



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025**

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. Moment of Silence** – Fred Muzin (HEU)
- 5. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA**
M/S/C that the agenda of the September 16, 2025 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 6. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
M/S/C that the minutes of the July 15, 2025 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 7. ROLL CALL OF TABLE OFFICERS:** All present
- 8. REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:**

BCGEU Local 803

Prilita Bariuan
Seyran Enveri

IATSE B778

Diane Wong

CUPE Local 2278

Alice Kang
Louise Larrew
Jessica Wolf
Daniel Crook (Alt)
Jess Tran (Alt)

PEA-HESU

Mark Galvani

9. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES

10. GUEST SPEAKERS: 1. Abundant Housing Vancouver – Daniel Olesiuk

11. EDUCATIONAL: NIL

12. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Summer BBQ

Our Summer was a huge success. July is usually a relatively small meeting, as we are competing with vacations, the weather, etc. However, this month we had an excellent turnout and the hall was full. I would recommend we repeat this at next July's meeting. Of course, we also have our year end social coming up in a few months.

Thank you to Elizabeth and Alex for a lot of preparatory work to make the event a success, to ILWU 500 and John Urrico for the use of the BBQ and for cooking, and for all the volunteers who assisted in any way with the BBQ and the meeting.

Political Action

It's time to get into municipal election mode. On October 17 of 2026, voters across BC will choose mayors, city councillors, school board trustees, regional district directors, and (in Vancouver) park board commissioners.

The Conservative Party has registered municipal parties in cities across the province, including some in our jurisdiction – Vancouver, Richmond, and West Vancouver – as well as some others in NWDLC's jurisdiction.

It remains to be seen how this new project will mesh with existing right-wing parties and candidates. One thing is for sure, the bosses have their politicians and they're getting organised. They'll face off against labour-endorsed candidates across this province, and the labour movement has the potential to be the deciding factor in many of those contests.

It's time for our unions to invest big-time in the class and political education of our members, in mobilizing them in political action, and pulling them to the polls. When your union or labour council calls for you to do all the things, get your boots on the ground. We can stop them, and we must, or we will not only pay a heavy price in our cities and schools but in the downstream effect on the provincial and federal scenes.

In the meantime, ABC continues to prep itself for a devastating loss in 2026. The most recent, and fairly devastating, blow against them is the Integrity Commissioners report. Released last month, the report details how ABC has violated the Vancouver Charter, and broken their Oath of Office, by colluding to govern the city behind closed doors.

What we have today is a party in power which governs for the rich and privileged, in secrecy, behind closed doors. A mayor, who would rather be travelling the world, out on a yacht, speaking at a crypto currency conference, or riding his Peloton in a boardroom, than seriously governing Vancouver. A school board, and a park board, who operate with a similar lack of transparency and accountability (ABC park board commissioners had a similar ruling against them earlier this year).

Now's the time to get involved and make sure that we sweep them out in 2026.

Over the summer I also had the opportunity to attend the CUPE BC Think Tank for session focused on political action. I was grateful for the opportunity to present alongside other Labour Council leaders about political action work and election, and to be part of discussions about CUPE's efforts in this field.

OneCity's Labour Caucus held another great fundraiser on September 13th. If you're not yet a member of OneCity, and the Labour Caucus, give it some consideration. It's an excellent group of labour organisers and leaders, and you'll see many friendly, familiar faces.

Save Our HandyDart

We have continued work on this campaign over the summer, with various meetings, leafleting, tabling at Labour Day, etc. We have a meeting with Minister Farnworth in the calendar, but as of the time of writing this it has not yet occurred.

At present, the provide seems disappointingly to be washing their hands of it and pointing toward TransLink as the decision maker. While they may indeed be the decision-making body, it is also true that the BC NDP promised to repatriate HandyDART in their election platform and has the power to see to it that it is done, if they had the political will.

A conclusion to this is expected in December. If the service is contracted out at that time, it will bring serious disrepute to TransLink, but even more-so to a provincial government which decried privatization and contracting out when it was perpetrated by the BC Liberals/BC United and promised to fix it when elected.

Labour Day

We did it again. This year's Labour Day celebration was even larger than the year before both in terms of crowd size and in terms of number of booths and activities. We co-hosted once again with NWDLC at Edmonds Park. The number of booths squeezed into the park expanded from a little over 50, to around 70 this year, and even more participants than in past years visited the event. It was a fun day of both celebration and organising.

There are many thanks to go around, to all of those who made the event possible.

