. **ROLL CALL OF TABLE OFFICERS:** Stephen von Sychowski, Bal Sandhu, Shane Polak, Seema Ahluwalia  
Regrets: Stefan Nielsen
7. **REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:**

<b><u>BCGEU Local 103</u></b> Edmund Quan	<b><u>CUPW Local 846</u></b> Douglas Kellam
<b><u>HEU – Vancouver General Hospital</u></b> Mark Galvani	<b><u>Retail Wholesale Union Local 580</u></b> Ryan Groundwater
<b><u>TSSU – Teaching Support Staff Union</u></b> Zhiyun Peng	
8. **OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**

**9. GUEST SPEAKERS:** David Chudnovsky of the Institute for Public Education  
(*presentation available upon request*)

**10. EDUCATIONAL:** NIL

**11. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

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

Political Action

Meetings with mayors in Metro Vancouver are continuing this month regarding the HandyDart campaign we have been working on alongside a variety of other organizations such as the Save Our HandyDART coalition.

On September 20<sup>th</sup> the coalition is hosting the Save Our HandyDART! Virtual Townhall. The townhall will take place from 5pm-6:30pm via Zoom. To register, visit [www.bit.ly/hdtownhall](http://www.bit.ly/hdtownhall) The event will be hosted by the Founder of the Live Educate Transform Society, Heather McCain. It will feature a panel presentation, and an opportunity to hear the stories of those who are impacted by the current issues with contracted-out HandyDart service. CART caption and ASL interpretation will be available.

Work is also continuing to reach out to local MLA's, and the Ministry of Education, regarding the Vancouver School Board's moves to dispose of public lands, without appropriate consultation, through sales or long-term leases. We have a meeting coming up with Minister Rachna Singh to discuss the issue.

We also convened a meeting earlier this month to discuss next steps in pushing back on the shameful decision of the City of Vancouver to abandon its living wage policy. The meeting was well attended and had tremendous energy. We will be meeting again in October to plan further.

Labour Education

By the time of our regular meeting, the first two of our fifteen assorted classes and workshops in this fall's Labour Education Program will be complete. These will be Investigations & Interrogations, with Mary Thibodeau of Moore Edgar Lyster LLP, and the new advanced class on the same topic, facilitated by Sara Hanson.

Please continue to share our education program far and wide. It can be found at [www.vdvc.ca/education](http://www.vdvc.ca/education)

Just Transition Working Group

This summer the Just Transition Working Group held its wrap up event, as it has now successfully launched the Sustainable Workforce Coalition. Hosted by the Vancouver Economic Commission, the new coalition will be staffed by Andrew Williamson, who has experience both in just transition work and in labour. I will serve on the coalition's Steering Committee as a Co-Chair, alongside Andrea Reimer.

The coalition defines its goal of a just transition for Vancouver as follows: "A just transition is a worker-centred approach to minimize the impacts of environmental policies on workers in affected industries and to ensure that new opportunities in the "green economy" will

include those previously excluded from the high-carbon economy. The just transition will help move the Metro Vancouver region towards a more equitable future where everyone has social protection, all jobs are decent, emissions are low or at zero, and communities are thriving and resilient.”

### Labour Day

This Labour Day we were pleased to co-host a Metro Vancouver Labour Day Celebration with our friends and neighbours at New Westminster & District Labour Council. The day was a big success, with hundreds of people filling Edmonds Park to enjoy rousing speeches, live music, union and community booths, free food and refreshments, and exciting activities in the kid’s zone.

I’d like to thank everyone who made the day great; our event sponsors, volunteers, entertainers and suppliers, and everyone who hosted a booth.

Big thanks also to all of our guest speakers; Sam & Les George, Mayor Mike Hurley, Premier David Eby, BC Federation of Labour President Sussanne Skidmore, Member of Parliament Bonita Zarrillo, and Canadian Labour Congress Executive Vice President Siobhán Vipond, as well as NWDLC President Louella Vincent and VDLC President Stephen von Sychowski for emceeding.

