



VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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, Tsleil-Waututh, and other First Nations people.

- 2. CHAIRPERSON:** Graham O'Neill, 2nd Vice President

- 3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

MSC that the minutes of the July 17, 2018 meeting be adopted.

- 4. CREDENTIALS:**

The following credentials were received since the last VDLC meeting:

(* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

USW Local 2009

Al Biekxa (Alt)

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

- 5. GUEST SPEAKERS:**

Vancouver Mayoral Candidate Kennedy Stewart

Kennedy Stewart thanked the VDLC and President Stephen von Sychowski for the leadership being shown in this municipal election. This election is a “change” election and change can be messy, so having that clear, strong leadership is great thing. Bringing together the different parties, putting together a slate of progressive candidates, and working to get them elected is so important and when a progressive municipal government is elected in Vancouver it will be that work that made it happen. The main issue in this election is affordable housing. This is good for progressives, all progressive parties have a plan to improve the housing situation in Vancouver and all are similar with a few variations. The housing crisis is effecting workers more than anybody else and business is finally recognizing that. There needs to be investment in non-profit, affordable housing and business is getting on board. The next council will be able to make some substantial movement in this area. Taking a page from his mentor, Jack Layton, we can stand up to forces that are hurting our city and be united.

North Vancouver Mayoral Candidate Linda Buchanan

Linda Buchanan thanked the VDLC for its endorsement. Linda was born and raised in North Vancouver, her grandparents worked in the shipbuilding industry there, and her father was a teacher there. It was the support of the union that helped her mother when her father passed away when they were young.

With incumbent Mayor Darrell Mussatto moving on, North Vancouver is facing change. A critical issue for North Vancouver, is its ability to remain an inclusive city. If the city does not get this election right, North Vancouver is closing the door to people who make the city work – workers. Business owners in North Vancouver are now understanding, what lack of affordability means to them – no workers. As mayor, Linda will continue to champion the issues that work for families: affordable housing, rental housing, childcare, and services that make a city work. There are a number of young, progressive candidates putting their names forward in this municipal election who want to be a part of positive change which is very exciting. Linda Buchanan thanked the Labour Council for its endorsement and looks forward to working with the VDLC for the next 4 years.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the July 2018 meeting.

Political Action

The VDLC's list of endorsed candidates has gone to the CLC to be printed as poll cards and our first set of organizers have begun their work. I sent a letter to affiliates in August to identify ways they could work with affiliates to achieve our goals and they are now finding those ways to plug in and get to work.

We have also embarked on some pre-campaign period work including a poll which was very favourable for which we released a media advisory earlier this week. We are also doing a mail out to 100,000 homes in Vancouver.

Union Protein Project

Kathryn Prinz is now hard at work organizing our events on September 27 at Queen Alexandra School in Vancouver and October 4 at Blundell Elementary in Richmond. Please help promote these events and sign up to volunteer at them if possible.

VDLC Labour Education

Our next course will be WCB Intro on September 19 with Sarah O'Leary.

Labour Day

Labour Day at the PNE was a great success. We sold and distributed a total of 2955 wristbands to union members to attend the event. Children are free to the PNE so did not require wrist bands, but the PNE estimated another 30% for kids, which put attendance somewhere around 3,842.

The rally at Pacific Coliseum featured kids entertainment, followed by speakers which included myself, Rob Aston (ILWU), Phil Klapwyk (IATSE Local 891), Karen Ranalleta (CUPE), Victor Elkins (HEU), Kim Novak (UFCW Local 1518), Stephanie Smith (BCGEU), Marie Clark Walker (CLC), Irene Lanzinger (BCFED), as well as Minister of Labour Harry Bains, and Premier John Horgan. The rally was emceed by comedian Morgan Brayton and greetings and land acknowledgement was brought by Carleen Thomas of the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation.

Sponsors, affiliates, friends, and allies staffed booths in both the public activation and private picnic area and entertainment and games were provided in the private area as well. Feedback

was very positive and the event generated a tremendous amount of positive discussion on social media.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

The MVA Leaders' Summit took place on September 8. It was well attended, with 59 organizational leaders registered. The purpose of the event was to assess where MVA has come from and where it stands today.

Queen Alexandra Fundraiser

As discussed in July, we will be holding our Queen Alexandra Fundraiser at the Rio. We are looking at dates in mid-January for the event. More details will be forthcoming.