BC General Employees' Union

BC Professional Firefighters Association

Canadian Union Advantage Benefits Program

Canadian Union of Public Employees BC

Canadian Union of Public Employees, Metro Vancouver Council

International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, Local Lodge 764

International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers, Local Lodge 1857

International Association of Professional Firefighters, Local 323 Burnaby

International Longshore & Warehouse Union, Local 500

International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 963

MoveUP

Music Performance Trust Fund

United Steelworkers District 3

United Steelworkers, Local 2009

Vancity Credit Union

Vancity Community Foundation
Vancouver Musicians Association
Bike valet services provided by The Bike Valet (powered by BEST)

All of the entertainers and suppliers, including the band LJ Mountenay.

Thanks also to our event organiser, Laura Sharpe of Machinists Local 764, for an amazing job in pulling everything together for today. NWDLC Secretary Treasurer Janet Andrews, staff persons Allison Monk at NWDLC and Elizabeth Buckham, and Alex Buckham at VDLC for making everything happen behind the scenes.

And last but not least, all of the amazing volunteers that were throughout the park making sure everything got done, from staffing booths to managing lines to cooking hot dogs and more.

Labour Education

Our Labour Education Program has been taking lots of registrations over the Summer. Our first two classes had excellent turnout – Investigations & Interrogations with Mary Thibodeau, and Legal Research with Lilly Hassalll. Please spread the word about upcoming classes to your members and contacts.

Current Disputes (from BCFED)

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 & PEA vs BC Government
Commencement: September 1, 2025

USW 1944 vs Rogers Communications (Abbotsford)
Issues: Wage parity, contract length
Commencement: June 19, 2025

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

UNITE HERE Local 40 vs Coast Hotels
Notice issued: Monday, June 30, 2025

Settled

CUPE vs Air Canada
Wage agreement rejected, proceeding to arbitration.

SEIU Local 2 vs Alberni Golf Club (Port Alberni)

BCGEU vs LifeLabs

BCGEU vs Western Pacific Marine

Note: Pickets ended April 11th, parties proceeding to mediation.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

July 16 – CUPE Think Tank in Harrison Hot Springs

July 17-18, 22-25 – Vacation

July 28 – Sustainable Workforce Coalition, Training & Education Committee

July 28 – Save Our HandyDART campaign meeting

July 29 – Meeting re: Green Jobs BC

July 29 – OneCity Labour Caucus

July 30 – Coordinated Community Response Network

July 31 – Meeting with CoDevelopment Canada

August 4 – BC Day

August 5-15 – Vacation

August 18 – USW 1944 Rally

August 19 – Building Power Convening Call

August 19 – OneCity Labour Caucus

August 20 – Meeting with MP / Interim Leader Don Davies

August 23 – NDP Constituency Association

August 24 – Electrical Joint Training Committee annual barbecue

August 26 – Conference with visiting labour leaders and elected representatives from New York

August 28 – Invest Vancouver planning consultation meeting

August 28 – NDP Affiliated Unions Caucus

August 28 – Save Our HandyDART campaign meeting

August 29 – Save Our HandyDART meeting

August 29 – VSB Caucus

September 1 – Labour Day (attended Burnaby/Langley events)

September 2 – BCGEU/PEA picket line support

September 3 – Coordinated Community Response Network

September 3 – Invest Vancouver Board Meeting

September 4 – Meeting with MP Wade Grant, Vancouver Quadra

September 4 – Meeting with Solidarity in Action Committee Chairperson Joe Stilwell

September 4 – BCGEU/PEA picket line solidarity

September 5 – Labour Education: Investigations & Interrogations w/ Mary Thibodeau

September 5 – Political action related meeting

September 8 – Political Action Committee

September 8 – Sustainable Workforce Coalition Training & Education Committee

September 9 – Staff meetings

September 9 – Quarterly meeting with labour-friendly city councillors

September 9 – BC Poverty Reduction Coalition

September 10 – Coordinated Community Response Network

September 10 – BCFED Political Action Committee

September 10 – Community & Social Action Committee – May Day planning

September 10 – CLC Municipal Working Group

September 11 – Executive Board
September 11 – Save Our HandyDART meeting
September 11 – Planning session for meeting with Minister Farnworth
September 11 – BC Employment Standards Coalition
September 11 – 35 Accords book launch event
September 13 – OneCity labour fundraiser
September 14 – BC NDP Constituency Association
September 15 – Meeting with president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 134 re: affiliation
September 16 – Labour Education: Legal Research w/ Lilly Hassall
September 16 – Regular meeting

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

13. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Interim Treasurer Jordan Both will report on the financials for July and August 2025.

