



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018**

- 1. LOCATION:** Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver, BC

The VDLC acknowledges that this meeting is being held on the unceded traditional territory of the Musqueam, Squamish, Tseil-Watuth, and other First Nations people.

- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** Terry Engler, 1st Vice President

- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the December 12, 2017 meeting be adopted.

- 4. CREDENTIALS:**

The following credentials were received since the last VDLC meeting:
(* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

BCTF – VESTA

Allison Jambor

BCTF – VSTA

Treena Goolieff

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

- 5. GUEST SPEAKER:**

Mable Elmore, NDP MLA, - Poverty Reduction Strategy

Part of the NDP's election platform was bringing in a poverty reduction plan. BC has had the distinction of having the highest rates of inequality and poverty in Canada and is the last jurisdiction to not have a poverty reduction plan. The BC NDP minority government with the support of the Green Party is making this a priority. It is the right of every individual to have the same opportunities to be successful and it is the government's job to invest in people and ensure that their province works for them. Mable Elmore and Minister Shane Simpson have been seeking input from across the province on needs of people and their communities to combat poverty. The government has already addressed some issues: income assistance has been increased by \$100 per month (the first increase in 10 years); restored free adult basic education (for adults wishing to achieve their grade 12) and for English second language; restored reduced transit fares for people with disabilities; and increased earning exemptions for people on income assistance by \$200 per month. These are some of the initial steps, far from the whole picture of what is needed, but it's a solid start. Poverty reduction is a huge task, especially when the issue has been growing for so long, under the both the previous provincial and federal governments' neglect.

Talks with local governments, community organizations, and first nations have brought some key issues to the forefront: need for affordable housing (the government has made a commitment to bring in modular housing across the province); a living wage, starting with an increase to the minimum wage; access to and investment in education, from kindergarten to grade 12; accessible post-secondary, including trades and training; and affordable and accessible childcare.

The government will be bringing in legislation around their poverty reduction plan, but even the implementation of laws won't alleviate poverty overnight. This is a long-term battle and they'll need continuing support to keep the plan going. Investing in a poverty reduction plan is about investing in people.

Mable thanked the labour council for the opportunity to address the council and invited everyone to provide their input, either via the website or at town hall meetings (Vancouver, March 10 and 20). <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/bcpovertyreduction/>

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Joey Hartman reported on VDLC activities since the December 12, 2017 meeting.

Political Action

At the December executive meeting it was agreed that the VDLC should take a lead role in ensuring that the October 2018 municipal elections result in progressive councils, school boards, and the Vancouver Parks Board, with a particular focus on Vancouver. Gregor Robertson, Andrea Reimer, and Tim Stephenson have all announced their intentions to step down and there is the opportunity to unite progressive candidates and supporters.

Election reforms prohibit direct, or in-kind, donations to candidates or parties, but work with our members is permitted and the proposed VDLC budget for the year includes \$25,000 for this important work. This will be a high priority for the labour council in 2018.

Minimum Wage

The CLC and Ontario Federation of Labour have called for a Canada-wide call to action in support of Tim Hortons' workers and others who are being punished by employers responding to the \$14.00 minimum wage in Ontario. Friday, January 19 will see actions across the country, including at a Tim Hortons in Vancouver.

March on Vancouver

There will be a march on Saturday, January 20. Jack Poole Plaza is the gathering point and a march to follow. This is the anniversary of the 2017 Women's March held on the same date as the Trump inauguration.

VDLC Education Program

The 2018 program is in circulation. The Duty to Accommodate course with Conni Kilfoil (January 16 to 18) is underway and Charter Rights with Leo McGrady and Craig Bavis (January 27 to 28). Delegates are encouraged to attend and promote offerings throughout the year.

Anti-Racism Day – March 24 Event

The VDLC is convening a January 31 meeting of various organizations and groups that would likely be interested in collaborating on a march to mark the March 21 International Day Against Racism. Some groups have already agreed to a march Saturday, March 24.

