



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 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 | Hybrid
- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** 1st Vice President Chloe Martin-Cabanne
- 3. NOTICE OF VDLC POLICY ON HARASSMENT:** Circulated prior to meeting
- 4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**
M/S/C that the agenda of the March 17, 2026 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
M/S/C that the minutes of the February 17, 2026 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 6. ROLL CALL OF TABLE OFFICERS:** Stephen von Schowski, Jordan Both, Chloe Martin-Cabanne, Shane Polak
Absent: Seema Ahluwalia
- 7. REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:**

CUPE Local 15

Starla Bayley
Azeem Kazi
Vanessa Mani
Sheri Nielsen
Seagrín Worster

CUPE Local 389

Emma Juniper
Emily Neufeld

PEA – HESU Chapter

Bal Sandhu (ALT)

SEIU Local 2

Kayla Hilstob

TSSU

Xuesong Bai
Melissa Radford

United Steelworkers Local 2009

Sara Colliss

HEU – Lions Gate Hospital

Brenda Ball
Melissa Han
Rosa Helm

HEU – PHSA Amalgamated

Jovito Espinoza
Leanne La Guardia

8. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES

- 9. GUEST SPEAKERS:** 1. Flow Coalition and United Way BC re: Period Promise Campaign and Menstrual Equity in Schools

- 10. EDUCATIONAL:** NIL

11. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:

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

Political Action

A reminder that voting is now open for the next leader of the federal NDP. We have endorsed Rob Ashton; a worker leader for a workers’ party. Make sure your vote is cast in this extremely important decision for the future of the NDP.

At our last meeting the BC Budget had just dropped, but my report had been written in advance of that occurring. As was noted in the discussion of my report, the budget was very disappointing for workers. We saw news of 15,000 job cuts, freezes on funding for public services (including childcare), and even cuts to critical areas which are already suffering – such as the Employment Standards Branch.

We now find ourselves in a dangerous moment for provincial politics. Despite framing to the contrary, the BC NDP government has demonstrated that they accept the narrative that the province is broke and the only solution is cuts. Though much has been done to avoid the appearance of austerity, there is no doubt that is what is on the docket. On the other hand, the opposition Conservative Party is frothing at the mouth to implement much deeper, harsher, and more harmful measures.

There is no solution for workers to be found in replacing the BC NDP in government with the Conservatives. To the contrary, the Conservatives would turn our province inside out. Remember that this is a party which was the wedding of the extreme-right “BC Conservatives” and the viciously anti-worker “BC United/BC Liberals”. Together, Conservative and OneBC MLA’s even attempted to repeal the Human Rights Code at the end of last month! We find ourselves in a complex moment wherein the status quo cannot be acceptable, but the most readily available alternative is the political equivalent of throwing BC’s working class into a log chipper.

However, there is another path forward. It’s one that requires real courage and political will. BC is not broke, but its wealth is increasingly concentrated in the hands of a small few. They hoard wealth, while the province makes cuts and claims helplessness. Even the mere reversal of tax cuts for the rich which were made under the BC Liberals would go a long way to

correcting the fiscal concerns that have plagued the government, and even bolder ideas are plentifully available.

Workers and the labour movement should demand that the BC NDP change course. The province's budget must be addressed by new revenue, collected from those who can most afford to pay, not by cuts.

My short-term advice is that we all join our local constituency associations. From there we can make sure that the concerns of workers are heard and the alarm bell is rung. The remainder of this term of office provides an opportunity to change course and offer something new and inspiring to voters. Or, alternatively, to prepare for intensified attacks on workers' interests under the Conservative government.

For more on the budget, I would encourage delegates to seek out the recording of the BC Policy Solutions webinar which took place on February 19.

In the municipal realm, with elections still even months away things are already heating up. We have already begun reviewing incumbent candidates right across our region. We have questionnaires coming in, and interviews scheduled. We will begin to bring endorsement recommendations over the coming months, concluding in June.

Of course, in Vancouver there remains the question of "progressive cooperation" or even a "progressive primary" or "people's primary". I have urged all parties on this question, but at the time of writing this report the forecast does not frankly look positive.

