



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 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 Only
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 April 21, 2026 Regular meeting be adopted.
5. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
M/S/C that the minutes of the March 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:** *No New Delegates this evening.*
8. **OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES**
9. **GUEST SPEAKERS:** *No Guest Speaker this evening.*
10. **EDUCATIONAL:** NIL
11. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**
President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the March 2026 meeting.

Recording Secretary

Our Recording Secretary, Shane Polak, has resigned due to retirement. While we are sad to see him go, we wish him all the best for his well-earned retirement. Shane was a member of

our Executive Board since 2021 and Recording Secretary since 2022. He was also Chairperson of our Municipal Engagement & Housing Action Committee. He was instrumental in our transition to hybrid meetings. Thank you, Shane, for everything you have done to strengthen and grow our Labour Council!

At our meeting earlier this month, our Executive Board appointed Jennifer Brown, delegate from UFCW Local 1518, as interim Recording Secretary. We will open nominations at this meeting to make a replacement permanent for the remainder of the term. Nominations will be

opened again next regular meeting, and elections will be held at that time. The term of office will be until the general elections for our Executive Board this coming November.

Political Action

It's all happening! Since our last meeting, our Political Action Committee has begun vetting candidates. Endorsement recommendations will be coming forward at the next two meetings, so be sure to be there!

Our campaign is also moving forward. We have been working hard to get affiliates on board. Point Blank has begun their work on developing branding and testing messaging. Planning is underway.

As we approach the election, there will plenty of opportunities to help us get out the vote for our endorsed candidates!

We have a real opportunity to make change in Vancouver and in Richmond this election, and to keep a pro-worker majority in the City of North Vancouver. We are also hoping to endorse and support candidates running the District of North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Bowen Island, Lions Bay, Pemberton, Squamish, and Whistler. If you know of someone we should consider, please have them reach out to the VDLC for vetting! If you know someone running elsewhere in Metro Vancouver, they can be directed to New Westminster & District Labour Council.

There are some troubling developments at the provincial level. First, we saw the announcement of the provincial government that the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) would be suspended. This has generated outrage and opposition from First Nations, and across civil society. An open letter was issued by the BC Assembly of First Nations, and West Coast Environmental Law. The letter had over 130 leaders from across the province, of which I was one. The government seems intent on moving ahead with the suspension.

In other news, the BC General Employees' Union has launched a campaign to push back on government plans to partially privatize liquor distribution in BC. The government's plan would allow liquor producers to distribute directly to sellers, thereby privatizing distribution and warehousing. It would also thereby eliminate significant government revenue at a moment when the government is facing trying economic times. Aside from flying in the face of the values that the BC NDP is supposed to uphold, this gift to private industry at the expense of public good will lead to the loss of well-paying union jobs and further erode support for the NDP amongst union members. We must all urge the BC government to abandon this harmful plan.

The Federal NDP convention also took place in Winnipeg since our last meeting. Regrettably, Rob Ashton, our endorsed candidate, was not successful in his bid to become party leader. While most members of the slate supported by affiliated unions were successful in the BC caucus elections, they were not successful for the top positions of President, Vice President, or Treasurer. The experience of this leadership race, and the elections, demands a thorough assessment of the relationship between the NDP and the labour movement. We must find common ground and move forward where we can. But we also must seriously assess what this outcome means for us as a movement. For starters, there can be no doubt that we must re-commit ourselves to political education and organising amongst our own members.

VSBC Townhall

On April 22 from 6-8pm, the VDLC and education unions are hosting a Townhall on Funding for Schools. The event will be held at the Vancouver Secondary Teachers' offices at Unit 505 63 W. 6th Avenue in Vancouver.

A panel of education workers and parents will speak to their experience within the Vancouver public school system. This panel will be followed by roundtable discussions on VSBC budgeting, staffing, inclusion, planning, and governance.

Our hope is to connect those who are concerned about the dire state of public education and galvanize them into action.

With elections around the corner, this is a critical moment to ensure that we defeat the current ABC/Liberal/Green trustees, who have worked together to sell off school lands, cancel living wage, and reduce democracy, accountability, and transparency.

Day of Mourning

On April 28 each year we remember those who were killed on the job, and to recommit to working to ensure that every worker goes home safe at the end of every shift.

This year we are pleased to support two events to mark this important day.

In Sea-to-Sky:

Day of Mourning

Squamish

Sunday, April 26, 11:00 AM

O'Siyam Pavilion Park

Hosted by: CUPE Local 2269, VDLC

In Metro Vancouver:

Day of Mourning

New Westminster

Tuesday, April 28, 11:00am

Westminster Pier Park

Hosted by: New Westminster & District Labour Council

International Workers' Day (May Day)

The Community & Social Action Committee is once again organising what will no doubt be an amazing celebration of International Workers' Day.

