



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026**

VDLC acknowledges that our offices are located in the sacred and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, who have stewarded these territories since time immemorial. We acknowledge the collective and inherent rights of self-determination of Indigenous Peoples as the holders of underlying title of their territories. We seek to build respectful and productive relationships with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples and be a welcoming space for Indigenous workers of all nations who reside in their shared territories. The concerns and needs of Indigenous workers are important to center in our policies, practices, and collective agreements.

1. **LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre – 7:00PM | In Person Social
2. **CHAIRPERSON:** Treasurer – Jordan Both
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 20, 2026 Regular meeting be adopted.
5. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
M/S/C that the minutes of the November 18, 2025 Regular meeting be adopted.
6. **ROLL CALL OF TABLE OFFICERS:** Stephen von Schowski, Jordan Both,
Shane Polak
Absent: Chloe Martin-Cabanne, Seema Ahluwalia
7. **REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:**

<u>BCTF – Burnaby Teachers Local 41</u> Elysha Fong Julie Yiwei Liu Jady Robertshaw Jeannine Spurgeon	<u>CUPW Local 846</u> Nick Gibbons Amy Hill
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8. **OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**
10. **GUEST SPEAKERS:** NIL
11. **EDUCATIONAL:** NIL

12. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the November 2025 meeting.

Political Action

Vancouver City Council passed its budget in December, despite widespread opposition. The budget is expected to lead to massive cuts impacting both union and non-union staff, and services and programs provided by the city. The first round came just before Christmas, when a large group of exempt staff were suddenly terminated, and escorted out of City Hall.

Our Labour Council joined with CUPE to oppose the budget, running a petition campaign and delivering the petition to City Council on the day of the vote. While opposition councillors were receptive to our message, ABC had their minds made up. We will continue to work with city locals to oppose austerity and protect good public programs and services and the jobs the workers who provide them.

OneCity is in the midst of a nomination contest between two excellent potential mayoral candidates; Amanda Burrows, and William Azaroff. I have met with both and am looking forward to seeing what the outcome will be. OneCity members will vote electronically, and the results will be announced at the February 11th AGM. Nominations for City Council, School Board, and Park Board will take place in the Spring. If you have not yet become a OneCity member, there's no time like the present.

The Federal NDP leadership race is also heating up, with the results being announced at the convention in March. We have a recommendation to endorse Rob Ashton coming forward at this month's meeting. The stakes are high in this leadership contest, with the NDP at a pivotal moment of rebuilding. If the party is unable to reconnect with the working class and win back not just voters who strayed to the Liberals last election, but to the Conservatives over recent years, it faces the danger of becoming a protest vote party without viable hopes of winning government, or even opposition status.

Rob is a leader who will take on the tough fights for working people, and not back down. He can connect with union members and unorganized workers alike in a way that resonates and unites rather than divides. That's why I am recommending we endorse Rob and encourage labour at-large to get behind him in this election.

Save Our HandyDART

Last month, the Translink Board of Directors voted to continue the contracting-out of HandyDART. The decision was not necessarily a shock, but it still came as a hard blow to all of us who worked very hard on this campaign, and especially HandyDART workers and riders.

The Save Our HandyDART campaign brought together a broad coalition of HandyDart workers and riders, labour organizations, seniors' groups, disability rights advocates, and transit activists. We won the support of mayors and city councils representing over 73% of the residents in Metro Vancouver. We secured an election campaign promise from the BC NDP, and the unanimous adoption of a resolution at convention. We also generated countless letters to the TransLink Board from supporters, media stories, events, and held numerous meetings with decision makers at all levels.

However, none of this could overcome the unaccountable, opaque, anti-democratic governance model in place at TransLink. While three Board members (Brad West, Andrea Reimer, Stephen Howard) did vote against contracting out, and made valiant efforts to sway their colleagues, the Board ultimately rubber-stamped managements proposal. This was despite hearing several hours of speakers who predominately opposed contracting out.

The current governance model at TransLink is a leftover of the BC Liberal era. However, the BC NDP has not taken action to replace this model, despite having opposed it when it was implemented, and promising to change it in election campaigns. If the TransLink Board represented the will of our elected representatives, a different outcome would have been probable.

It also cannot be forgotten that the BC NDP both broke their election promise to end contracting out of HandyDART and ignored the unanimous convention resolution calling on them to keep the promise. While apologists will claim there is nothing they could do because TransLink is “independent”, the fact is that TransLink is set out by provincial legislation. This was a question of whether the government was prepared to get its hands dirty to do the right thing, or to sit back and go with the flow. They took the easy route, sold out HandyDART workers and riders, and should be held to account. While we are affiliated to the NDP, we cannot simply ignore those times when they fail us. This was, irrefutably, one of those.