Our Labour Council will have some very tough questions to ask itself in the coming period. In the event of duelling mayoral candidates with council slates, who are the party or parties who best represent our interests, most consistently stand with workers, and are electable.

Our options in addressing this unfortunate situation are extremely limited by BC's election laws. However, our endorsements and our campaign are tools at our disposal. In my view we should not sit on the sidelines any longer than necessary. By endorsing early, we will have more opportunity to fight for those we support and ensure Ken Sim and ABC are shown the door by pro-worker progressives in October.

Finally, I'd like to note the Labour Roundtable which was organised by members of the OneCity Labour Caucus earlier this month. It was a very well attended event, and it was my pleasure to speak on a panel alongside our 1st VP Chloe Martin-Cabanne, and NWDLC Secretary Treasurer Janet Andrews. Also in attendance were a few COPE members, which we also saw at the earlier OneCity AGM.

OneCity is hosting a candidate meet and greet on March 23. Details were emailed out. The event is open to OneCity members, and it's not too late to join and attend.

International Women's Day

By the time of our meeting, the IWD event will have taken place. I will add a report at that time. However, it is already fair to thank the Women & Gender Rights Committee for organising this event yet again this year and congratulate them on strong ticket sales for what will no doubt be a great event.

VSBC Townhall

I am working with VSBC unions to organise a townhall event talking about the state of our local schools and the issues being faced by frontline education workers. The event will be taking place in the evening of April 22nd. Stay tuned for full details and promotional materials.

Day of Mourning

We will mark the Day of Mourning for workers killed on the job on April 28th, 10am, at New Brighton Park. Stay tuned for promotional materials and further details.

International Workers' Day (May Day)

We will celebrate May Day on May 1st, 6pm, at the Russian Hall. The event will feature speeches, live music, food, labour and community booths, and workshops. Thank you to the Community & Social Action Committee for organising this event.

We are also working with BC Labour Heritage Centre on an event earlier that day to commemorate the placement of a labour history plaque at the site of the old Labour Temple. From there, the plan is to march to the Russian Hall. These details are in the process of being confirmed at the time of drafting this report, so stay tuned for confirmed details and times as well as promotional materials.

Union Protein Project/Queen Alexandra Elementary Community Event

We will host our annual Union Protein Project Community BBQ at Queen Alexandra Elementary School on May 15th at 2pm. Volunteers are needed for this event, please let me know if you can help.

This event features games and activities for kids, a BBQ, and union and community booths. It is a free event supporting our local community and promoting the work of UPP and the labour movement. We will also make a contribution of UPP canned tuna to the Wishing Tree Free Store at the school during this event.

Jr. Black Achievement Award

I attended the Jr. Black Achievement Awards on February 22. Delegates may recall that we sponsored a scholarship, and this was awarded that night. I had the pleasure of presenting the award and scholarship in Academic and Sports Grade 11 to Lewis Weir.

It was a great evening, and a heartwarming event which recognised and uplifted young leaders in the black community. The event was heavily sponsored by labour, once again showing the commitment of our movement to the communities we live and work in.

Labour Education

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

Our first three classes were Defamation Law for Unions, WCB Level 1, and Navigating Repetitive Strain Injuries (ASTDs) in the WCB Appeal System. All of these were very well attended and reviewed.

Coming up, we have...

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.

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

La-kwa sa muqw Forestry LP (LKSM) vs United Steelworkers Local 1-1937
IBB D-277 vs. Heidelberg Materials
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