Events Attended

Labour Day Planning Committee meeting – July 18
Battle of Ballantyne play meeting – July 19
BCFED Political Action Committee – July 20
Meeting with Ash Amlani – July 24
Pacific Blue Cross AGM – July 24
MVA Leaders' Summit planning meeting – July 26
Meeting with Kennedy Stewart – July 30
Rally to support Mercedes Benz workers joining ILWU – July 31
Queen Alexandra fundraiser planning meeting – July 31
United Way of Lower Mainland new board member orientation – August 2
MVA Leaders' Summit planning meeting – August 2
Labour Day Planning Committee meeting – August 8
Meeting with Coalition of Progressive Electors – August 9
Meeting with BDS Vancouver – August 9
MVA Leaders' Summit planning meeting – August 9
Labour Day Planning Committee meeting – August 29
MVA Leaders' Summit Planning Meeting – August 29
Labour Day at the PNE – September 3
Orientation Meeting with Election Organizers – September 4
MVA Leaders' Summit Dress Rehearsal – September 4
Meeting with Don Genova (CMG Freelance) and Anita Zaenker (BCFED) – September 7
BCFED Vote PR Working Group – September 7
MVA Leaders' Summit – September 8
Kennedy Stewart Campaign Launch – September 10
MVA Strategy Team meeting – September 11

On Vacation – August 13 to 24

7. CORRESPONDENCE: *Circulated at meeting.*

8. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

Subject: Spending Authorizations

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

- One year subscription to Briarpatch magazine at a cost of \$39.98
- CCPA Annual Fundraising Dinner – Table of 8 at a cost of \$1,000.00
- Council of Canadians – Donation of \$100.00
- Justice for Mohammed Harkat – Donation of \$100.00
- Positive Living Network AIDS Walk, in support of HEU sponsorship – Donation of \$50.00
- Leukemia Lymphoma Society, in support of UFCW Canada sponsorship – Donation of \$50.00

b) *MSC to accept the application of The Canadian Media Guild Local 30213, Freelance Branch to affiliate 50 members to the Vancouver and District Labour Council.*

c) Subject: End the Blood Ban

BECAUSE, the Canadian labour movement has a proud history of standing up against discrimination to ensure all people are treated equally with dignity and respect; and

BECAUSE, Canadian Blood Services' blood ban is a discriminatory practice that creates and reinforces a negative stigma surrounding men who have sex with men (MSM), misgenders trans women for the purposes of blood donation, and prevents potentially healthy donors from donating blood; and

BECAUSE, the Prime Minister of Canada campaigned in 2015 to end the discriminatory blood ban and has not done so; and

BECAUSE, each summer many of our members participate in Pride events both as a celebration of life and freedom, but also as a protest rooted in the history of marching for our rights; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL send a letter to the Prime Minister Trudeau and Federal Health Minister to fulfill the promise to end the blood ban and ensure all citizens are treated equally; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY submit this motion to the 58th Convention of the BC Federation of Labour.

d) Subject: Domestic Violence

BECAUSE workers sometimes face situations of violence or abuse in their personal lives which may affect them in the workplace in a variety of ways, including their ability to attend work; and

BECAUSE no one should have to face domestic violence or abuse, and no one should face negative consequences at work because they are the victim of violence or abuse,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL submit a motion to the 58th Convention of the BC Federation of Labour calling on the Federation to campaign for an amendment to the Employment Standards Act which would provide all workers covered by the Act with five days of paid leave for attendance at medical appointments, legal proceedings and any other necessary activities; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER call for this leave to be in addition to existing leave entitlements and available to be taken as consecutive or single days or as a fraction of a day, without prior employer approval.

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY send a letter to the Minister of Labour Harry Bains to advocate for same.

e) Subject: #AllOnBoard Campaign

BECAUSE the #AllOnBoard campaign advocates for affordable and accessible public transit based on income in Metro Vancouver, specifically for free transit for children and youth (age 0 to 18 years) and monthly passes on a sliding scale based on income; and

BECAUSE the objectives of the campaign complement our desire to promote an affordable, liveable region for working people and to combat poverty; and

BECAUSE the campaign is endorsed by several of our affiliates and allies, including Burnaby Teacher' Association, BC Poverty Reduction Coalition, Women Transforming Cities, OneCity, COPE candidates Jean Swanson, Derrick O'Keefe, and Anne Roberts, and First Call,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the #AllOnBoard campaign and promote it and its objectives.