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

14. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

Amandeep Nijjar, CLC Representative, to present the CLC report since the July 2025 meeting.

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:

- Sponsorship of October 20th public event featuring representatives of Cuban Union of Public Administration Workers (SNTAP), co-hosted with CUPE BC and CoDevelopment Canada, at a cost of up to \$300.
- Binding of previous VDLC Executive and Regular Meeting Minutes at a cost of \$102.00 + tax per book (per year).

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

Subject: BC NDP Convention

BECAUSE the VDLC is, through the Canadian Labour Congress, affiliated with the BC NDP and is entitled to send two (2) delegates to its conventions; and

BECAUSE the BC NDP will host its bi-annual convention November 14-16, in Victoria; and

BECAUSE labour's voice is critically important in the governance of the BC NDP always, and particularly during this unprecedented third term of office,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL designate President Stephen von Sychowski, and 1st Vice President Chloe Martin-Cabanne as its delegate to the 2025 BC NDP Convention.

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

Subject: Housing as a Human Right

BECAUSE British Columbia is in the midst of an ongoing housing crisis from skyrocketing rents to expanding encampments, the failure to provide adequate, safe, and affordable housing has become one of the province's most pressing human rights issues; and

BECAUSE British Columbian workers are struggling under the burden of housing costs, unsafe and inadequate housing condition, and lack of renter protections; and

BECAUSE nine city councils in British Columbia have already supported a motion to call for housing as a human right legislation at the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) in September 2025,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on local city council members within our District to support the motion for provincial Housing as Human Right legislation at the 2025 UBCM.

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

Subject: Protect Industrial Lands

BECAUSE Vancouver City Council recently passed a motion for staff to explore redevelopment of five areas currently zoned as industrial lands;

- i. The former Molson site;
- ii. The former industrial sites near Main Street and Terminal Avenue;
- iii. The Railtown industrial district;
- iv. The Marine Gateway area; and
- v. The Mount Pleasant industrial area; and

BECAUSE Mayor Sim instructed staff to move ahead with current rezoning applications in these areas in the meantime, before conducting a review; and

BECAUSE industrial lands have long been protected in Metro Vancouver, preserving them for current and future economic demands, and ensuring spaces for employment within urban areas. The Mayor's motion is in contradiction with the Metro 2050 regional growth strategy; and

BECAUSE industrial lands currently make up less than 10 per cent of the city's land base, but are valued for their zoning which has the potential to yield higher profits upon redevelopment; and

BECAUSE arguments that there is a lack of land for the construction of housing fall flat, when considering the current council's opposition to the expansion of mid-density housing throughout the city, and the fact that the vast majority of existing residential land is protected by exclusionary zoning which ensures only the low-density housing can be built,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL oppose the rezoning of industrial lands and call instead for the adoption of progressive approaches to address housing supply, such as those outlined in the AffordableBC plan, and OneCity's housing platform, which have previously been endorsed by our Labour Council.

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

Subject: September 20th Draw the Line Rally Endorsement

BECAUSE working people in British Columbia are directly affected by climate change through wildfires, flooding, extreme heat, and poor air quality, all of which endanger the health, safety, and livelihoods of union members; and

BECAUSE the Federal Liberal government and Canada's richest corporations are hoarding wealth, funding climate collapse through new oil and gas projects, denying permanent status to migrants, exploiting Indigenous lands and increasing military spending while cutting funding from healthcare, housing, and public services; and

BECAUSE a coalition of labour, climate justice, migrant justice, economic justice, Indigenous rights and anti-war groups are uniting to demand that the Canadian government invests in a just and safe future for all; and

BECAUSE unions have a responsibility to fight for a just transition that protects workers, ensures strong public services, and creates good union jobs in climate solutions; and

BECAUSE the Draw the Line climate rally, taking place on Saturday, September 20th at 2:00 p.m. at the Vancouver Public Library, will bring together a strong coalition of community organizations to demand urgent federal action, an end to fossil fuel expansion, and investment in a just and sustainable future; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the Draw the Line climate rally and amplify the rally by encouraging all affiliates and members to participate; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER encourage affiliates to bring union banners and flags to the rally so that the voice and presence of the labour movement is visible; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER call on the federal government to end fossil fuel subsidies, invest in a just transition for workers, fund family and communities over corporate profit, uphold Indigenous sovereignty, oppose Bill C-2 and demand status for migrant workers and stand for justice and peace.

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER communicate its support for the Draw the Line climate rally publicly and work with the coalition to amplify the voice of workers in the demand for urgent climate action.