And of course, a huge thank you to event organizer Kathryn Prinz, and to the labour council staff for all their hard work behind the scenes.

### Community & Social Action Committee

Later this week an email will be going out to invite participation in the first meeting of our newly re-constituted Community & Social Action Committee. Some initial action items could be a debrief of labour day, planning for the future of our relationship with Queen Alexandra Elementary School, and for some Union Protein Project community event either this fall and/or next spring. It will also be good to start thinking about May Day earlier this year and look at opportunities to organize for it alongside community allies.

### Strikes and Lockouts

Over the summer we saw several strikes start and end. Congratulations to all workers who fought for a fair deal. There are currently several ongoing disputes, including Unite Here Local 40 at Radisson Blu and Sheraton Vancouver, SEIU Local 2 at Granville Island Brewing, and of course the Writers Guild and SAG-AFRA strikes in the U.S., which are significantly impacting film and television workers here as well. Possible upcoming strike actions that we have been notified of include UFCW 1518 at Safeway, and GVRDEU at Metro Vancouver.

### Events Attended / Dates of Note

July 18 – Picket line visits (Sheraton Hotel, Granville Island Brewing)

July 19 – Picket line visit (SFU Surrey campus)

July 19 – Meeting with NWDLC Secretary-Treasurer

July 19 – Vancouver Economic Commission, Just Transition Working Group wrap up event

July 21 – HandyDart campaign meeting

July 23-August 4 – Vacation

August 7 – Statutory holiday

August 9 – HandyDart campaign meeting

August 15 – Meeting with Premier’s Office re: Labour Day  
August 16 – Vancouver Economic Commission, NWDLC, BCFED re: just transition education  
August 17 – Meeting re: On to Ottawa Trek history project  
August 17 – Labour Day planning meeting  
August 18 – Labour Appreciation Night planning meeting  
August 21-September 3 – Vacation  
August 23 – HandyDart campaign meeting  
August 26 – Electrical Joint Training Committee Summer Picnic  
August 30 – HandyDart campaign meeting  
August 31 – Labour Day planning meeting  
September 1 - Labour Day preparations  
September 4 – Metro Vancouver Labour Day Celebration  
September 6 – HandyDart campaign meeting  
September 6 – Meeting re: banking plans with Community Savings Credit Union  
September 7 – Living wage meeting  
September 7 – Sustainable Workforce Coalition Secretariat (Vancouver Economic Commission)  
September 8 – Community Solidarity Network meeting  
September 9 – BC NDP fundraiser  
September 11 – Downtown Eastside Joint Union Committee  
September 11 – Political Action Committee  
September 11 – Commemoration of 50 years since military coup in Chile  
September 12 – Labour Education: Investigations & Interrogations, with Mary Thibodeau  
September 13 – Labour Education: Advanced Investigations & Interrogations, with Sara Hanson  
September 14 – Living Wage for Families event  
September 14 – Executive Board  
September 15 – SFU Labour Studies Program strategy session – CANCELLED  
September 15 – Seize the Means launch event  
September 16 – Labour Education: Steward Level 1  
September 17 – Regular meeting

*M/S/C to adopt President’s report.*

## **12. TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on the financials since the July 2023 regular meeting.

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

## **13. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:**

Amandeep Nijjar, CLC Representative, presented the CLC report since the July 2023 regular meeting.

My apologies for not making it out today as I’m sick with Covid.

A couple of things to note, Harrison Winter School registration will be open the first week of October. The course calendar should be ready by the end of the month. Single accommodation for Harrison is \$2,200 per student. Harrison will be January 14 to February 16, 2024.

A couple of lobby dates to keep in mind: October 2 & 3 is an Indigenous lobby on the Hill. November 28 is also lobby day on the Hill. Issues to be lobbied are Pharmacare, Sustainable jobs, and Anti-Scab.

We will be having a field lobby sometime in October around those issues and of course it would be great if we can get volunteers to make it happen. We can also offer lobby training.

The campaign for Sustainable jobs will be launched next week by the CLC.

