



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 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 February 17, 2026 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
M/S/C that the minutes of the January 20, 2026 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 6. ROLL CALL OF TABLE OFFICERS:** Stephen von Schowski, Jordan Both,
Chloe Martin-Cabanne
Absent: Seema Ahluwalia, Shane Polak
- 7. REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:**

BCTF – Burnaby Teachers Local 41

Vanessa Broadworth (Alt)

Heat & Frost Insulators Union Local 118

Lee Loftus

CUPE Local 873

Ted Harrison

IAFF Local 1286

Jim Dickson

CUPE Local 2010

Pete Rozsa

MoveUP

Abbey Piazza

CUPE Local 2269

Celeste Bickford

PEA-HESU

Jordan Both

CUPE Local 3338

Shaneza Bacchus
Bridget Barker

Unite HERE Local 40

Preet Sangha

CUPW Local 846

Lisa Quattrocchi

8. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES

10. GUEST SPEAKERS: 1. Canada Phillippine Solidarity for Human Rights re: People's Gala Event February 22nd.

11. EDUCATIONAL: NIL

12. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the January 2026 meeting.

Political Action

Our endorsement of Rob Ashton landed well and was greatly appreciated by Rob and his campaign. Several unions and labour councils have also endorsed Rob. Notably, this includes New Westminster & District Labour Council, thereby providing Rob with the endorsement of the entire region's labour movement. The BC Federation of Labour also endorsed, as did CLC President Bea Bruske. Several of our affiliates have done so also, such as CUPE BC, USW, MoveUP, ILWU, and SEIU Local 2 to name a few. The deadline for new memberships has now passed. Voting will commence in the coming weeks, and the result will be announced at the NDP Convention in March.

Meanwhile, on January 21st ABC once again voted down a motion to recertify as a living wage employer this year. Cancelling living wages for city workers was a high priority for ABC, who voted to end the living wage in the first year of their term. Since that time, they have been urged by labour, community groups, and opposition parties and councillors, but they have not budged. A pledge to reinstate the living wage is an absolute necessity for any candidate we consider endorsing this year.

OneCity held their AGM on February 11th at The Cultch The venue was packed to standing room only, with nearly 300 people in attendance. The event has a strong feeling of excitement, unity, and readiness. It was also very professionally put together (thanks in large part to the IATSE staff crew on the event). There was significant media present. A delegation from COPE also attended, including Councillor Orr. Reports from party officers detailed the strong membership growth, fundraising, and organisational capacity the party has built. OneCity is the only party in Vancouver which has a competitive, democratic primary for the mayoral candidacy. At the AGM it was announced that William Azaroff was chosen by the membership to represent OneCity as a candidate for mayor. Nearly 90% of eligible party members voted, and the results were relatively close. Amanda Burrows delivered a message of unity and moved that the AGM make the results unanimous. Candidates for the other positions will be selected through a similar competitive, democratic process during the coming months.

Our endorsement process is in its early stages. We are receiving completed candidate surveys from incumbents and will begin to review these shortly. We may opt to make some endorsements earlier; however, the endorsements will conclude no later than our June meeting.

I have been working with NWDLC and Point Blank Creative on an exciting plan to level of this year's municipal campaign. As usual, the campaign will focus predominately on getting out the union vote for our endorsed candidates. Point Blank has managed very successful campaigns in the past, including recently for both the Edmonton & Calgary DLC's. Our goal is to reach more members, shift more votes, and have more visibility than ever. The campaign will cover both VDLC and NWDLC jurisdictions, with focuses on key areas. It will feature a recognizable, branded, message-tested campaign content across the region, call/text and even door-to-door canvassing, email and social media strategies, and more. There are options for additional ad-ons for affiliates who want to go further. And, of course, as we reach campaign time, we'll be looking for lots of enthusiastic volunteers!

International Women's Day

Our Women & Gender Rights Committee is working hard on this year's IWD dinner at Fraserview Hall. Ticket sales are going well, but please do promote the event to your members and your networks and encourage your union to buy a table. We want to ensure all seats are filled to celebrate the day and hear from an amazing panel of organisers.