May Day and Hold the Line Book Launch

The labour history book is set to be launched on the evening of May 1 at the Metrotown Hilton. The May Day March and Rally will be held at the same time.

Pacific Blue Cross AGM

The VDLC and many of its affiliates had a strong presence at the PBC AGM on December 13. Half of the elected board positions were up and the slate of progressive board candidates made a clean sweep. It is expected that the next AGM will be around June 2018 so it will need further organizing to elect strong representatives to the remaining half of the board.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

A year-end report provided a comprehensive overview of the success of MVA in 2017 and re-affirms the value of this organization to labour and the communities where we live and work. The next large assembly is set for the evening of January 30 and will firm next steps as well as a tribute to lead organizer Deborah Littman who is leaving for Toronto in early February.

VDLC Elections

Nominations for the VDLC executive open at the January meeting and re-open February 20 prior to the vote. All positions are up for election. Any delegate with one-year in good standing who has attended at least 50% of the VDLC regular meetings in the 12 months March 2017 to February 2018 are eligible and other delegates may also be considered if no eligible candidates are running. Anyone interested in running should contact Sister Hartman to discuss the responsibilities and their eligibility.

MSC to suspend the regular order of business in order to conduct the 1st call for nominations to the 2018 VDLC Executive Council.

7. NOMINATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

1st Call for nominations to the VDLC Executive, nominations presided over by Joey Hartman, President.

In order to be eligible for nomination delegates must have been a delegate for a minimum of 1 year and have attended 6 of 11 meetings from March 2017 to February 2018. Support of your local is important as the Executive meets during the day on the Thursday prior to the VDLC Regular meeting, this may require book off for some.

The following were nominated (in order of nomination and position):

President

Stephen Von Sychowski

MoveUP

1st Vice President

<i>Terry Engler</i>	<i>ILWU Local 400</i>
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2nd Vice President

<i>Krista Lee Munro</i>	<i>Unifor Local 111</i>
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Recording Secretary

<i>Bal Sandhu</i>	<i>HEU PHSA Local</i>
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Treasurer

<i>Tim Cheung</i>	<i>Unifor Local 2002</i>
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Members-at-Large (12 positions)

<i>1. Amir Bagheri</i>	<i>CUPE Local 389</i>
<i>2. Stefan Nielsen</i>	<i>UFCW Local 1518</i>
<i>3. Keith Stone</i>	<i>BCGEU Local 503</i>
<i>4. Russ St. Eloi</i>	<i>UA Plumbers Local 170</i>
<i>5. Neil Munro</i>	<i>Heat & Frost Insulators Local 118</i>
<i>6. Joy Tullos</i>	<i>CUPE Local 15</i>
<i>7. Graham O'Neill</i>	<i>HEU Dogwood Lodge</i>
<i>8. Emily Colman-Shepherd</i>	<i>IBEW Local 213</i>
<i>9. Karen McVeigh</i>	<i>HEU Dogwood Lodge</i>
<i>10. Frank Warwick</i>	<i>CUPE Local 1004</i>
<i>11. Nathan Fralick</i>	<i>CUPW Vancouver Local 846</i>

*** Please note that the second and final call for nominations will take place at the February 20, 2018 meeting and will be immediately followed by elections. ***

8. FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer Tim Cheung presented and circulated the Proposed Budget for 2018.

MSC to adopt the 2018 Proposed Budget as presented to the delegates at the January Regular meeting.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

See attached list

10. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

a) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Spending Authorizations

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL authorize the following expenditures:

- Metro Vancouver Alliance 2018 membership renewal – At a cost of \$1,000.00
- WISH Drop-In Centre Society – Donation of \$100.00
- BC Labour Heritage Centre – Donation of \$150.00
- Vancouver Co-op Radio – Donation of \$100.00
- 2018 DOXA Film Festival, ad in the festival program – At a cost of \$210.00

b) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Minimum Wage Increases and Employer Claw-backs

BECAUSE the Ontario minimum wage lifted to \$14.00 per hour effective January 1, 2018, with a commitment to reach \$15.00 by 2019; and