f) Subject: CLC Constitution Review

BECAUSE the CLC Constitution is being reviewed after a difficult period in the history of the Canadian Labour Movement,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL submit the following recommendations to the CLC Constitution Review Committee:

- Article 2.3 – Amend to provide the Canadian Labour Congress a leadership role in organizing:
“Advocate and encourage organizing of unrepresented workers in all sectors of the economy, and co-ordinate efforts to extend the benefits of collective bargaining into all communities”.
- Article 4 – Address the concern about a parent union taking reprisal against members or local unions as a result of an application for justification, or another union interfering in the justification process.
- Article 5.3 – Allow a provincial union to affiliate to a labour council or provincial federation for a period of three years before it fully affiliates to the Congress.
- Article 5.4 – Enforce the affiliation of local unions to labour councils by requiring proof of such current affiliation before delegates of that local union are seated at a Canadian Labour Congress Convention.

g) Subject: Wine from Occupied Territories Stocked at BC Liquor Stores

BECAUSE there are currently two wines stocked at BC Liquor stores which are produced in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

BECAUSE the VDLC has adopted a policy in favour of boycott, divestment, and sanctions targeting “those sectors of Israel’s economy and society which profit from the ongoing occupation of the OPT”.

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL sign on to the following open letter issued by BDS Vancouver calling for action on the part of BC Attorney General David Eby to end the sale of these wines in BC Liquor Stores:

Dear Mr. Eby:

We wish to bring to your attention our concerns about Israeli wines, many of them produced in the Occupied Territories, which are being sold in our publicly owned BC Liquor Stores. We note that as BC’s Attorney General, you are responsible for the provincial Liquor Distribution Branch. We had hoped that the current NDP government would be more concerned with these blatant violations of international human rights, but we are aware that your response to inquiries so far has been to completely ignore the issues raised and instead focus solely on “personal choice”.

The wines in question are either from the Galil Winery, which is a joint venture with the Golan Heights Winery (the name of which speaks for itself), or from the occupied West Bank, including the illegal Gush Etzion settlement bloc around Jerusalem. Two wines of particular note are the Efrat Judean Hills Kosher and Vision Malbec, both produced by the Israeli Teperberg Winery. This winery openly states that some of its vineyards are in occupied Palestinian territories and even provides a map on its website showing vineyards in the occupied West Bank.

One of the Teperberg vineyards is in the illegal Israeli settlement of Mevo Horon according to the progressive Israeli research group [“Who Profits”](#). This particular settler enclave is in the Latrun area of the occupied Palestinian West Bank and is close to the infamous “Canada Park” built by the Jewish National Fund on the rubble of 3 Palestinian villages with Canadian tax-deductible monies.

*All of this is in direct contravention of the Fourth Geneva Convention and “stated” Canadian policy. Detailed information on Israeli wineries can be found in the exhaustive [study](#) done by “Who Profits” entitled *Forbidden Fruit: Israeli Wine Industry and Occupation*.*

We recognize that an ongoing campaign was initially launched 10 years ago and was endorsed by 22 local and international groups. At that time, the Israeli government had announced plans to “rebrand” its 60 years of dispossession and ethnic cleansing; sadly, we are now at 70 years of Palestinian dispossession and the situation for Palestinians, especially in Gaza, is worsening by the day. Educational pickets have also highlighted the parallels between the campaign in BC against South African apartheid wines and this campaign. Public reaction to these actions has been encouraging and additionally, other activists in eastern Canada have launched a lawsuit against the Canadian Food Inspection Agency for mislabelling such wines as “made in Israel”.

We, the undersigned groups, call on the BC Government to investigate the stocking of these illicit wines on BC Liquor Store shelves; we do not wish to be made complicit in these violations of international law.

h) Subject: Support Criminal Investigation into Opioids

BECAUSE opioid overdoses claimed more than 4,000 Canadian lives in 2017; and

BECAUSE if corporations and their executives mislead, minimized, concealed or altered the information regarding the addictive qualities/nature of these products, we need federal action to find out; and

BECAUSE federal and provincial governments have spent billions of tax dollars on first responders, emergency care, and treatment programs to deal with the consequences of these highly addictive products,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL will support member of parliament Don Davies' call for a criminal investigation into drug companies' roles in the opioid crisis; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER support BC governments proposed class action lawsuit against drug manufacturers, as announced by MLA David Eby on August 29; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY send the resolution to the 2018 BC Federation of Labour Convention.

