



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2024**

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

No Calls to Action for the January Meeting.

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 January 16, 2024 Regular meeting be adopted.
5. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
M/S/C that the minutes of the November 21, 2023 Regular meeting be adopted.
6. **ROLL CALL OF TABLE OFFICERS:** Stephen von Sychowski, Bal Sandhu, Seema Ahluwalia, Stefan Nielsen, Shane Polak.
7. **REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:**

<u>BCGEU Local 1203</u> Andrew Tsang	<u>MoveUP</u> Jaime Scott
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8. **OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**
9. **GUEST SPEAKERS:** Christine Boyle, Vancouver City Councillor (OneCity)
10. **EDUCATIONAL:** NIL
11. **PRESIDENT’S REPORT:**
President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the November 2023 meeting.

Political Action

Of course, the biggest political story in our district since our last meeting was Mayor Sim’s announcement of his plans to abolish the Park Board. Mayor Sim and ABC did not campaign on the abolition of the Park Board. To the contrary, they ran a slate of candidates on the promise of “fixing” it.

A year later, they announced their intention to bring a motion to council asking the province to remove the requirement for an elected Park Board from the Vancouver Charter. Less than a week later, with no serious public consultation, the ABC majority passed that motion.

There's no doubt that among our members there are varying opinions as to what the future of the Park Board should be. However, the rushed and opaque process by which this took place was reminiscent of the way ABC decided to walk the city away from its commitment to a living wage, and to close the Vancouver Economic Commission. That approach to governance should be a concern no matter one's view of the Park Board itself.

Meanwhile, work around living wage will be ramping up again over the next couple of months. A town hall is being planned for February 26th at the Maritime Labour Centre, and Councillor Boyle's motion to council is anticipated for the 28th. A letter writing campaign will be launched, and the previously reported op-ed and petition are still available and being circulated.

The Save Our HandyDart campaign had a busy, but productive end to the year. Endorsements were secured from Burnaby City Council, and Port Coquitlam Mayor Brad West. Presentations were also made to the TransLink Board of Directors, and City of North Vancouver Mayor Linda Buchanan.

Black History Month

Junior Black Achievement Awards Society, VDLC, and NWDLC are co-hosting an event for Black History Month. It will take place on February 24th from 11:00 -12:30. The event will feature a youth panel highlighting Black Canadian labour leaders. There will be snacks and a cultural program as well. The event will be at the IUOE Local 115 hall; 4333 Ledger Ave., Burnaby.

Community & Social Action Committee

Stay tuned for an announcement of the date and time of our next Community & Social Action Committee meeting. At this meeting we will be focusing primarily on a recommendation for the venue for Labour Day this year and plans for May Day.

DTES Joint Union Committee

The Downtown Eastside Joint Union Committee met again prior to the holidays, this time with Nathan Allen, Director, Special Projects, Ministry of Housing. We are in the process of securing a further meeting with him and Assistant Deputy Minister Meghan Will, and with Minister Ravi Kahlon.

We received the final version of the BC Vision for Drug Policy, which we had a presentation on from the BC Drug Policy Coalition back in October. There is a motion to endorse under recommendations.

Labour Education

All of our remaining 2023 classes were successful. It was our biggest year yet, and 2024 looks to be another exciting one. Please share and circulate the courses to your members.

Sustainable Workforce Coalition

Sustainable Workforce Coalition, VDLC, and NWDLC co-sponsored two successful lunch & learn webinars – one on Retrofits and Just Transition, and one on Apprenticeships. They were recorded and are available on YouTube.

Labour for Palestine

In keeping with the motion adopted last Fall calling for a permanent ceasefire, humanitarian assistance, a respect for international law, we are working on an event with the new Labour for Palestine chapter in Vancouver. Details are to be determined, but if you are interested please reach out to be connected with those who are planning the event.

Labour Appreciation Night

This year's Labour Appreciation Night was a big success. The event, which was hosted at the IUOE hall in Burnaby, was sold out. It lacked some of the glitz of the previous events at the Hilton but, to my mind, all for the better. The event was a return to our roots in many ways, and was more accessible due to the lower ticket prices made possible by the change in venue and meal arrangements.

Of course, amazing, well-deserving, award recipients were recognized across the board, including Ron Stipp who received our Syd Thompson Community Service Award.

Labour Disputes

The following labour disputes are listed by the BC Federation of Labour. Please respect all picket lines and support striking and locked-out members.

Strike/lockout:

UNITE HERE! Local 40 vs. Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Marriott Vancouver Airport Hotel
Major Issues: Wages
Commenced: June 14, 2023

UNITE HERE Local 40 vs. Radisson Blu (formerly Pacific Gateway Hotel)
Major Issues: Recall Rights, Concessions
Commenced: May 3, 2021

Boycott:

Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Hilton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Marriott Vancouver Airport Hotel - UNITE HERE Local 40/BCFED

SAS Group (Scandinavian Airlines System) - CLC

Radisson Blu (formerly Pacific Gateway Hotel), Richmond, BC - UNITE HERE Local 40/BCFED

H&R Block, Canadian Tire, Rogers, Wendy's, Home Hardware, Sleep Country - ACTRA/CLC

Events Attended / Dates of Note

November 22: Labour Education – WCB: Do Your Benefits End at 65?