4:00PM: Rally at Victory Square

4:30PM: March to the Russian Hall (600 Campell Ave.

5:00PM: Celebration at the Russian Hall

The event will feature speakers, music, comedy, food, union & community booths, and more!
All welcome/ all ages.

Thank you to our sponsors: International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 500, MoveUP, BC General Employees' Union, Canadian Union of Public Employees Metro Council.

We also encourage participation in the Vancouver Heritage Foundation & BC Labour Heritage Centre celebration of the Vancouver Labour Temple. This will take place from 3:30pm-4:30pm at Café Marie, 425 Dunsmuir St.

Union Protein Project/Queen Alexandra Elementary Community Event

Each year we invite all affiliates to participate in our community event with the Union Protein Project. This family-friendly celebration brings together the students and community from Queen Alexandra Elementary School, food bank clients, labour leaders and activists, and representatives from community-based service organizations.

VDLC affiliates and community groups are invited to set up information tables to promote your organization and campaigns. The event will also feature free food, and a children's area with face painting, a balloon artist, and more. The VDLC will also be delivering some cases of Union Protein Project canned tuna for the Wishing Tree free store at the school.

Contributions toward The Union Protein Project and/or the costs of the event, can be made to:

Union Protein Project
105-3920 Norland Avenue
Burnaby, BC
V5G 4K7

Union Protein Project started at "Protein for People"; a labour initiative funded by union donations and the United Way to provide "labour fished and processed" canned salmon to food banks across BC. It has since expanded into providing tuna and peanut butter as well as Salmon and serving not only BC but Alberta also.

A growing number of people, both working and unemployed, are forced to turn to food banks to feed their families. In fact, over 32% of BC food bank users are children.

Protein is critical to a healthy diet and crucial to mental and physical development. The Union Protein Project donates union laboured canned salmon, tuna, and peanut butter and helps food banks to maximize their purchasing power through large volume buying.

Labour Education

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

Since our last meeting we hosted classes on Discipline & Discharge (Karen Segal), Advanced WCB: Appeals (Sarah O’Leary, Caitlin O’Leary, Collective Bargaining (David Fleming, David Huxtable, Liz Locke), History, Teachings and How to Work Towards Reconciliation Through an Indigenous Lens (Anjeannette Dawson), Steward Level 1 (Bal Sandhu), and Parliamentary Procedure and Effective Meetings (Adrienne Smith). I also facilitated an introductory stewarding class for Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1724. Unfortunately, we did have one cancellation, Private Prosecutions, which may have turned out to be too niche a topic as we did not get many registrations.

Still upcoming, we have:

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 continue to share 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.

SEIU Local 2 vs Dexterra

Issues: Benefits, seniority, wages, recognition

Commencement: April 2, 2026

Tentative agreement reached, ratification vote being held.

IAMAW Local 692 vs Wexxar Bel (Pro Mach Industries)

Issues: Benefits, seniority, wages

Commencement: March 18, 2026

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

Settled

PEA vs BC Government

BCGEU vs Lactanet

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

IBB D-277 vs. Heidelberg Materials

Events Attended / Dates of Note

March 18 – Meeting with Canada-China Focus

March 18 – Meeting with affiliate re: political action

March 18 – Candidate vetting interviews

March 19 – Candidate vetting interviews

March 23 – OneCity Labour Caucus candidate forum

March 24 – SEIU Local 2 rally

March 24 – Meeting with affiliate

March 26-29 – Federal NDP Convention

March 27 – NDP Labour Caucus

March 27 – Meeting with affiliate

March 28 – Meeting with Point Blank re: municipal election campaign

March 28 – Meeting with NWDLC re: municipal election campaign

March 30 – Meeting with school board trustee candidate

March 30 – VSB unions townhall planning

March 30 – Candidate vetting interviews

March 31 – Labour Education: Advanced WCB: Appeals w/ Sarah O’Leary, Caitlin O’Leary

March 31 – Meeting with affiliate re: political action

April 1 – Meeting with Point Blank & NWDLC re: municipal election campaign

April 3 – Statutory holiday

April 6 – holiday

April 7 – Political Action Committee

April 7 – Meeting with Point Blank & NWDLC re: municipal election campaign

April 7 – VSB union townhall planning

April 8 – Meeting with affiliate re: municipal campaign

April 8-9 – Labour Education: Collective Bargaining w/ David Fleming, David Huxtable, Liz Locke

April 9 – Community & Social Action Committee

April 13-14 – Labour Education: History, Teachings and How to Work Towards Reconciliation Through an Indigenous Lens w/ Anjeannette Dawson

