



**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 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, 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 September 18, 2018 meeting be adopted.

4. CREDENTIALS:

The following credentials were received since the last VDLC meeting:

(* = recredentialled, A = alternate)

Canadian Media Guild – Freelance Branch

Nikki Koutsochilis

ILWU Local 500

Jaskarn Guraya

Alan Keely

Aman Lalli

John Sullivan

MSC to obligate/seat the delegate(s).

5. GUEST SPEAKERS:

Bill Bargeman, East End Food Co-Op

Brother Bargeman is a retired teacher and delegate from BCTF VSTA. In his retirement, he sits on the Board of Directors of the East End Food Co-op on Commercial Drive. East End Food Co-op is Vancouver's only cooperatively owned grocery store. For \$20 membership, anyone can be an owner/shareholder of this store. The East End Food Co-op started 43 years ago as a buying club and worked up to a storefront. They were the first store to carry organic produce, and then the first to carry fair trade products. When it became clear that there was a market for this, a store copied their model and opened up across the street. That store has since been bought out by Choices, which gradually expanded and was bought by Jimmy Pattison; Pattison currently owns food retailers SaveOn, BuyLow, PriceMart, Quality Foods, Urban Fare, Choices, and Nestors and whole sale company Western Family. Since Pattison bought the Choices chain, the East End Food Co-op has been in a fight for its life having experienced a significant drop in sales; it's tough to compete with a corporate store across the street that copies their model.

East End Food Co-op is a unionized shop and has been for 23 years; all employees earn a living wage and benefits. They remain hopeful for relocation and expansion. They've had tremendous support from the union and fellow co-ops.

As union members, everyone is encouraged to make the East End Food Co-op the first stop when grocery shopping. Take out a membership, become an owner and come to the AGM and help direct them.

Bal Sandhu re: Municipal Election

Municipal elections across the province are Saturday, October 20; the last day for advanced polling is October 17. Poll cards are available with the names of VDLC's endorsed candidates for Vancouver City Council, School Board, and Park Board and for North Vancouver City Council and School Board. Every day until Election Day volunteers will be working 8 am to 8 pm out of the Maritime Labour Centre. Delegates and guests were encouraged to sign-up to volunteer some time. Sign-up sheets were circulated at the meeting, or people could sign up via the VDLC website.

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on VDLC activities since the September 2018 meeting.

Political Action

Our political action work around the municipal election has been by far the main focus of our work over the past month.

Our 100,000 household poll card mail out and our massive social media "hockey card" campaign continued to popularize our endorsed candidates and keep us present in the media. Meanwhile our election organizers have been hard at work calling, door knocking, attending meetings and events, tabling, and laying the groundwork for our next steps. We have also continued a steady social media presence including sharing our poll card and candidate cards as well as material from the various parties/candidates.

Recently we have received new information about the interpretation of the new election laws. This new information broadens our understanding of what we are permitted to do. In response we are substantially expanding our campaign. Our main focus aside from member-to-member outreach is now a full-scale door-to-door get out the vote campaign, which may also be complimented by live calling to households. To achieve this we are bringing on a fifth organizer to set up and coordinate that piece of our work. The support of affiliates to make this happen has been tremendous.

The main need now is volunteers – sign up at vdlc.ca/vote

Union Protein Project

Our events on September 27 at Queen Alexandra Elementary School in Vancouver and on October 4 at Blundell Elementary in Richmond were a success. This was the first time organizing the event for myself and our UPP organizer Kathryn Prinz.

The BCFED, BCGEU, and our election campaign had booths at the event. We also had games and a bouncy castle for the kids as well as hot dogs, juice, water, popcorn, and fruit.

At Queen Alexandra, we heard from members of the school staff, families, and community members about how much they enjoyed the event and value our partnership with the school.

Our event on October 4 at Blundell Elementary and was our first in Richmond. The turnout was very good for a first event and the feedback was tremendously positive from parents, staff, and

other participants. The school has asked us to return again next year and a tentative date next fall has been set.

VDLC Labour Education

WCB Intro on September 19 and Canada Labour Code on September 25 went well and received very positive feedback. Both courses had a high number of repeat attendees, showing that our participants find the courses worthwhile and continue to return.

Our remaining courses for the year are:

- WCB: Psychological Injuries - October 10
- Human Rights for Shop Stewards & Union Activists - November 7, 8, & 9
- Investigations and Interrogations - November 24
- Effective Grievances - December 1

Stay tuned for the 2019 program coming out soon.

Metro Vancouver Alliance

The MVA is currently organizing relational meetings with mayoral candidates in advance of the October 20 elections.

There is a Leadership Institute taking place on November 2 and 3. This is a great developmental opportunity for leaders of all experience levels. It is free to MVA member organizations, meaning that as a VDLC delegate you can register to attend at no charge.

Digital Toolbox

We did a soft launch of the new website earlier this month and continue to work on it.

Queen Alexandra Fundraiser

Our Queen Alexandra Fundraiser event is scheduled for January 17, 6 to 9pm, at the Rio Theatre. We will be showing the film, *The Road Forward*, about First Nations activism in Canada. We also hope to have the director, Marie Clements joining us. More details, including ticket sale info coming soon.