February 18 – Invest Vancouver Management Board
February 19 – BC Policy Solutions briefing on BC Budget
February 19 – May Day planning meeting
February 19 – Meeting re: political action
February 21 – Peace rally
February 22 – Jr. Black Achievement Awards ceremony
February 23 – Meeting re: political action
February 23 – BC Employment Standards Coalition
February 24 – Jobs for Today webinar
February 24 – Meeting re: SFU Labour Studies Program
February 24 – Meeting re: political action
February 24 – Webinar: Tariffs, the Global Economic Order, and Why Canada-China Partnerships Matter for Workers
February 24 – Solidarity in Action Committee
February 25 – Labour Education: Defamation Law for Unions w/ Leo McGrady
February 25 – Vancouver City Council re: remote work motions
February 25 – Meeting re: political action
February 26 – Meeting re: political action
February 26 – VDLC PAC – Vetting Subcommittee
February 27 – Planning meeting for OneCity Labour Roundtable
March 1 – OneCity Labour Roundtable
March 1 – OneCity Labour Caucus
March 2 – Meeting with 1st VP re: Labour Council priorities
March 2 – Quarterly meeting with labour-friendly Vancouver City Councillors
March 2 – Meeting re: Climate 2050 delegation visit from New York
March 2 – VSB unions townhall planning meeting
March 2 – Constituency Association meeting
March 3 – Labour Education: WCB Level 1 w/ Sarah O’Leary, Caitlin O’Leary
March 4 – Labour Education: ASTD Claims w/ Niki Schnurr, Pamela Yong
March 5-8 – MoveUP Job Steward Seminar
March 5 – VDLC VSB Caucus meeting
March 6 – Labour Education: Discipline & Discharge w/ Karen Segal, Katherine Benson (thanks to 1st VP Chloe Martin-Cabanne for covering while I was away at MoveUP seminar)
March 8 – International Women’s Day Dinner
March 9 – Jobs for Today meeting
March 9 – Constituency Association meeting
March 10 – Political Action Committee
March 10 – BCFED Political Action Committee
March 10 – CLC Municipal Working Group
March 11 – SFU Labour Studies Program Joint Steering/Advisory Committee meeting

March 11 – Meeting re: political action
March 11 – Smaller communities union meeting
March 12 – Meeting with Mayoral Candidate William Azaroff
March 12 – Executive Board meeting
March 12 – Meeting re: political action
March 17 – United Way BC Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee
March 17 – Regular meeting

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

12. TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

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

13. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

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

A little bit about what the federal landscape looks like right now. Under parliamentary business, we're currently seeing the minority government dynamics being played out right now, which means that the Conservatives are using every strategy possible to obstruct anything that's being passed. So, it's been very slow in terms of what's being passed in the actual parliament. It's no surprise to hear that only four pieces of legislation so far have been passed. So quick recap, Bill C3 has been passed, which is the act to amend the Citizenship Act. They passed Bill C5, the Labour and Mobility Act and the Building Canada Act as well, and Bill C-19, which is the Canada Groceries and the Central Benefit Act. One of the legislations, you'll remember Bill C9, the government's legislation to tackle hate crime and hate propaganda. Labour has noticed some serious issues around this bill as this is infringing our charter rights by criminalizing peaceful protests because of the criminal code. It's very broad and very vaguely defined as well, so which is an issue for Labour. We are urging the government to withdraw this bill, however it looks like it's not going to happen as they have moved to close the debate on that bill as well, so lots of concerns. But Labour is still pushing around this bill. We heard today at our National Political Action Committee, and the affiliates around the table heard that the possibility of a federal election could be very likely. And you're probably thinking, how is this even true? We're in a minority government three by elections have been called for April the 14th, which means that that the federal Liberals may have up to two seats of a majority, which is a very slim majority. And umm, you're like, this is great. No election. Well, they're liberal Federal Liberals are doing so great in the polls that they're projected to win about 190 seats if there was a snap election called. And a lot of the federal staffers and strategists are saying this is the time to pull the plug because we can get a very big majority. Don't know how that looks like. We don't have a crystal ball unfortunately, but at the CLC we're getting our plan together for a possible snap election because we need to be ready. So, we're pulling all our cards out and we're asking all affiliates please get ready just in case as well because there's a lot of rumors right now that this. It might be very likely. So, you're probably wondering, well, we're safe until the by election happens. Well, it might go one of two ways. Yes, we might be safe, or it might be that a snap election is called and those by elections go straight into the. Election as well, so there won't be a by-election in those areas. So not the greatest news, but you just never know. So we're asking everyone, let's get prepared just in case because I know that our focus here is municipal elections, but federal election might just happen.