April 14 – VDLC VSB Caucus

April 14 – VSB unions townhall planning

April 14 – CLC Municipal Working Group

April 14 – CLC Pacific Region Labour Council Check-in

April 15 – Labour Education: Steward Level 1 w/ Bal Sandhu

April 15 – Meeting with Point Blank & NWDLC re: municipal campaign

April 16 – Executive Board
April 17 – Health Sciences Association rally
April 18 – Labour Education: Steward Level 1 w/ ATU 1724
April 20 – Climate Jobs 2050 delegation visit
April 20 – BC NDP Constituency Association
April 21 – Labour Education: Parliamentary Procedure & Effective Meetings w/ Adrienne Smith
April 21 – United Way BC Campaign Cabinet Committee
April 21 – Sustainable Workforce Coalition Steering Committee
April 21 – Regular meeting

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

12. TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

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

13. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

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

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:

- Day of Mourning advertisement in The Squamish Chief newspaper, at a cost of \$290
- Annual donation to BC Labour Heritage Centre, at a cost of \$250
- Donation to Lapu Lapu Day of Togetherness, at a cost of \$250.

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

Subject: City of Vancouver Mayoral Endorsement and Party Cooperation

BECAUSE The Vancouver & District Labour Council previously adopted a resolution to endorse a City of Vancouver mayoral candidate at its April 21 General Meeting; and

BECAUSE this resolution stipulated that the Labour Council would not endorse candidates running as part of opposing mayoral slates, in order to avoid overcrowding the left-of-centre field; and

BECAUSE OneCity, COPE, and the Greens have recently arrived at an agreement in principle that allocated maximum candidate numbers per party, with internal party nominations concluding in May; and

BECAUSE this agreement also stipulates that all parties would field mayoral candidates, and would check-in during the month of July to begin further discussions aimed at narrowing the field to one mayoral candidate by September; and

BECAUSE it is positive that some form of cooperation agreement has been reached between the parties, however the portion regarding mayoral candidate discussions is not compatible with either the VDLC's endorsement or campaign timelines and plans,

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL:

- Table the decision regarding mayoral candidate endorsement to the May 19 Regular Meeting,
- Unequivocally reject the timeline proposed by the parties, which pushes back a decision about mayoral endorsement until no sooner than July, and potentially as late as September,
- Invite COPE's mayoral candidate to submit a candidate vetting questionnaire to the Political Action Committee in time for the May 5 Political Action Committee meeting,
- Instruct the Political Action Committee to bring its final mayoral endorsement recommendation for debate and adoption at the May 19 Regular Meeting (and to be reviewed by the Executive Board May 14),
- Proceed as planned to vet candidates for City Council, School Board, and Park Board for endorsement at the June 9 Regular Meeting,
- Maintain the previously adopted stance of not endorsing candidates running as part of opposing mayoral slates,
- Reiterate that we will endorse no more than 10 candidates for council and one for mayor, and that the excessive proliferation of candidates is a problem for electability.

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

Subject: Affiliation of HEU Finnish Care Home Local

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL accept the application of Hospital Employees' Union, Finish Care Home Local, to affiliate 79 members employed in health care support services.

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

Subject: Stop Private Liquor Distribution

BECAUSE the government is planning to allow B.C. producers to deliver packaged alcoholic beverages directly to customers – cutting out BCGEU members at public warehouses and handing that work to private companies; and

BECAUSE this puts jobs, hours, and the future of public Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) warehouses at risk; and

BECAUSE once privatization starts, it spreads, and could quickly threaten the liquor distribution system which has kept British Columbians safe, and generated significant revenue for the public good for generations,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support the BC General Employees' Union campaign "Stop Private Liquor Distribution" and call on the provincial government to cancel all plans for privatization in BC's liquor distribution system.

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

Subject: Hands Off My Canada Post

BECAUSE Canada Post has recently been given the go-ahead from the Federal government to begin sweeping cuts to the postal system including the ending of door-to-door delivery and the closure of rural post offices; and

BECAUSE Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) has requested the support of the affiliates, Federations of Labour and Labour Councils to help push back on this effort; and

BECAUSE the CUPW has launched the Hands Off My Canada Post campaign in response to these planned cuts,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse, circulate, and support the Hands Off My Canada Post campaign, and the efforts of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers to oppose cuts to Canada Post, including the end of door-to-door delivery and the closure of post offices.