Day of Mourning

We need to finalize plans and begin organising for this year's Day of Mourning. I have done some research and found the following information; - BCFED is hosting an event in Victoria, not doing one in Metro Vancouver this year - NWDLC is co-hosting an event with the City of New Westminster, which is their normal practice - ILWU Canada has their convention, first day falling on the Day of Mourning. They will host a small event as part of convention for their own members.

Based on all of this, it seems likely that our event will be relatively small. I recommend we choose a site other than Jack Poole Plaza, which is vast and open. The Executive Board discussed possibilities such as Victory Square, or New Brighton Park (where ILWU hosts the Ballantyne memorial). New Brighton was the more popular option. We will work on organising this event and will begin to promote it soon. Volunteers for the day-of would be appreciated.

Save Our HandyDART

I submitted our feedback to the review being undertaken by the Ministry of Transportation. The review has been somewhat odd, as it has not been publicly announced and the survey was sent to a group of organisations which did not even include the other Labour Council in Metro Vancouver (NWDLC) or one of the transit unions (MoveUP). We were able to get an email address set up for feedback from additional groups.

We are hoping the ministry will listen to local mayors, transit advocates, and labour, and finally reform TransLink's governance model. The new model must put power in the hands of elected representatives, not unaccountable appointees. Any additional positions appointed by the province must include representation from labour and from rider groups.

We have also urge that action be taken quickly on this, as damage has already been done as a result of the current model being left in place throughout these many years of NDP government.

International Workers' Day (May Day)

The Community & Social Action Committee is planning this year's May Day event. We will host the event this year at the Russian Hall on Campbell Ave. in Vancouver. The event will once again feature speeches, live music, booths, and food. There may also be a rally portion prior to the event at the hall.

A letter has been sent to affiliates requesting donations to the event and offering booth space to those who would like it. Please help by following up with your union to ensure they respond accordingly.

Union Protein Project/Queen Alexandra Elementary Community Event

Planning is underway for this year's community event, hosted jointly with Union Protein Project at Queen Alexandra Elementary School. The event will be on May 15th from 2pm 4pm. Volunteers are needed throughout the event, as well as set up and take down.

The plan this year is to replicate the usual format of BBQ, booths, games and activities. This is an event that the students and broader school community look forward to each year. It's also a great opportunity to promote the good work of the labour movement.

Alex will work with me, the school, and UPP on the arrangements.

Pending spending authorization, we will also purchase a pallet of tuna from UPP. Some will go directly into the food bank, while some will be placed in the Wishing Tree free store at the school.

Winter School

I attended weeks two and four of the CLC Pacific Region Winter School in Harrison Hotsprings this year.

On week two I had the pleasure of co-facilitating Parliamentary Procedure & Public Speaking with Ryan Stewart from BCGEU.

On week four, 1st VP Chloe Martin-Cabanne and I attended the Labour Council Officers' week, where Labour Council leaders from across the region met for a week of learning and planning. This week was a valuable opportunity to share our experiences with other Labour Councils, and to learn from them. We made connections with potential new delegates, promoted our Labour Education Program and International Women's Day Dinner, worked on affiliate recruitment, and planned for this year's elections.

It is my recommendation that we continue to send 2-3 participants to this week on a go forward basis, so long as financial resources allow. One is covered by a scholarship from the CLC. Last year this session was attended by myself and our Treasurer, Jordan Both.

Labour Education

Our Labour Education for the first half of 2026 is live and open for registration at vdlc.ca/education

We have the following classes on offer:

Defamation Law for Unions – Wednesday February 25

WCB Level 1 – Tuesday March 3

Navigating Repetitive Strain Injuries (ASTDs) in the WCB Appeal System – Wednesday March 4

Discipline & Discharge – Monday March 9

Advanced WCB: Appeals – Tuesday March 31

Private Prosecutions – Tuesday April 7

Collective Bargaining – Wednesday & Thursday April 8 & 9

History, Teachings and How to Work Towards Reconciliation Through an Indigenous Lens – Monday & Tuesday April 13 & 14

Job Steward Level 1 – Wednesday April 15

Parliamentary Procedure and Effective Meetings – Tuesday April 21

Intro to Arbitration & Labour Board Advocacy – Tuesday & Wednesday May 5 & 6

Canada Labour Code: Part 1 – Thursday May 7

Freedom of Information Requests – Wednesday May 20

Political Economy for Union Activists – Friday May 22

Take Control of Your Benefits – Health & Welfare Benefits Bargaining – Wednesday May 27

Canada Labour Code: Part II – Monday June 8

Drug & Alcohol Policies and Testing – Wednesday June 10

Please help us have a successful winter and spring by registering and sharing the program with your members and networks.

