



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 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 | In Person Social
- 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 November 18, 2025 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**
M/S/C that the minutes of the October 21, 2025 Regular meeting be adopted.
- 6. ROLL CALL OF TABLE OFFICERS:** Chloe Martin-Cabanne, Shane Polak,
Jordan Both, Seema Ahluwalia
Stephen von Sychowski
- 7. REPORT ON NEW CREDENTIALS:**

CUPW Local 846

Stacey Assam
Alex Bernstein
Adrian Chow
Jeannette McConnell
Alex Pensato
Megan Bailey

TSSU

Karine Fernandes

VSTA

Mike Collier
John Silver

CUPE Local 1760

Chloe Leslie

8. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES

10. GUEST SPEAKERS: NIL

11. EDUCATIONAL: NIL

12. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

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

Political Action

We co-hosted two training sessions focused on union members who are interested in running for public office. Both sessions were well attended. Thank you to CLC Interim Pacific Region Director Amandeep Nijjar for co-facilitating both sessions, and to Janet Andrews and everyone at NWDLC for co-organising and hosting.

At a VSB meeting in October, the Board passed several regressive amendments to policies 7 and 8. These changes further limit the participation of stakeholders and the public in school board meetings and erode transparency and accountability.

Regrettably, this has been the direction which ABC, Green, and independent trustees have pursued in lockstep throughout the course of this term. Only OneCity trustee Jennifer Reddy and COPE trustee Suzie Mah have had the courage or political will to oppose this direction, but with only two votes between them they have been unable to shift the over-all direction.

Unions at the VSB did not feel they were appropriately consulted on the changes, and they favoured a very different approach as outlined in a motion brought forward by Jennifer Reddy. That motion was delayed for months before ultimately being turfed by the trustees. The unions also issued a joint statement, after claims were erroneously made at the school board meeting to the effect that the unions supported the policy amendments that were made.

This is a school board that is running roughshod over democracy, accountability, transparency, and due process. School board workers and parents agree, it's time for a new batch of trustees in 2026.

The Political Action Committee has updated our candidate surveys, and labour program for the 2026 election. We have also reached out to all affiliates to remind them of the opportunity to appoint representatives to the committee and participate in candidate vetting and recommendations. This work will continue through early 2026, and end with endorsements at the regular meetings in June (with the potential for some earlier).

At the time of writing this report, ABC is attempting to ram through a unpopular 0% tax increase mandate for the 2026 Vancouver municipal budget. This mandate would mean massive cuts to city programs and services, and to the jobs that provide them. Over 600 speakers signed up to express their views on this question, the vast majority being opposed to the plan.

Save Our HandyDART

In late October, the TransLink Board of Directors held a private/secret meeting at which HandyDART was among the topics of conversation. We caught wind of the meeting, and the

fact that there was a push by TransLink management to get the Board to support contracting out, and to make a decision at the next public meeting on December 3rd. We sprung into action, with a letter and a series of calls and meetings demanding that no decision be made without proper public consultation.

In response to all of this, TransLink's decision was to proceed on December 3rd nonetheless. Their notion of consultation is to allow members of the public to sign up to speak (for five minutes max, via Zoom) at the December 3rd meeting. Their report and recommendation will not be made available to the public until one week before the decision. This is not consultation; it's performative at best.

TransLink is a publicly funded agency, set up by provincial government legislation, and it's out of control. The time is long overdue for government intervention to ensure that the BC NDP's election promise of insourcing is kept. It's also past time for the government to change TransLink's governance model, and ensure that the public finally gets the accountable, transparent, democratically representative governance it deserves.

Representatives of the campaign met directly with the Premier on November 12th to deliver our message, calling on the government to announce their intention to keep their promise and to call TransLink to the table to determine a path forward to insourcing.

On December 3rd we will be calling a rally at TransLink headquarters and also asking people to sign up to speak to the Board and encourage them to vote down contracting out and send TransLink back to the drawing board.

Will TransLink deliver for the HandyDART community, or turn their backs on them? Will the provincial government keep its election promise, or allow contracting out to continue? We will have the answers to these questions by the time of our next meeting. One thing is for sure, HandyDART riders, workers, and their supporters, are not going away.

Labour Education

We hosted several classes through our Labour Education Program since the last meeting (as listed below). Thank you to all of the facilitators who have made the classes phenomenal this Fall. Thanks also to Chloe Martin-Cabanne for covering one of the classes while I was in Ottawa. And, of course, a very big thank you to Elizabeth and Alex for all of their work behind the scenes. Without our administrative staff, the education program would not be possible.