BECAUSE at least two Tim Horton's franchises and a number of other businesses responded immediately by informing employees of various claw-backs to their income and working conditions, in some cases resulting in a net loss for workers, including the ending paid breaks, introducing co-payment of health and welfare benefits, holding back tips, and requiring employees to pay for uniforms; and

BECAUSE unionized workers are protected from these kinds of regressive and bullying behaviors; and

BECAUSE the Ottawa and District Labour Council has created a "Minimum Wage Bully Hotline" to report on other employers acting similarly,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL add its voice to those condemning the actions of employers who have used the minimum wage increases in Ontario as an excuse for forced concessions from their employees; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER promote unionization as the best protection against regressive employers; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER encourage the BC provincial government to include prohibitions against similar actions when legislation is tabled to raise the minimum wage for British Columbians; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY ask its delegates and affiliates to speak to managers at businesses they patronize and ask what their intentions are when the minimum wage is lifted in BC.

c) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Solidarity with Iranian Protestors

BECAUSE since the first major protests began on December 28 in the city of Mashhad, Iranians across the country have taken to the streets in response to extreme poverty and unemployment and to inequity; and

BECAUSE Iran continues to suffer from international sanctions which, since 2012 have cost their economy over \$160 billion in lost oil revenues, with harsh impacts for the standard of living of most Iranians; and

BECAUSE the government recently ended subsidies on energy and bread that most Iranians relied heavily upon,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL express its solidarity with the people of Iran who are calling for an end to poverty, unemployment, and to achieve political freedom, trade union rights, and economic justice.

d) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: No Privatization of YVR and Vancouver Port

BECAUSE the federal government has not ruled out the option of privatizing airports, ports, and transportation systems across Canada, including YVR and the Port of Vancouver; and

BECAUSE Canadian Airports are among the best in the world and since the 1990's have been operated by non-profit authorities who are required to consider the community and who re-invest into the airport while also providing income to the federal government; and

BECAUSE the website www.noairportselloff.ca details the negative impacts for Canadians should privatization of airports be allowed to proceed; and

BECAUSE privatization inevitably means increased costs and reduces services as the private owners seek to maximize their profits,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to the federal minister responsible to oppose any potential for privatization of Canadian airports, ports, or other systems governed by the *Canadian Transportation Act* that is under review.

e) *MSC that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: MSP Premium Reductions

BECAUSE the BC government has decreased MSP premiums by 50% as of January 1, 2018 and has committed to eliminating the remaining 50% at a later date; and

BECAUSE the previous Liberal government had downloaded costs to poorer British Columbians through reduced personal income and corporate income taxes with an effect of \$3.4 billion in lost revenue between 2001 and 2010, countered by a doubling of MSP premiums between 2001 and 2016 to help cover the loss; and

BECAUSE an MSP Task Force has been struck with a mandate to consider the best method of replacing the revenue to government and is accepting submissions until January 31, 2018; and

BECAUSE the BC Health Coalition, which the VDLC belongs to, has prepared a submission and encouraged others to add their views on this matter,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL make a submission to the MSP Task Force that supports and echoes the recommendations of the BC Health Coalition:

1. To replace the forgone MSP revenue with a combination of personal and business taxes that ensure a more progressive and fairer form of income generation for the government (wealthy individuals contribute more and businesses share the cost among all employers in BC – not just those that pay all or part of their employees' premiums),
2. To eliminate the remaining 50% of the premiums entirely in the 2019/20 budget, and
3. To recognize the savings provided by reduced poverty and addressing the social determinants of health and to encourage measures to achieve these objectives.

11. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) CUPE Local 1936 – Reported by Sheryl Burns

A renewed collective agreement for CUPE Local 1004 and a new collective agreement for CUPE Local 1936 members at the Portland Hotel Society have been ratified. Key achievements are improved health and welfare benefits, a long-term disability plan, and the MPP. The local is having a ratification vote for childcare workers of the Hastings Community Association; the union is recommending a 4-year term with increases to wages of approximately 1.5% per year, a new job classification of supervisor which will result in a significant wage increase, improvements to vacation entitlement, and improvements to health and welfare benefits. The bargaining team was successful in staving off several proposed concessions.