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.

BCGEU vs Lactanet

Issues: Wages, benefits, health and safety

Commencement: November 25, 2025

CUPW vs Canada Post

Issues: Wages, benefits, health and safety

Commencement: September 25, 2025

Tentative agreement in place. In the process of ratifying.

La-kwa sa muqw Forestry LP (LKSM) vs United Steelworkers Local 1-1937

Commencement: June 6, 2025

Tentative agreement in place

IUOE 115 vs Diamond Truck Center (Harbour International)

Issues: Concessions

Commencement: March 20, 2025

PEA vs BC Government
Issues: Wages
Commencement: September 2, 2025
Pickets down, return to negotiation

Settled

SEIU Local 2 vs. Alberni Golf Club

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

UNITEHERE Local 40 vs Coast Hotels

USW 1944 vs Rogers Communications (Abbotsford)

VMA Local 145 vs Vancouver Symphony Society

Events Attended / Dates of Note

January 21 – Vancouver City Council, living wage motion
January 21-23 – Facilitating at CLC Winter School
January 22 – Meeting with BCGEU Political Action Committee
January 24 – Riding Association AGM
January 28 – Day of Mourning & UPP BBQ Planning Meeting
January 28 – Community & Social Action Committee, May Day planning
January 28 – Meeting with NWDLC & Point Blank Creative re: municipal election
January 29 – Greater Vancouver Board of Trade, Economic Outlook Forum 2026
January 29 – VSB Caucus
January 29 – CLC Labour Council VP’s Meeting with Tim Deelstra
January 30 – Constituency Association planning session
January 31 – BC Federation of Students panel
February 1-6 – Labour Council Officers week at Winter School
February 3 – NDP Affiliated Unions’ Meeting
February 3 – OneCity Mayoral Candidate Debate
February 9 – Constituency Association meeting
February 10 – Political Action Committee
February 10 – Planning meeting for Queen Alexandra Elementary School/Union Protein Project community event
February 10 – Assembly of First Nations re: DRIPA
February 10 – CLC Municipal Working Group
February 10 – Anti-Racism Committee
February 11 – OneCity AGM
February 12 – Executive Board
February 16 – Statutory Holiday

February 17 – United Way BC Labour Campaign Committee
February 17 – VSB Unions Caucus
February 17 – Regular meeting

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

13. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Jordan Both will report on the financials for January 2026.

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

14. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

Amandeep Nijjar will present the CLC report since the January 2026 meeting.

Recording available upon request.

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:

- Contribution toward joint-Labour Council promotional campaign at CLC Convention (buttons, banner), at a cost of \$500.
- Purchase of one pallet of Union Protein Project canned tuna, to be donated in part to Greater Vancouver Food Bank and in part to the Queen Alexandra Elementary School Wishing Tree Free Store, at a cost of \$900 (\$1,500 in donations toward the costs already received).
- Contribution toward Canadian Drug Policy Coalition delegation to United Nations, Geneva, at a cost of \$500.

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

Subject: Affiliation of HEU ST James Local

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL accept the application of Hospital Employees' Union, St. James Local, to affiliate 150 members employed in supportive housing, mental health & addictions services in the Downtown Eastside.

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

Subject: Affiliation of IATSE Local 891

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL accept the application of International Alliance of Theatrical & Stage Employees Local 891 to affiliate 500 professional artists & technicians employed in the film industry.

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

Subject: June Meetings

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL reschedule its June regular meeting to June 9th, 7:00pm, in-person at the Maritime Labour Centre, and will reschedule the Executive Board meeting one week earlier as well to accommodate this change.