i) Subject: LGBTQ2 Issues in Health Care

BECAUSE it is important to provide education about LGBTQ2 issues to health care workers in order to promote a safe and respectful space for all in the health care system,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to Health Minister Adrian Dix calling for training for all health care workers on trans care, LGTBQ2 issues, and the aging out program; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER submit this resolution to the BC Federation of Labour.

j) Subject: VDLC Resolutions to the 2018 BC Federation of Labour

BECAUSE the VDLC has adopted several resolutions of province-wide significance since the 2016 BC Federation of Labour convention; and

BECAUSE the subject matter of those resolutions is still timely,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL submit the following resolutions, edited for length and BC Federation action as necessary, for consideration at the 2018 BC Federation of Labour convention:

1. End Violence Against Sex Workers
2. Pay Equity Wage Increases

3. BC Government and a Progressive Agenda
4. Canadian Softwood Lumber
5. Save Our Coasts Private Members Bill C-352 re: Abandoned Vessels
6. Unite Against Hate, Racism, and Xenophobia
7. Minimum Wage Increases and Employer Claw-backs
8. No Privatization of YVR and Vancouver Port
9. MSP Premium Reductions
10. Affordable BC
11. Solidarity with Lula da Silva
12. No War with Syria
13. Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions “BDS”

9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

a) CUPE Local 873 – Ambulance Paramedics – Reported by Sophia Parkinson
Minister Dix and BC Emergency Health Services (BCHES) announced 43 new full-time paramedic positions in the Kelowna and Kamloops area; this is in addition to new full-time positions in Nanaimo and the Lower Mainland. The NDP government is fulfilling their promise to increase paramedics in BC to provide emergency care for the population of BC.

b) ILWU Local 400 – Reported by Jason Woods
On July 31, the workers at Mercedes Canada Burnaby location voted to join ILWU Local 400, they overwhelmingly voted to be represented by the union of their choice. Brother Woods introduced one of Local 400’s inside committee members at Mercedes, Zab Savari, who is now shop steward and will be on their bargaining committee and asked delegates and guests to help welcome our new comrade in the labour movement.

Local 400 has ratified their new SMIT Agreement in Prince Rupert making Local 400 deckhands the best paid in the industry.

The Local is in negotiations with Pacific/FMW that they hope will match the industry standard.

Local 400 President, Terry Engler will be attending the ITF global conference in October where they will be pushing a global workers agenda. Local 400 1st Vice President and ITF Inspector Nathan Smith has recovered almost \$400,000 USD since April in stolen back wages from foreign seafarers in West Coast ports. Sadly, this is only a drop in the bucket for global shipping.

Jason gave a report in Ottawa to Transport Canada and industry stakeholders on labour’s perspective on ship automation. It was well received and gave the industry an invaluable perspective on just transition for Seafarers.

c) UFCW Local 1518 – Reported by Stefan Nielsen
At the end of July, Vince Ready issued non-binding recommendations to address what he called the “Himalayan gulf” between Sobeys and UFCW Local 1518. These were: 1) putting 40 of the remaining Safeway stores on quarterly review; 2) suspending the reopener negotiations until a future date; and 3) immediately beginning negotiations for a

Fresh Co. agreement. These recommendations were put to the Safeway membership and were rejected by a 99% margin; as recommended by the bargaining committee. As a result of the vote, Vince Ready moved off some of the recommendations and ordered 2 days of mediation with Sobeys. Unfortunately, there was no movement on the company's side and the union has been ordered to prepare final submissions on all outstanding matters by September 28.

- d) CUPW Local 846 Vancouver – Reported by Jeannette McConnell
CUPW will probably be in a strike position on September 27, 2018. The union is still negotiating with Canada Post; the goal is to get 2 decent collective agreements. There are some issues the parties have agreed upon, but many issues still remain, they include: job security for rural and suburban members; health and safety issues for letter carriers; elimination of the 2-tiered wage system; better staffing; limits on unwanted, forced overtime; protection for survivors of domestic violence; and proposals to expand postal services to include postal banking, etc. Postal workers have voted overwhelmingly to support a strike if necessary. If postal workers are forced to take strike action, they would very much appreciate the support of the VDLC and its affiliates and delegates: come to the line, join their rallies, talk to co-workers, and use media and social media to express support for CUPW. CUPW knows that in the past the support of the labour movement has helped them to get settlements and they are counting on labour's support now.