The following reports were made but not submitted for the minutes:

a) UFCW Local 1518 – Reported Ryan Milligan

12. REPORT OF COMMITTEES: (in order reported)

a) Women's – Reported by Karen McVeigh

The IWD Dinner event poster is available, please take one and help circulate. The dinner will be held at the Maritime Labour Centre, tickets are \$50 each or \$30 each for low-waged. This year's theme is *Women on the Waterfront* with guest speaker Lee Macri, retired member of ILWU Local 500 and entertainment by indigenous women's group, *m'girl*.

January 20, March On Vancouver rally at starts at Jack Poole plaza / February 14 – Downtown Eastside Women's Memorial March at 10:30 am from Carnegie

March 20, Tampon Tuesday – collection box is available at the VDLC office and will be available at the February and March meetings. Please donate hygiene products or money and consider a collection in your individual work places. Donations will be collected by the United Way of the Lower Mainland and distributed where they are needed. The labour council was reminded that not all people requiring the use of personal hygiene products, like tampons or pads, identify as women or girls, and it's important to keep in mind when choosing language.

MSC to adopt the reports of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman

MP Don Davies addressed the FORUM AGM and supplied some literature, which was made available to delegates and guests.

The Federal Health Committee has conducted a study on Pharmacare, the report should be out February/March.

Only 2 of the resolutions passed at BC FORUM's AGM in 2017 are left unresolved: Target Benefits Bill and Pharmacare.

The VDLC passed a motion in support of the reduction of MSP Premiums and in support of the BC Coalition's submission. BC FORUM has some concerns with some of the BC Health Coalition's proposals, for example the elimination of property transfer tax exemptions and taxing capital gains on the sale of principal residences, both issues that could really impact seniors.

- b) BC Fed Young Workers' – Reported by Ryan Milligan
The committee is raising funds for a plaque in commemoration of Grant De Patie, the young worker dragged to death at a gas station after trying to stop a gas and dash, whose death brought about "Grant's Law". Donations most welcome.
- c) CLC – Reported by Joey Hartman
Nationwide Pharmacare campaign is underway. The campaign calls for a National Pharmacare program, there is every reason to expect this campaign to be successful. Finance ministers in every province and territory are in support as it will bring down their costs. Pharmaceuticals are the sole unregulated cost in health care and have been allowed to skyrocket. The Vancouver event is at the Holiday Inn Vancouver Centre, February 21 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. We need this to be a big, successful event, please plan to attend.
- d) Labour Day – Reported by Krista Lee Munro
Plans are leading towards a march. Anyone wanting to be involved in that planning, please let Krista Lee know.

MSC to receive the other reports.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NIL

14. NEW BUSINESS: NIL

15. NOTICE OF MOTION: NIL

16. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- 50/50 Draw to benefit CUPE Local 1936 member who lost everything in a fire before Christmas – Sister Sheryl Burns, CUPE Local 1936, thanked the labour council for supporting her fellow member, a single mother who lost everything.
- March's Pizza Educational – the ITF (International Transportation Federation) will present a 40-minute film about Myanmar seafarer Shwe Tun Aung; Peter Lahay, ITF, and Jason Woods, ILWU Local 400, will speak to the film and the work of the ITF.
- Unifor Local 2002 has joined the Metro Vancouver Alliance
- Tim Cheung, Unifor Local 2002, along with a delegation, brought the Pharmacare Campaign to his municipal government when he realized that they weren't among the municipalities in support of a National Pharmacare program. It became clear how uninformed many city councillors are on this issue. After the proposal and answering some questions, Langley Township unanimously passed a resolution in support.
- There are rallies taking place in regards to talks taking place in Vancouver regarding North Korea and the opinion that the United States should stay out of foreign affairs.
- Everyone encouraged to come out to the March On-Vancouver, January 20 – Sister Lisa Kreut thanked the labour movement for the incredible support organizers are receiving.