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

Subject: Ban ICE from the 2026 World Cup in Vancouver

BECAUSE a motion has been introduced at Vancouver City Council that would seek to ban U.S. ICE agents from operating at World Cup-related events in Vancouver this summer. The motion is scheduled to go before council on February 25, 2026; and

BECAUSE the presence of ICE would negatively impact the World Cup events and overall public safety; and

BECAUSE Canadian's have been horrified by images and videos of murders, assaults, and kidnappings perpetrated at the hands of ICE throughout the United States; and

BECAUSE Canadians should be worried in a national scale as we've already seen U.S. ICE operating internationally, such as their involvement in security for the Winter Olympics in Italy, which raised major concerns about foreign law enforcement influence and sovereignty; and

BECAUSE the U.S. has been accused of removing individuals from UK/Scottish territory despite local legal processes, which reinforces fears that American authorities may act beyond or around other countries' laws, eroding our national sovereignty,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on Vancouver City Council to adoption the motion to ban US ICE agents from operating at World Cup-related events in Vancouver this summer

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

Subject: Histadrut

BECAUSE the Israeli labour centre, called the Histadrut, has been a partner in the colonization of Palestine since the foundation of Israel, and maintains discriminatory practices against Palestinian workers,

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon the Canadian Labour Congress to refrain from direct collaboration with Histadrut, and to call upon the International Trade Union Confederation and the International Labour Organisation to expel Histadrut from their memberships.

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

Subject: Israel Arms Embargo

BECAUSE the Vancouver & District Labour Council has endorsed elements of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement's calls to sanction Israel over its genocidal bombing campaign, ground invasion, siege, and starvation of Gaza and annexation of the West Bank despite the October 2025 ceasefire,

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the Arms Embargo Now campaign and call upon the Canadian Labour Congress to demand that the government of Canada immediately embargo all arms shipments to Israel from Canadian ports; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support efforts to educate union members and affiliates about, and promote participation in, boycott, divestment, sanctions, embargo, hot edict/hot cargo, and other means of resistance against complicity with genocide, and call upon the Canadian Labour Congress to do the same.

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

Subject: Repeal the Name Change Ban

BECAUSE the name change ban is harmful to indigenous and transgender community members; and

BECAUSE there is no evidence that the name change ban improves public safety; and

BECAUSE the BC NDP Convention in 2025 overwhelmingly passed a motion calling on the government to repeal the ban, but no action has been taken by government despite this,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL join gender justice groups calling on Premier David Eby to repeal Bill 26 (the name change ban) which is harmful to indigenous and transgender community members and survivors of gender-based violence; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER write a letter to the Premier and encourage others to also support and take action on this call.

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

Subject: Civil Society Statement on BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA)

BECAUSE BC's Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (Declaration Act) was passed unanimously by the BC Legislature in 2019, after being co-developed with First Nations, and supported by a broad cross-section of organisations; and

BECAUSE we have recently witnessed an escalating campaign of politically motivated misinformation and fearmongering which we recognise an iteration of the classic divide-and-rule strategies employed by the bosses and their political servants throughout the ages; and

BECAUSE the BC NDP government has announced its intention to amend DRIPA, and Indigenous groups and others are raising the alarm that this is likely to represent a significant step backward in the recognition of the rights of Indigenous peoples in BC; and

BECAUSE since Indigenous rights exist independent of provincial legislation, BC has the obligation, both morally and to avoid costly legal battles, to ensure that the province's laws, practices, and policies are aligned with these rights through frameworks, processes, and negotiation tables co-developed with Indigenous peoples,

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL sign onto the "Joint Call: BC must recommit to meaningful implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.", which is sponsored by the BC Assembly of First Nations and Westcoast Environmental Law; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL reject narratives which are contrived to divide the working class and the people against themselves and reiterate our stand in support of Indigenous rights and DRIPA.

17. 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.

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

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

20. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

21. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: NIL

22. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

23. NOTICE OF MOTION:

Subject: Spending Authorization

- o Increase to the 2026 political action budget from \$20,000 to \$40,000, to allow for a significantly scaled-up member-outreach campaign in conjunction with the New Westminster District Labour Council.

24. GOOD AND WELFARE: NIL

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

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