A big thank you for making Labour Day a success. It was a very well attended event and I believe folks appreciated the joint event with the New Westminster and District Labour Council.

We are seeing various marches and protests across the province. We are encouraging folks to stand up by writing to your MLA or to your elected official.

*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: Spending Authorizations

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

- Contribution in the amount of \$200 to the North Okanagan Labour Council for its RISE Memorial, a proposed commemorative garden space in downtown Kelowna in remembrance of the five young men (Cailen Vilness, Jared Zook, Brad Zawislak, Eric Stemmer, and Patrick Stemmer) who tragically lost their lives in a horrific crane collapse at Brooklyn Towers in Kelowna, BC on July 12, 2021.
- 1/8 page ad in souvenir program of International Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines conference, at a cost of \$100.
- Renewal of membership in the BC Health Coalition at a cost of \$75.

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

Subject: Corporate Taxes

BECAUSE corporate tax cuts harm workers, especially low- and middle-income workers, by reducing revenue to programs and services in favour of higher corporate profits; and

BECAUSE the trend towards lower corporate taxes is a feature of the neoliberal agenda, alongside deregulations and privatization; and

BECAUSE real wages have stagnated, while CEO salaries are today 243 times those of the average worker in Canada,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL oppose corporate tax cuts, and support progressive taxation policies at all levels, including increasing corporate taxes to appropriate levels.

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

Subject: Privatization

BECAUSE the Vancouver & District Labour Council has a proud history of opposing privatization, contracting out, and P3's as harmful to working people and the programs and services we all rely upon; and

BECAUSE public enterprises such as ICBC or BC Hydro here in British Columbia, and others across the globe, demonstrate the ability of public ownership to provide superior outcomes, improve universality of access, and generate revenue and benefits for people, rather than profits for private enterprise,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL reiterate its support for the expansion of public ownership and operation, and its opposition to privatization, including P3's and contracting out of public services; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER call upon the provincial government to repatriate contracted out services, as has been done in health care, wherever they are found.

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

Subject: Maximum Indoor Temperature Bylaw

BECAUSE extreme heat and hotter, dryer summers have become commonplace in recent years; and

BECAUSE these extreme temperatures have caused numerous medical emergencies, and several deaths, as was seen during the 2021 heat dome; and

BECAUSE there are presently no maximum temperatures established in regulation for rental dwellings; and

BECAUSE Vancouver City Councillor Christine Boyle (OneCity) brought forward a motion in 2022 for a staff report on options for implementing a maximum indoor temperature bylaw, and this motion was adopted by council,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the policy of establishing maximum indoor temperatures for rental dwellings and support it however practicable.

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

Subject: BC New Democratic Party Convention

BECAUSE our labour council, as part of the Canadian Labour Congress, is affiliated to the BC New Democratic Party and, as a result, is entitled to send one (1) delegate to its upcoming convention,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL designate President Stephen von Sychowski as its delegate to the November 17-19 BC New Democratic Party convention.

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

Subject: Labour's Participation with Municipal Political Parties in the City of Vancouver

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.

## **16. REPORT OF UNIONS:**

Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes at the meeting or by emailing [office@vdlc.ca](mailto:office@vdlc.ca)

### Chloe Martin-Cabanne – CUPE Local 2950

Busy Summer. Members servicing high workload issues contributing to low number of stewards. We held very successful BBQ's with 1/3 of membership attending at our Point Grey campus contributing to member's interest in stewarding and membership engagement. We're building a ladder of engagement by empowering members through BIPOC caucus to be able to point to relevant parts of their C/A. We also held a Social Justice Training workshop with labour lawyer Adrienne Smith which has helped to ID good stewards. Our network is being built. If anyone has tips or stories of success, please share. Grievance on flex time being used to mitigate overtime for precarious workers on night shifts. Meal breaks are interrupted and no meal penalties. Layoffs are being seen due to lack of funding for certain programs and competition is fierce for internal candidates requiring constant follow-ups to ensure members are supported in recall.