17. MEETING ADJOURNED: MSC to adjourn at 9:13 pm.

18. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018**, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

Pizza Educational
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
6:00 pm

Government Lobbies
What level of government to approach on issues.
How does it work?

For copies of posters for these events, please visit website – www.vdlic.ca

Vancouver & District Labour Council
2018 Labour Education
Anita Yan Memorial Law Series & General Program

Dates at a Glance

Courses	Instructors	Dates
Duty to Accommodate in the Workplace (Intermediate)	Conni Kilfoil * Consultant	January 16, 17, & 18 Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
Charter Rights in the Workplace (All levels)	Leo McGrady & Craig Bavis * McGrady & Co. * Victory Square Law Office	TO BE RESCHEDULED
Promotions: How to Bargain Language and Win Non-Selection Grievances (All levels)	Susanna Quail * Allevalo, Quail, & Worth	February 13 Tuesday
Organizing Mini-Conference: Success at New Certifications (All levels)	Leo McGrady * McGrady & Co. with guest organizers	February 24 & 25 Saturday & Sunday
Bullying & Harassment (All levels)	Conni Kilfoil * Consultant	March 24 & 25 Saturday & Sunday
Creative Writing as a Political Act (All Levels)	Janet Patterson * Lawyer	April 4 & 11 Wednesday Evenings
WCB Intro (Beginner)	Sarah O'Leary * Harrison O'Leary Lawyers LLP	April 10 Thursday
Privacy Rights (Advanced)	Jamie Baugh * McGrady & Co.	May 16 Wednesday
Pension Law (Advanced—for administrators, trustees, & negotiators)	Susan Philpott & Simon Archer * Goldbart Partners LLP - Toronto	May 17 Thursday

To register, please visit the Vancouver & District Labour Council website at www.vdlic.ca

Vancouver & District Labour Council
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Dates at a Glance

Courses	Instructors	Dates
Organizing for Power in the Workplace (All levels)	Laurel Albina * Hospital Employees' Union	May 29, 30, & 31 Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
BC Labour Code (All levels)	Jonathan Hamvelt * Banister & Co.	June 9 Saturday
Canada Labour Code (All levels)	Tamara Rasmusovic * Moore Edgar Lyster	September 19 Wednesday
WCB: Psychological Injuries (Intermediate / Advanced)	Niki Schurr * Move UP	October 10 Wednesday
Human Rights (All levels)	Conni Kilfoil * Consultant	October 23, 24, & 25 Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
Investigations and Interrogations: Representing Members in Employer Interviews (All levels)	Craig Bavis * Victory Square Law Office	November 24 Saturday
Effective Grievances (Introductory)	Jennifer Arnold * BCGEU	December 1 Saturday
Advocacy: How to Make Your Case Effectively (All levels)	Leo McGrady * Leo McGrady & Co.	TBA Saturday
Retirement Planning	Dean Lindsay * Unifor - Toronto	TBA Saturday

To register, please visit the Vancouver & District Labour Council website at www.vdlic.ca

2018 VDLC Women's Committee's

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY DINNER

WOMEN ON THE WATERFRONT

MARCH 8, 2018 - THURSDAY
5:15 PM - DOORS
6:00 PM - WELCOME
6:30 PM - DINNER

MARITIME LABOUR CENTRE
1880 TRIUMPH STREET
PARKING BEHIND BUILDING OFF PANDORA ST.

EVERYONE WELCOME
ASL Interpretation
Childcare assistance available, contact the VDLC

GUEST SPEAKER
Leo Macri

Retired member of ILWU Local 500. Leo witnessed and was part of the struggle for change and improvements for women in the workforce, particularly on the waterfront. Leo was a member of the first ILWU Women's Committee for Local 500.

ENTERTAINMENT
m'girl

An ensemble of indigenous women with stories and song.

TICKETS
\$50 / \$30 low-waged
Tables of 8 to 10

Contact Keziah at the VDLC office - 604.254.0703 office@vdlic.ca or website <http://vdlic.ca/committees/womens/>

For lists of happenings please see our website events page.