The 2026 program will be released shortly, with classes starting in February after the end of the CLC Winter School. Stay tuned!

BCFED Executive Council & Lobby

I attended the BCFED Executive Council meeting and lobby days in Victoria at the end of October. NDP MLA's were reminded of the importance of the labour movement as a more than just a stakeholder, but the representative of workers, and an indispensable partner. They were also lobbied on topics such as affordability, workers compensation, labour code reform, and strong public services. Additionally, we were able to arrange some meetings specific to the HandyDART campaign.

National Aboriginal Veterans Day & Remembrance Day

Per the decision of last month's meeting, we purchased wreaths for both the National Aboriginal Veterans Day ceremony in Vancouver, and the Remembrance Day ceremony in North Vancouver. Thank you to Richard Peng for attending National Aboriginal Veterans Day on our behalf (I was busy with our candidate training), and to Gary Jarvis for once again attending in North Vancouver (I was at the ceremony in Maple Ridge).

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.

CUPE 1699 vs Regional District of Fraser Fort George

Issues: Wages, vacation

Commencement: October 18, 2025

CUPW vs Canada Post

Issues: Wages, benefits, health and safety

Commencement: September 25, 2025

PEA vs BC Government

Issues: Wages

Commencement: September 2, 2025

Pickets down, return to negotiation

IUOE 115 vs Diamond Truck Center (Harbour International)

Issues: Concessions

Commencement: March 20, 2025

IBB D-277 vs. Heidelberg Materials

Issues: Contracting out, health benefits

Commencement : January 13, 2025

Settled

CUPE vs Air Canada: In 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.

BCGEU vs. BC Government

CUPE 2269 vs District of Squamish
VMA Local 145 vs Vancouver Symphony Society

UNITEHERE Local 40 vs Coast Hotels

USW 1944 vs Rogers Communications (Abbotsford)

Events Attended / Dates of Note

October 21-23 – CLC Canadian Council meeting in Ottawa
October 22 – CLC hosted NDP leadership forum
October 25 – New candidate training (hosted by NWDLC, co-organised by VDLC/NWDLC)
October 27 – Labour Education: WCB Psychological Injuries w/ Sarah O’Leary, Lauren Chancellor
October 27 – Save Our HandyDART meeting
October 28-30 – BCFED Executive Council & lobby meetings
October 29 – BC Policy Solutions webinar: AI, civil liberties, and your job
October 30 – OneCity meeting
October 31 – VSB Caucus
October 31 – Meeting with prospective election candidate
November 3 – Political Action Committee
November 3 – Meeting with Metro Vancouver Alliance organiser
November 3 – Save Our HandyDART meeting
November 3 – Solidarity in Action Committee
November 4 – SFU Labour Studies Advisory Committee
November 4 – CLC Labour Council check in
November 6 – Meeting with Mayor Buchanan, City of North Vancouver
November 7 – Meeting with prospective election candidate
November 7 – BCFED Political Action Committee
November 7 – Understanding PIPA, w/ Diane Irvine
November 8 – New candidate training (hosted by VDLC, co-organised by VDLC/NWDLC)
November 8 – National Aboriginal Veterans Day (Richard Peng attended in Vancouver)
November 11 – Remembrance Day (Gary Jarvis attended in North Vancouver, I attended Maple Ridge ceremony)
November 12 – Meeting with Premier Eby
November 12 – Save Our HandyDART meeting
November 12 – BC Employment Standards Coalition
November 12 – Spoke at Vancouver City Council in opposition to 0% budget
November 12 – Meeting with Premier Eby re: HandyDART
November 13 – Executive Board
November 13-16 – BC NDP Convention
November 17 – Labour Education: BC Labour Code w/ Johnathan Hanvelt, Jeremy Bryant
November 18 – Labour Education: Employer Policies & Labour Law w/ Melissa VanderHouwen
November 18 – CLC Municipal Working Group
November 18 – BCFED workshop Changing Climate, Changing Economy
November 18 – Regular meeting & year-end social

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

13. TREASURER’S REPORT:

Treasurer Jordan Both will report on the financials for October 2025.