November 23: DTES Joint Union Committee

November 23: Sustainable Workforce Coalition lunch & learn – retrofits and just transition

November 23: Save Our HandyDart campaign meeting with CNV Mayor Buchanan
November 24-25: Labour Education – Domestic Violence in the Workplace
November 27-28: Labour Education – Steward Level 2 (facilitated)
November 28: BC Employment Standards Coalition meeting & AGM
November 28: Community & Social Action Committee
November 30: Labour Appreciation Night
November 30: Meeting with Councillor Boyle re: living wage
November 30: BCFED Climate Justice & Jobs Standing Committee
December 4: Sustainable Workforce Coalition Steering Committee
December 5: Labour Education – Employer Policies & Labour Law
December 5: Sustainable Communities Initiative dinner
December 6: Sustainable Workforce Coalition lunch & learn – apprenticeships and just transition
December 6: TransLink Board of Directors (HandyDart presentation)
December 7: VDLC Executive Board year-end lunch
December 7: Save Our HandyDart campaign meeting
December 7: BCFED/labour council check-in re: public transit issues
December 8: Electrical Joint Training Committee holiday party
December 12: Meeting with Anjeanette Dawson re: labour education
December 12: Meeting with OneCity reps
December 13: Vancouver City Hall motion re: Park Board
December 14: BC Building Trades open house
December 15: Union Protein Project open house
December 18-22: Holiday office closure
December 25: Christmas Day
December 26: Boxing Day
December 27-29: Vacation
January 1: New Years Day
January 2-5: Vacation
January 8: Save Our HandyDart meeting
January 9: VSB unions meeting
January 9: Living wage townhall planning meeting
January 9: Meeting with Park Board Commissioner Scott Jansen
January 11: Executive Board
January 11: Meeting with OneCity
January 12: Meeting re: speakers for Day of Mourning ceremony
January 14-19: CLC Winter School
January 16: Regular meeting

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

12. TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

I'll start off by reporting that the first week of winter school has kicked off officially on Sunday. We have over 200 students here. Winter school is going on until February 17. There are still some courses that have space. You are more than welcome to connect with our office to register for those. Yesterday, we had a panel that discussed equality in the workplace. It was a fantastic panel; we do have further panels coming in the weeks ahead.

Since we haven't had a report since November, we had lobby on the hill at the end of November in Ottawa. There were over 200 workers across Canada that came together to lobby with over 100 meetings. That meant more meetings, putting more pressure on the government to talk about anti-scab legislation, universal pharmacare and the sustainable jobs act. There was an announcement that the federal government has launched a union-led advisory table, which will be chaired by Bea Bruske, President of the CLC. It will include about 15 labour leaders from across Canada with expertise across the sectors. This table will advise the government on pressing issues facing workers and will provide recommendations on how best to support workers affected by economic change. The union led advisory table will complement the Sustainable Jobs Partnership Council, including the Sustainable Jobs Act and will not duplicate it. This is a big win for labour to have this advisory table.

There is a by-election happening in New Westminster for School Board Trustee. Jalen Bachra has been endorsed by the labour council. There are labour canvases that have been put together so if you're able to help out it would be appreciated.

Black History month is next month. I'll have more to report there including some of the congress's statements. We'll be doing some social media; highlighting stories of Black Canadian who have fought against racism and injustice. I'll post in the chat the fall economic statement that the congress put together. I know its from a few months ago but it's always worthwhile to read it.

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:

- Sponsorship of BCFED International Day of Persons with Disabilities event, at a cost of \$250 (Retroactive).
- Two additional tickets to United Way of BC Labour Appreciation Night, at a cost of \$80 (Retroactive).

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

Subject: BC Vision for Drug Policy

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the Canadian Drug Policy Coalition's BC Vision for Drug Policy report.

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

Subject: Vancouver Park Board

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL, while acknowledging and respecting varying perspectives regarding the Park Board itself, express its concern regarding the process taken in pursuing its abolition, including lack of transparency, advance notice, and consultation with stakeholders, Indigenous Nations, and the public; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL encourage working people in the City of Vancouver to make their views regarding the Park Board known to their elected representatives.

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

Subject: Affiliation of Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 5536

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL accept the application of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 5536, to affiliate its 800 members, who are employee in harm reduction, healthcare, and housing support in the City of Vancouver.

16. REPORT OF UNIONS: Nil

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.

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:

Amandeep Nijjar – CLC

Election of VDLC Trustee Positions of a 3-year term, 2-year term and 1-year term.

Nominations open for 3-year Trustee Position:

Chloe Martin-Cabanne nominates Debbie Mohabir, CUPE Local 15.

Henry Lee nominates the same.

Debbie Mohabir accepts nomination for 3-year term Trustee.

Nominations open for 2-year Trustee Position:

Henry Lee nominates Frank Warwick, CUPE Local 1004

Stephen von Sychowski nominates Eddy Pedreira, IATSE Local 938

Eddy Pedreira accepts nomination in writing for 2-year term Trustee.

Frank Warwick declines nomination; on the VDLC executive

Nominations open for 1-year Trustee Position:

Nominations closed. 1-year Trustee Position closed.

21. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

22. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

23. GOOD AND WELFARE: NIL

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

25. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2024** at 7:00 pm
Hybrid Meeting via Zoom and at the Maritime Labour Centre at
111 Victoria Drive, Vancouver
Please visit website for event listings and more – www.vdlc.ca