Transit unions across the province met early this month and are discussing a possible joint summit/action. Identified shared concerns include contracting out, procurement, and governance. More information will be forthcoming as this develops.

Labour Appreciation Night

More than 250 people attended the 2025 Labour Appreciation Night. Award recipients were: Jeannie Kilby, recipient of the 2025 Joe Morris Community Service Award, presented by United Way British Columbia.

Wendy Cook, recipient of the 2025 Labour Community Service Award presented by The New Westminster & District Labour Council.

Sarah O’Leary, recipient of the 2025 Syd Thompson Community Services Award, presented by the Vancouver & District Labour Council.

Graeme Hutchison, recipient of the 2025 Brian Harder Labour Leadership Award, presented by the Fraser Valley Labour Council.

Thanks to all who attended and made it a great event.

Retirees Event

On November 27, labour retirees hosted a full room of retired and current labour leaders, with guest speakers including CLC President Bea Bruske and Interim NDP leader Don Davies. The meeting generated lots of interesting discussion and ideas about how to rebuild the NDP as the party of labour.

Labour Education

By the time of this meeting the Labour Education Program will be live and open for registration. There was some delay in this due to unexpected staffing shortages immediately prior to the holidays. Please share the program with your members and contacts and let’s make sure we have yet another very successful year.

Current Disputes (list reproduced from BCFED)

Notice Issued

UNITE HERE Local 40 vs. Compass at SFU

Issues: Wages, parking, living wage

Notice Issued: September 26, 2025

Strikes and Lockouts

Please respect the unions' picket lines in the following disputes, and do not patronize these businesses until the dispute is settled.

CUPW vs Canada Post

Issues: Wages, benefits, health and safety

Commencement: September 25, 2025

Agreement in principle, right to strike retained

PEA vs BC Government

Issues: Wages

Commencement: September 2, 2025

Pickets down, return to negotiation

IUOE 115 vs Diamond Truck Center (Harbour International)

Issues: Concessions

Commencement: March 20, 2025

IBB D-277 vs. Heidelberg Materials

Issues: Contracting out, health benefits

Commencement: January 13, 2025

Settled

BCGEU vs BC Government

CUPE 1699 vs Regional District of Fraser Fort George

CUPE 2269 vs District of Squamish

CUPE vs Air Canada: In Arbitration

SEIU Local 2 vs Alberni Golf Club (Port Alberni)

UNITEHERE Local 40 vs Coast Hotels

USW 1944 vs Rogers Communications (Abbotsford)

VMA Local 145 vs Vancouver Symphony Society

Events Attended / Dates of Note

November 19 – United Way BC Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee

November 19 – Invest Vancouver Planning Workshop

November 19 – Invest Vancouver Management Board meeting

November 20 – United Way BC Labour Appreciation Night

November 21 – Teaching Support Staff Union victory celebration

November 24 – Meeting re: opposition to Vancouver budget

November 24 – Richmond City Council meeting (HandyDART motion)

November 25 – Labour Education, Advanced Arbitration & Labour Board Advocacy w/ Leo McGrady & Susanna Quail

November 25 – Petition delivery to Vancouver City Council re: budget
November 26 – Labour Education, Mock Arbitration w/ Leo McGrady & Susanna Quail
November 26 – Sustainable Workforce Coalition meeting with new program manager
November 26 – Meeting with TransLink CEO Kevin Quinn
November 27 – Retirees meeting re: labour and the NDP
November 29 – Electrical Joint Training Committee holiday event
December 1 – Amanda Burrows campaign launch
December 1 – Green Jobs BC meeting
December 1 – BC NDP Constituency Association meeting
December 3 – TransLink Board of Directors meeting
December 3 – Quarterly meeting with labour-friendly Vancouver City Councillors
December 3 – Meeting with COPE Co-chairs
December 6 – MoveUP holiday event
December 6 – Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
December 9 – Meeting with BCFED Secretary-Treasurer
December 9 – CLC Municipal Working Group
December 9 – Anti-Racism Committee
December 10 – Meeting with Point Blank Creative re: municipal election
December 11 – Meeting with William Azaroff
December 11 – Executive Board year-end lunch
December 15 – SFU Labour Studies Advisory Committee meeting & year-end lunch
December 15 – Meeting with NWDLC Secretary-Treasurer
December 15 – BC NDP Constituency Association
December 16 – Meeting with Women & Gender Rights Committee re: 2026 conference
December 18-24 – Annual office closure
December 20 – CUPW rally
December 20 – BCFED holiday event
December 25 – Statutory Holiday
December 26 – Statutory Holiday
December 29-January 2 – Vacation
January 1 – Statutory Holiday
January 6 – Political Action Committee
January 6 – Transit unions’ meeting
January 7 – Bentall Centre memorial
January 7 – Sustainable Workforce Coalition, Training & Education Subcommittee
January 8 – Meeting with Tyler Petersen
January 8 – Meeting with Point Blank Creative & NWDLC
January 9 – Unpacking FIFA 2026
January 12 – BC NDP Constituency Association
January 13 – CLC Municipal Working Group
January 14 – Coordinated Community Response Network
January 14 – Sustainable Workforce Coalition steering committee
January 15 – Executive Board
January 18-23 – CLC Winter School, facilitating
January 20 – CUPE delegates caucus
January 20 – Regular meeting

M/S/C to adopt the President’s report.

13. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Jordan Both will report on the financials for November and December 2025.

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

14. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

Amandeep Nijjar will present the CLC report since the November 2025 meeting.

I'll keep my report brief as I'm also in Harrison. We're in week 2 of Harrison Winter School and we have over 260 in attendance, last week was about 240. Next week is our law week and then we have weeks 4 and 5. What I would like to highlight is Jason mentioned he is the choir winner from week 1 and he can show you the video if you'd like to see it. For those that are interested, week 5 is our political action week and we have candidate training that week and space is still available. As well as municipal training and campaign manager course that week. We'll have well over 1200 students during the 5 weeks of winter school.

We do have the CLC convention coming up in Winnipeg, so I suggest that you book your hotel early if you're interested in going. The Federal NDP Convention is also happening in Winnipeg at the end of March. There is a leadership race currently happening and you'd be surprised when you talk with folks that they don't understand what the leadership race means. When we're chatting with them, we let them know that we're looking for the next leader of the NDP. To become a member of the federal party and to vote you need to become a member before January 28, 2026.

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

15. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated prior to the meeting.

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

16. 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:

- Support for volunteer photography with the International PRIDE Centre, Joshua Berson, Kenya, January 2026, at a cost of \$250.
- Support for BC Health Coalition Anti-privatization campaign, at a cost of \$250.
- Women Transforming Cities, contribution to Our City Hall campaign, at a cost of \$250.
- Four tickets to the CoDevelopment Canada's 7th International Solidarity Conference taking place in Vancouver on February 28th, at a total cost of \$200.
- Support to Students for Consent Culture Canada for the Open Secrets Project, a research project on sexual violence at post-secondary institutions at a cost of \$200.

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

Subject: Endorse Rob Ashton for NDP Leader

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse Rob Ashton as the next leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER call upon the Canadian Labour Congress to do the same.

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

Subject: Federal NDP Convention

BECAUSE the New Democratic Party of Canada will hold it's Convention from March 26-29 in Winnipeg; and

BECAUSE the VDLC is entitled to two delegates to convention; and

BECAUSE this convention will be a critical one in determining the direction of the federal NDP at this pivotal moment of rebuilding,

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL appoint President Stephen von Sychowski (automatic per Constitution & Bylaws), and Vice President Chloe Martin-Cabanne as delegates to the 2026 New Democratic Party of Canada convention.

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

Subject: Affiliation of IAFF Local 1286

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the application of International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 1286, to affiliate 256 members employed in the City of Richmond.

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

Subject: Affiliation of CUPE Local 2010

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the application of Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 2010, to affiliate 60 members employed in municipal wastewater treatment, water management, garage, and recreation maintenance in Whistler and Pemberton.

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

Subject: Affiliation of CUPE Local 3338

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the application of Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 3338, to affiliate 100 members employed at Simon Fraser University campuses.

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

Subject: Canadian Labour Congress Convention

BECAUSE the Canadian Labour Congress will hold its convention on May 11-15 in Winnipeg; and

BECAUSE the VDLC is entitled to two delegates to convention,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL will appoint President Stephen von Sychowski (automatic per Constitution & Bylaws), and 1st Vice President Chloe Martin-Cabanne as delegates to the 2026 convention of the Canadian Labour Congress.

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

Subject: Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA) – Philippines

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL sign on to the International Campaign for Human Rights in the Philippines open letter regarding the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA), which calls upon the Government of Canada to:

1. Disclose the full text of the SOVFA and ensure it is tabled and debated in Parliament before ratification.
2. Conduct a transparent, public review of the agreement's human rights, corruption, and governance implications.
3. Suspend or reject the SOVFA as it cannot guarantee accountability, civilian oversight, and compliance with Canada's human rights obligations.
4. Reaffirm Canada's independent commitment to peace, human rights, and democracy by engaging with peoples and civil society organizations in the Philippines, not through military pacts.

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

Subject: Day of Mourning

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL host a ceremony for the Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER make this ceremony a worker-centered and fully labour-funded event, without employer or Workers Compensation Board representation in its program.