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

14. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

Amandeep Nijjar will present the CLC report since the October 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:

- Contribution to Living in Community fall fundraising drive, at a cost of \$250; and
- Donation toward Retired Union Activists Lunch group. Labour/ NDP Partnership, at a cost of \$1,000; and
- Donation to Worker Solidarity Network bowling tournament fundraiser of \$500, or registration of a team at a cost of \$500, at a total cost of \$500.

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

Subject: Cuts Suck Campaign

BECAUSE public funding for post-secondary education in BC has dropped from 68% in 2000, to just 40% today— a 28% drop, resulting in higher tuition fees; and

BECAUSE the cuts need to stop. It’s time for the BC government to step up, reinvest in our campuses, and properly fund post-secondary education; and

BECAUSE the BC Federation of Students, and thousands of students across the province are standing up to say these cuts suck,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse and promote the BC Federation of Students’ “Cuts Suck” campaign (<https://www.cutssuck.ca/>).

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

Subject: Squamish Labour Committee

BECAUSE the Squamish/Whistler area was previously part of the VDLC’s jurisdiction, though it has been served by the Squamish Labour Committee in recent years; and

BECAUSE the opportunity now exists to repatriate these areas to the VDLC, thereby uniting more workers within a bigger, stronger, and better resourced Council,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL welcome and pursue the repatriation of the areas currently served by the Squamish Labour Committee to our Labour Council; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER, upon the amendment of our Charter by the Canadian Labour Congress, update our Constitution & Bylaws to reflect our expanded jurisdiction; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY invite all CLC-affiliated unions with members within these areas to affiliate said members to our Labour Council.

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

Subject: VDLC Opposition to the City of Vancouver's "Uplifting the DTES" Plan

BECAUSE The City of Vancouver brought forward the *Uplifting the DTES* referral report on November 4, 2025, without permitting public speakers, preventing DTES residents, Indigenous community members, SRO tenants, non-profit housing providers, Japanese Canadian community organizations; and service agencies from participating in the decision-making process; and

BECAUSE The draft plan proposes substantial increases in height and density, including towers up to 32 storeys, while reducing requirements for deeply affordable housing from the existing 33% shelter-rate units to 20%, elevating land values and displacement pressures in the Downtown Eastside Oppenheimer District (DEOD); and

BECAUSE The City's own engagement summary demonstrates overwhelming opposition from the community, including concerns about gentrification, loss of affordability, inadequate tenant protections, lack of Indigenous-led planning, and risks to SRO tenants who may be displaced without sufficient housing options,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL formally oppose the City of Vancouver's *Uplifting the DTES* plan as presented on November 4, recognizing the risks it poses to affordability, Indigenous residents, SRO tenants, and the long-standing community fabric of the Downtown Eastside; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to all City Councillors expressing this opposition and urging them to reject the plan in its current form, and further request that Council commit to meaningful engagement with DTES residents, Indigenous organizations, SRO tenants, non-profit housing providers, and heritage communities before any new planning framework proceeds; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL request that Council refrain from advancing the *Uplifting the DTES* plan until a transparent, community-led process is established that prioritizes shelter-rate housing, Indigenous-led planning, and the retention of DEOD land and assets for deeply affordable homes.

17. REPORT OF UNIONS:

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

Shane Polak – PSAC / UVAE 20045

After the budget vote on November 17, 2025, PSAC Leadership is still in the dark about the budget cuts.

The budget proposes to cut 40,000 jobs, not including the 10,000 already cut for another 30,000 timed cuts.

\$1.5 million in early retirement over 5 years but we don't know how many people who want to retire in our difficult economy.

The public may think that public service workers have amazing pension, but they are actually not so. We don't earn the kind of money that makes those pensions so golden.

PSAC is seeking more information. My colleagues are very concerned about their jobs.

I note that the government is fragile with a minority and hope that the next budget vote in the fall of 2026 will result in a rude awakening for Carney. This will depend on the strength of Federal NDP's finances to fight.

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

18. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NIL

Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes.

OTHER REPORTS: NIL

M/S/C to adopt reports of committees.

19. REPORTS OF LABOUR COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES:

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

United Way British Columbia – Lori Mayhew

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

20. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

21. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

22. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

23. NOTICE OF MOTION:

At our January 20, 2026 regular meeting, the following motion will be brought to the floor:

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

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

24. GOOD AND WELFARE:

25. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/C to adjourn at 8:40pm.*

26. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY JANUARY 20, 2026** at 7:00 pm
ZOOM ONLY



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