Eric Proulx – BCTF | VEAES

School Liaison officer program has returned despite ample evidence from Black, Indigenous, POC and +LGBTQ students that feel unsafe and are 21% of incarcerated students which only makes up 6% of the school population. The of public land sales in our district is once again being discussed. Big thanks to the VDLC for supporting VSB locals in getting a meeting with the Minister of Education. Also, a big thanks to the IUOE for their support of “Save Bruce Field” [www.savebrucefield.com](http://www.savebrucefield.com)

If anyone does want a good break down of public lands sales, they can google a Globe and Mail recent article under VSB land sales.

Jeannete McConnell – CUPW Local 846

Our collective agreement expires January 31, 2024. We have assigned our National Negotiating Committee. Canada Post has stated that they will be rolling out the horrible SSD – Single Sort and Delivery throughout the country. Vancouver Local has 1 station – North Fraser – that is SSD. It means local carrier’s become sorters, and some remain as letter carriers. Basically, a letter carrier comes in and grabs their mail, flyers and parcels and leaves to deliver. These result in very long routes. Average steps per day are 24,000 to 30,000. We will strike to resist this move. At Christmas time, North Fraser needs help to cover routes that haven’t been covered in a week or more. Transfer lists to this depot tend to remain open as no one wants to work at these depots. Casuals that start at these depots struggle when they go to non-SSD depots because they do not know how to sort and pull mail. Casuals that are sent to SSD hate it as the routes are long and suffer from emotional, mental and physical stress. We have been trying to organize our work floors through a program that began in Edmonton and with our former President Roland Schmidt and former National Internal Organizer, Dave Bleakney. We are trying to build worker power – trying to engage workers where they work. The corporation is sending our employee surveys and having pizza days. There has been a huge cut in dayshift positions throughout the country. Part-time positions have been relegated to the middle of the night from 2am to 7am in the morning. This attached families and flexibility for single-parent families.

*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](mailto:office@vdlc.ca)

Rachel Allan – Labour Partnership Representative, United Way of BC

United Way BC is kicking off the fall campaign season with a return of in person breakfast events and activations online happening across the province. Join us in celebrating United



Way BC day on September 26<sup>th</sup> 2023, show us your red, and help us celebrate our collective impact by being: #HereforBC. To find out more please check out: <https://uwbc.ca/united-way-bc-day/>

Registration is now open, and seating is limited for the first ever, BC Menstrual Equity Symposium: Building Inclusive Period Poverty Solutions. Join us, October 20-21st, for a two-day in person symposium on period poverty reduction strategies, with workshops, presentations, and panel discussions. Inviting all advocates and champions of menstrual equity to come together in all their diversity, to exchange knowledge and celebrate recent achievements. Event is happening at Douglas College, New Westminster Campus. The event is free and registration link is here: <https://uwbc.us21.list-manage.com/track/click?u=6cf51488b73d9f050ec881412&id=a02bc1e65b&e=3fbb63b886>

Save the Date for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Labour Appreciation event taking place November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Burnaby at the IUOE Local 115 Hall from 5:30pm till 9. Tickets go on sale Oct 2nd, more information to come.

For anyone wanting to learn more about or contribute to the Crane Workers Memorial Project that is being organized by the North Okanagan Labour Council please check out <https://uwbc.ca/campaign/crane-memorial/>. Kelly said it best: "This memorial stands to be the most prominent and iconic monuments to worker safety in the BC Interior and will be a contribution led first and foremost by organized labour and unions." Thank you to so many of our labour friends, labour councils, unions and locals that have made a donation already, feel free to share within your networks. Any questions/concerns, please feel free to reach out to Rachel Allan [rachela@uwbc.ca](mailto:rachela@uwbc.ca) or 604.268.1321

*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](mailto:office@vdlc.ca)

**22. NOTICE OF MOTION:** Nil

**23. GOOD AND WELFARE:** Nil

**24. MEETING ADJOURNED:** *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:59 pm*

**25. NEXT MEETING:** **TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 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)