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

Subject: Translink and HandyDART

BECAUSE the Save Our HandyDART campaign united HandyDART riders and workers with organizations representing people living with disabilities, seniors, labour, and public transit advocates, to call for the insourcing of HandyDART service in Metro Vancouver; and

BECAUSE the campaign won the support of mayors and city councils representing 73% of the residents of Metro Vancouver; and

BECAUSE the campaign also won an election promise from the BC NDP to end contracting-out of HandyDART, as well as a unanimous resolution to keep that promise at the 2025 BC NDP Convention; and

BECAUSE on December 3rd, 2025, the majority of the TransLink Board nonetheless voted to support the recommendation of TransLink management to continue contracting-out HandyDART with a so-called "enhanced service" model (Mayor Brad West, Andrea Reimer, Stephen Howard dissented),

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL continue to oppose the contracting-out of HandyDART to private, for-profit companies; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER stand in solidarity with Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 1724, as they continue to fight for the interests of HandyDART workers; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER express state clearly that it is unacceptable that the BC NDP government has broken its election promise, ignored a unanimous convention resolution, and violated its own stated values by failing to act to end contract-out of HandyDART; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY demand that the BC NDP government keep their promise to work with Metro Vancouver municipalities to develop a new governance model for TransLink, that they do so as promptly as possible, and that this new governance model must place power in the hands of our elected representatives.

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

Subject: Venezuela

BECAUSE on January 3, the United States launched unprovoked military strikes against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which killed dozens, and culminated with the kidnapping of President Nicolas Maduro, and First Lady Cilia Flores; and

BECAUSE these attacks followed the illegal bombing of civilian watercraft over the course of recent months, and the theft of a Venezuelan oil tanker in December; and

BECAUSE these attacks were illegal in both international law, and United States law, and have been condemned by countries all over the world; and

BECAUSE Prime Minister Mark Carney, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Anita Anand shared statements which shamefully perpetuated misinformation being used to justify these criminal actions, and failed to condemn the bombings and kidnappings; and

BECAUSE the government of Venezuela remains in place, under the leadership of Vice President Delcy Rodriguez, and Venezuelans have rallied against foreign aggression, while U.S. President Trump has threatened to blockade the country, or to invade, if the government does not acquiesce,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the statement of The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) (<https://www.ituc-csi.org/ituc-tuca-venezuela>); and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER demand the Government of Canada do everything within its power to:

- condemn attacks perpetrated against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,
- ensure respect for international law,
- press for the safe return of President Maduro and First Lady Flores,
- end its sanctions against Venezuela, and its support for U.S. aggression,
- promote dialogue and diplomacy instead of economic interference, threats, and violence,
- acknowledge the rights of Venezuela, and of all nations, to self-determination and national sovereignty; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL work with local allies to promote the causes of peace and international solidarity.

17. REPORT OF UNIONS:

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

Carla Gibbons – Health Sciences Association

Currently there are HSA members bargaining in 4 public sector bargaining associations. HSA is the lead the Health sciences professionals bargaining association (HSPBA).

CSS (Community Social Services)- Progress on non-monetary issues including bullying and harassment language; monetary proposals tabled. Bargaining resumed in January.

NBA (Nurses Bargaining Association)- Bargaining began October 21. Labour Arbitrator Vince Ready issued an order on December 16 directing the NBA and health employers to set a new date to select and implement a benefits plan model. The deadline is January 30, 2026.

CBA (Community Bargaining Association)-Negotiations with the employer reached impasse on October 3 due to a failure to address the most acute bargaining priorities, such as permanently fixing wages, expanding overtime by seniority, retroactively removing the Investment Return Guarantee Adjustment, and much more. 92.33% of members voted YES to authorize strike action if necessary. They are currently at the table with more dates into February.

HSPBA- Is the collective agreement for over 16000 health science professionals across the entire province.

The employer continues to refuse to offer health science professionals the full monetary package being provided to other public sector workers in BC. In Dec HSPBA voted 90% in favour of job action.

In January they returned to the bargaining table, but negotiations were suspended on Jan 19. Job action committees are currently being created across the province.

Delegates to the VDLC can support HSA members by showing up to picket lines if job action occurs. There is letter writing campaign that should be unveiled soon.

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

18. 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.

19. REPORTS OF LABOUR COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES:

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

United Way British Columbia – Lori Mayhew

M/S/C to adopt reports of labour council appointed representatives.

20. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

21. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

Position of Trustee for a 3 year term. Election opened by Amandeep Nijjar/CLC

- Floor opened for nominations for position of Trustee (1st call): Eddy Pedreira
- Second and Third call: No Nominations.

Eddy Pedreira accepted their nomination for the position of Trustee.

22. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

23. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

24. GOOD AND WELFARE: NIL

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

26. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2026](#) at 7:00 pm
1880 Triumph St.
Hybrid Meeting



Please visit website for event listings and more – www.vdlc.ca