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

Subject: Resolution to BC New Democrat Party Convention

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL submit the following two resolutions to this year's BC NDP Convention:

1. Resolution title: Repatriating HandyDART

BECAUSE HandyDART is crucial infrastructure for some of BC's most vulnerable residents, but Translink has been demonstrably unable to provide adequate service levels due to failings of the for-profit, contracted out model; and

BECAUSE all transit riders deserve access to safe, quality public transportation, it is unacceptable that seniors, and people living with disabilities are treated as less-than; and

BECAUSE the provincial government's commitments to strengthening our economy in the face of tariffs and threats to our sovereignty are incompatible with contracting out public services to foreign-owned corporations; and

BECAUSE the BC NDP promised during the 2024 election to bring HandyDART in-house but has failed to keep that promise,

THE BC NDP WILL call upon Premier Eby, and the BC NDP caucus, to keep their election promise to end contracting out of HandyDART services, and to provide adequately funded, public sector, paratransit services in every jurisdiction across BC.

2. Resolution title: Revamping the Granting Process and Funding for Non-Profits

BECAUSE non-profit organizations play a critical role in delivering essential social, cultural, environmental, and community services, often filling gaps left by underfunded public systems;

BECAUSE the current provincial funding and grant application processes are often bureaucratic, inconsistent, and inaccessible—particularly for smaller, rural, grassroots, Indigenous, and equity-deserving organizations;

BECAUSE many non-profits experience precarious, short-term, and project-specific funding, coupled with burdensome reporting requirements, which limit their capacity to focus on long-term service delivery and community impact;

THE BC NDP WILL the BC NDP advocate for a comprehensive overhaul of the provincial funding and granting systems for non-profit organizations, grounded in the following principles:

1. **Accessibility:** Simplify application and reporting requirements, and remove systemic barriers preventing equity-deserving organizations from accessing public funds;
2. **Stability:** Shift from competitive, one-off project grants toward sustainable, multi-year core operational funding models that promote long-term planning and mission-driven work;
3. **Equity:** Prioritize funding for culturally relevant, justice-based, and community-led initiatives, particularly those serving marginalized populations;

4. Transparency and Accountability: Develop clear, timely, and consistent funding criteria, ensuring fairness and responsiveness in how grants are assessed and distributed;

THE BC NDP WILL support the creation of an independent Public Non-Profit Funding Review Body tasked with:

- Ensuring equity, long-term sustainability, and accountability in the disbursement of public funds to non-profits;
- Supporting the transition to multi-year funding models based on demonstrated community impact and organizational need;
- Recommending mechanisms to ensure nonprofit funding keeps pace with inflation and sector-wide cost-of-living increases;
- Promoting a funding approach that enables living wages, staff retention, and organizational stability across the non-profit sector.

PLEASE KEEP the FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS g) AND h) CONFIDENTIAL.

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

Subject: 2026 Municipal Election

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL will support OneCity's slate of candidates in the 2026 election, pending individual candidate vetting. The Vancouver & District Labour Council will further consider the endorsement of Green and COPE candidates for remaining seats, pending individual candidate vetting.

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

Subject: Election Platform

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL will formulate a labour platform for the 2026 municipal elections, guided by motions adopted by Labour Council meetings since the previous elections, and feedback from affiliates; and

THE VANCOUVER & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER provide recommendations to OneCity regarding their 2026 election platform.

17. REPORT OF UNIONS:

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

Drew Hall – CUPE Local 2278
Jason Woods – ILWU Local 400
Cory Mandrik – USW
Eddy Pedreira – IATSE Local 891
Mike Logan – IBEW Local 213

No written report submitted.

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.

Anti-Racism Committee – Stephen von Sychowski | MoveUP

Community & Social Action – Eddy Pedreira | IATSE Local 938

Young Worker’s – Avril McGurk | IATSE Local 938

Solidarity in Action – Joe Stillwell | IATSE Local 938.

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:

Amandeep Nijjar of the CLC opened nominations for position of Treasurer.

Nominated:

- a) Jordan Both IATSE Local 118

Nominations will open again during the October 21st meeting.

22. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

23. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

24. GOOD AND WELFARE:

Peter Marcus – Austerity and Military Spending

Gary Jarvis – CoDEV Events

Joe Stillwell – Draw the Line Art Build

Rob Aston - ILWU

25. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:53pm.*

26. NEXT MEETING: [TUESDAY OCTOBER 21, 2025](#) at 7:00 pm
1880 Triumph St. or on Zoom

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