- e) HEU Dogwood Lodge Local – Reported by Karen McVeigh
HEU started bargaining last week with the employer for the Facilities Bargaining Agreement. This is the first time that they are bargaining without CUPE Local 873, Ambulance Paramedics.

HEU has reached an agreement with Coquitlam based Madison/Lakeshore Care Centre, where Fraser Health and Health Minister Adrian Dix helped prevent the layoff of 150 members.

HEU is now the main sponsor for the AIDS Walk since Scotia Bank withdrew; this is the first time a union has been a sponsor.

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- a) Women's – Reported by Karen McVeigh
Next Women's Committee meeting, September 24 at 6:00 pm in the VDLC office, all women welcome.

MSC to adopt the report of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

- a) BC FORUM – Reported by Agnes Jackman
The last BC FORUM Board meeting was held September 11, 2018. Some topics addressed were: labour council delegate vacancies to be filled; the distribution of the fall edition of the Advocate; the report on the community consultation held August 16, 2018 in Vancouver by the Federal Advisory Council on the Implementation of Pharmacare,

which was attended by BC FORUM members; the upcoming BC FORUM President's meeting with the Parliamentary Secretary for Seniors, Anne Kong in October; the resolutions going to the National Pensioners Federation (NPF) Convention in Saskatchewan, September 25 to 27; the resolutions going to the Congress of Union Retirees of Canada (CURC) Convention in Toronto, Ontario, September 19 to 21; the update on the BC FORUM Pre-Retirement Planning course, which is being revised; and the BC FED Convention. The next BC FORUM Board meeting will be November 6.

b) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

There is a petition that has been circulated amongst the delegates and guests on Pharmacare, they have collected upwards of 45,000 signatures. A federal consultation was held and a large number of those in participation came from the labour movement. The federal government has circulated a survey on Pharmacare as well. These surveys/consultations usually garner around 10,000 participants, so far there are over 40,000 people that have taken part online.

There is an MP lobby going on of Liberal MPs in BC. Please help the VDLC by signing up for your riding; at least one person attending the lobby needs to be from that riding.

The municipal election is coming up quickly. The VDLC endorsed candidate meet and greet was a great event. Endorsements have been completed around the province and poll cards are being produced: 160,000 poll cards arrive at the CLC September 19 for distribution to affiliates and their members.

Harrison Winter School preliminary list is out. The brochure will be out in the next few weeks.

MSC to receive the other reports.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Statement of Inclusivity was tabled in June and sent back to the Executive. Affiliates and delegates were reached out to for input. Some feedback was received.

MSC to re-table the motion and circulate the revised Statement of Inclusivity for vote in October.

12. NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Nominations opened by CLC Representative Ron Stipp for 1 Member-at-Large positions.

Betty Li, UFCW Local 1518 was nominated, acclaimed, and sworn in.

13. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

14. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

15. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Proportional Representation referendum is coming up soon. The current system doesn't truly represent the voice of voters. Delegates were urged to go back to their union and

talk with their brothers and sisters to vote to change the first past the post electoral system. The ballot will ask 2 questions of voters: 1 – Are you in favour of proportional representation yes or no? 2 – If yes, what type: a/b/or c. The CLC and labour are in support and promotion the mixed-member format. For more information visit these websites:

- <https://www.fairvote.ca/proportional-representation/>
 - <http://canadianlabour.ca/why-proportional-representation>
- The proceeds of the October 50/50 Draw will go to a fund in place for the family of an ILWU Local 502 member who died on the job in July.

A moment of silence was held for a member of ILWU Local 502 who lost his life on the job.

- A sister at CUPE Local 391 has a form of cancer that's treatment is not funded by healthcare and in order to seek treatment must be paid out of pocket, a GoFundMe page has been started. The treatment needed is immunotherapy which is a fairly new treatment option. National healthcare in the UK is considering including immunotherapy as a covered treatment option there. Delegates were asked to look into immunotherapy and perhaps it is something in the future that could be considered as something to advocate for in our healthcare system. Our sister has stage four cancer, this treatment is her only chance.

16. MEETING ADJOURNED: *MSC to adjourn at 8:45 pm.*

17. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2018**, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

Pizza Educational
Tuesday, October 16, 2018
6:00 pm

Campaign Fundamentals

Pizza by donation

For lists of happenings please see our website events page - www.vdlc.ca