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

Subject: Stop the War on Iran

BECAUSE the U.S. and Israel have launched an illegal war of aggression against Iran, based on false pretexts, flagrantly violating international law and the UN Charter. This reckless bombing has killed thousands of civilians, including the horrific strike on a girl's school which killed more than 165 people, and has displaced millions more across Iran and Lebanon, igniting a wider regional war; and

BECAUSE The Iranian people will not achieve liberation through U.S. bombs, as the people of Libya, Iraq, and Afghanistan can tragically attest, and the right to determine their own future belongs to the Iranian people alone; and

BECAUSE the Canadian government, through Prime Minister Carney's initial support for the attack and subsequent positions, has provided diplomatic cover for this violation of Iran's sovereignty. By obscuring the escalating international crimes of the United States, Canada undermines its own sovereignty, revealing a hypocrisy that weakens international law for all countries,

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL stand with the Iranian people in their fight for freedom, equality, and prosperity; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER publicly demand the Canadian government clearly condemn the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, stand up for international law and sovereignty, and work to negotiate an immediate ceasefire; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER endorse and mobilize members to join anti-war actions; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY circulate this resolution to affiliates and other Labour Councils to build Labour's connections to the peace movement at this dangerous moment.

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

Subject: "Teach Landlords a Lesson" Campaign Endorsement

BECAUSE landlords are using the court system to attack and bully Vancouver Tenants engaged in organizing to protect their rights and homes; and

BECAUSE the vast majority of Vancouver tenants are workers, including members of unions and affiliates of this Labour Council,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the Vancouver Tenants' Union's "Teach Landlords a Lesson" campaign to urge tenants and workers across the city to come together and fight back against landlord intimidation; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER support efforts to educate union members and affiliates about, and promote participation in the "Teach Landlords A Lesson" Campaign, as well as tenant organizing through the VTU and other Tenants' Organizations, and call upon the Canadian Labour Congress to do the same; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER invite the following guest speaker(s) at the evening meeting for this month: Simon Thistlewood, VTU Member and Organizer; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY donate to the Vancouver Tenants' Union, to support their legal defense against a small-claims court lawsuit that would financially devastate their organization, at a cost of \$250.

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

Subject: Solidarity with Cuba

BECAUSE the peoples of Canada and Cuba share a special bond: approximately one million Canadians visit Cuba annually; Canada is Cuba's second largest trading partner; and BECAUSE the two countries have 80 years of unbroken diplomatic ties; and

BECAUSE Trump is using economic coercion against both Canada and Cuba. In Cuba, it is causing a humanitarian crisis, closing schools and hospitals, and bringing their economy to a screeching halt; and

BECAUSE the unilateral actions of the US government against the Cuban people violate Canada's Foreign Extraterritorial Measures Act, which is meant to preserve Canadian sovereignty,

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL send a letter to Prime Minister Mark Carney demanding Canada send oil to Cuba and;

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER circulate the parliamentary petition to affiliated locals; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY donate \$250 to the CNC material aid campaign.

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

- Telus bargaining starting soon with surveys having just begun
- Ericsson's Bargaining Committee met in Winnipeg last week and are moving towards their first contract
- Bargaining continues with Captec Americas and Keewatin Air for their first contracts
- Local 1944 has been working with the office of Don Davies to bring a bill forward to amend new federal anti-scab legislation which should be introduced imminently. We'll be promoting and endorsing this and looking for a chorus of support across the country from the labour movement
- Canadian Telecom Workers Alliance was successful in adding whistleblower protection in Part 1 of Bill C-8 (Telecom Act) but unsuccessful in adding it to Part 2 (CCSPA)
- CTWA will be testifying next week, April 30, at the Industry & Technology Standing Committee's study on Artificial Intelligence. Our CUPE and Unifor colleagues will join yours truly in Ottawa ensuring our federal leaders understand issues from the workplace as they develop critical AI policy
- Get involved. Talk to your elected representatives. Make sure they work for you.

Agnes Jackman, BC Forum Delegate

On April 17th, I was a visitor at the Health Sciences Association of BC (HSABC) Convention as BC FORUM'S HSABC endorsed Board Director. I also was invited by HSABC to be at the front and on the stage of that day's noon "Invest in Health Care March & Rally" at the Vancouver Art Gallery Plaza. This was a significant historical event as the BC Nurses' Union leader was invited to join on the rally stage with the leaders of the other health related unions and those of the BC Federation of Labour, after a long period of not being welcome in the Labour family. This renewed unity will give us increased strength at a time when public health care has many threats.

BC FORUM held a hybrid Board meeting on Wednesday, April 15th. It was again recognized that efforts still need to be made to increase our membership and funding and to hire a part-time staff person to help deal with the workload. The meeting also focused on the planning of our AGM that will take place on June 17, 2026 at #202 9292 200th Street, Langley (United Steelworkers).

At the meeting, it was mentioned that at the recent UBC Annual Health Care conference it was reported that a possible reorganization is being considered of the provincial Ministry of Health structure with the goal of increased centralization. It is unclear what, if any, consultation may occur if changes are contemplated.

BC FORUM will be writing a letter to the PM and Treasury Board regarding how cuts to federal services are having a negative impact on seniors.

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:

Nominations opened for replacement of Recording Secretary.

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 MAY 19, 2026** at 7:00 pm
1880 Triumph St.
IN PERSON ONLY



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