I just want to highlight that the CLC, has also presented our plan for the next part of the Workers Together campaign. We really want to focus on trade and what that means. For how you as an activist can get involved, we're going to be asking your help to put pressure on MPs to sign a card so that they can pledge to put workers first when they're talking about or negotiating trade deals. We may be calling for you to do a lobby around that with your local MP, but we'll keep you posted when all those assets are available as well, but the Workers Together Campaign around trade will really ramp up during conventions where we're going to be doing a lot of calls to action, as well as there will be a rally held at convention. If you are going to the CLC convention, you can be a part of this big call to action in Winnipeg as well. For the convention, we're going to shift our focus by doing some more regional activities. I'll keep you in the loop about what that looks like, but we're going to be looking for stories from now to post-convention. If you've heard of anyone impacted by trade, we want to hear about their stories or if there's a resource that's impacted greatly by trade we're collecting these for the campaign as well. If you know of anyone with stories or if someone wants to get in touch with us to tell us about their story, please reach out to our office.

The Federal NDP convention is happening at the end of this month. If you are attending the Federal NDP convention or you have members who are attending the Labour caucus meeting is on Friday at 11 AM in Winnipeg. Mark your calendars. I'm sure you'll hear more information about that soon. As Stephen noted, the leadership races in the federal NDP is happening right now. If you have a membership, voting is open and the CLC convention is happening May 10 to the 15th. If you are attending as a delegate, the Labour Council forum is on Sunday afternoon, make sure to mark your calendar for that so you don't have to be on your credential attending on a Labour Council credential. You can still attend the Labour Council or Labour Council forum on your affiliate badge as well. It's open to anyone who's a Labour Council delegate, but they don't need to necessarily have that badge with them.

The last thing I'm going to wrap up with is that we have our municipal training, our last one that we're offering, which is on Saturday, March 21st in Coquitlam. We have a couple of folks registered. But if you know of any union members who would like to attend, the cost is \$50 and they can reach out to me directly so that we can get them in the course. We are also offering a whole bunch of workshops throughout the province in April, about 8 or so. The workshops are building worker power in local government elections, so this is to give union folks an idea of what municipal politics are and how you can get involved or if you want to volunteer, what that looks like. That will be offered April the 20th in Vancouver and April 21st in Burnaby. You'll see more information on that soon on how you can register and I'll leave my report there. Thank you.

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:

- Campbell River, Courtenay and District Labour Council, to support Miners Memorial in Cumberland, at a cost of \$500.

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

Subject: Spending Authorization | 2026 Political Action Budget

- 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.

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

Subject: City of Vancouver Mayoral Endorsement

Motion forwarded by Stephen von Sychowski to bring this motion to in-camera only. Guests to leave the hall. M/S/C that the motion was adopted. Online Guests placed in the waiting room.

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL:

- Review questionnaires and carry out interviews of candidates seeking our endorsement for the position of Mayor of the City of Vancouver between the dates of our March and April regular meetings,
- Receive a recommendation from the Political Action Committee following this process, and endorse a candidate at our April 21 regular meeting,
- Not endorse candidates running as part of opposing mayoral slates,
- Continue to encourage cooperation between OneCity, COPE, and the Green Party, with the hope of narrowing the field to one mayoral candidate between them and opening up the opportunity for all three parties to receive endorsement and support from the VDLC.

16. REPORT OF UNIONS:

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

Corey Mandryk – USW, Local 1944, Unit 60

The USW, through our CTWA alliance with Unifor and CUPE, is active in our discourse on Parliament Hill in order to ensure whistleblower protections are added to both Parts of Bill C-8. We were successful in our work with the Bloc to get this protection added to Part 1 which intends to update the Telecommunications Act. Part 2 intends to create a new statute called the Critical Cyber Systems Protection Act. We are contacting MPs this week to lobby for their support in another BQ amendment before the Bill is voted on this Monday (March 23) and subsequently sent to the Senate for review. If frontline workers are expected to point out weaknesses and vulnerabilities in the systems they design, build, service, and maintain, they also deserve whistleblower protections from retribution by their employers for doing so. These protections will bring meaningful accountability to a new Act from its inception.

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:

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: NIL

21. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

22. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

23. GOOD AND WELFARE: NIL

24. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:58pm.*

25. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2026** at 7:00 pm
1880 Triumph St.
IN PERSON ONLY



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