Events Attended

- VDLC Labour Educational – WCB Intro: September 19
- MVA Meet Your Candidate Training: September 19
- United Way Campaign Cabinet: September 20
- United Way Day at the Vancouver Art Gallery: September 20
- United Way Labour Committee: September 20
- Kennedy Stewart press conference on opioid strategy: September 20
- United Way Executive Board Strategy Workshop: September 21
- VDLC canvassing: September 21
- United Way Executive Board Strategy Workshop: September 22
- VDLC Expanded Political Action Committee: September 24
- VDLC Labour Educational – Canada Labour Code: September 26
- Meeting with Hugo Chavez Front: September 26
- Queen Alexandra Fundraiser Committee: September 26
- Union Protein Project event at Queen Alexandra Elementary: September 27
- BCFED Vote PR meeting: September 28
- Election Organizer strategy meeting: September 28

- Union Protein Project event at Blundell Elementary: October 4
- MVA Strategy Team: October 9
- VDLC Labour Education – WCB Psychological Injuries: October 10
- Day of Mourning planning meeting: October 10
- VDLC canvassing: October 10
- VDLC Executive Board: October 10

Vacation: October 1 to 5

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:

- o Renew subscription to Our Times Magazine for three years - At a cost of \$90.00
- o Remembrance Day Wreath for North Vancouver Legion - At a cost of \$80.00

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

Subject: Community Benefit Agreement

BECAUSE the BC government has entered into a Community Benefits Agreement for key public infrastructure projects in BC; and

BECAUSE this agreement means good-paying jobs, better training and apprenticeships, and more trades opportunities for Indigenous people, women, and youth; and

BECAUSE these types of agreements have a successful track record in British Columbia and elsewhere, and have been used in the construction of 17 BC Hydro dams, all of which were completed on time and on budget; and

BECAUSE in contrast to this, numerous projects using the “low bid” model have run over budget, including the 2005 Port Mann Bridge, BC Hydro’s Northwest Transmission Line, the BC Place Roof, and the Vancouver Convention Centre,

BECAUSE the Community Benefits Agreement helps protect workers’ rights and ensure fair working conditions through unionization,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support the Community Benefits Agreement, help promote its value to the public, and join the Community Benefits Coalition of BC.

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

Subject: BC Federation of Labour Executive Council

BECAUSE at each BC Federation of Labour Council convention, labour councils nominate candidates for five seats on the Executive Council; and

BECAUSE the Vancouver and District Labour Council (VDLC), New Westminster and District Labour Council, and Fraser Valley Labour Council are entitled to two seats between the three of them, which they have agreed to nominate candidates for in rotation; and

BECAUSE at this year's convention it is the VDLC's turn to nominate a candidate for the Executive Council; and

BECAUSE the nominee must be an elected officer of the labour council,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL nominate President Stephen von Sychowski for the Executive Council of the BC Federation of Labour.

9. REPORT OF UNIONS:

- a) HEU Dogwood Lodge – Reported by Karen McVeigh.
HEU is still at the bargaining table for the Facilities Bargaining Association and other care homes.

HEU Secretary Treasurer Donisa Bernardo is retiring and will not run for another term at convention in November.

- b) CUPW Local 846 – Vancouver – Reported by Nicholas Aubichon
CUPW served 72 hour strike notice as of October 16; they will wait until Monday, October 22 at 12:01 am before starting rotating strike action. The Corporation refuses to address the union's major issues: health and safety, gender equality, work life balance, and preservation of good, full-time jobs. Postal workers have been without a contract since January 31, 2018. Negotiations have been ongoing for nearly a year. Canada Post has failed to adapt to the massive increase in parcel volumes. This has led to over-worked and over-burdened workers, increasing injuries in record numbers.

In September, an arbitration decision on pay equity ruled that rural and suburban mail carriers were not paid the same as their urban brothers and sisters. This is a great step for the workers, but the union still wants equal pay for hours worked, job security, guaranteed work hours. The union will not stop until rural and suburban mail carriers reach full equality.

CUPW has innovative ideas to expand services and increase revenues, including: postal banking, grocery delivery, and check-in on seniors. Details can be found in their Delivering Community Power campaign materials.

- c) UFCW Local 1518 – Reported by Abby Leung
Local 1518 is working hard for the municipal election with member-to-member campaigns, phoning, and social media. They have mobilized their membership, families, and friends to come out on Saturday to volunteer at the VDLC. Everyone is encouraged to do the same.

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

- a) UA Plumbers Local 170 – Reported by Russ St. Eloi

MSC to adopt the reports of unions.

10. REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

- a) Women's – Reported by Karen McVeigh
The committee is offering their scholarship to 2019 Winter School again this year. Deadline is November 9, scholarship is open to VDLC delegates who identify as women. The 2019 IWD Dinner will be held March 8 at the Maritime Labour Centre, the theme will be, *Why We Celebrate IWD*.

MSC to adopt the report of committees.

OTHER REPORTS:

a) CLC – Reported by Ron Stipp

Municipal election has about 255 to 260 labour council endorsed candidates, plus those endorsed by individual unions around BC. In Vancouver, everyone is needed to help elect a progressive government. Our leaflets can be seen in the hands of commuters, which is very encouraging, but we need to mobilize our voters.

Pharmacare MP Lobby will continue after the municipal election. There are some provincial governments who are waffling. Some sort of legislation is expected to be introduced come spring.

Federal election is expected this time next year, if not earlier. A federal by-election is being called in Burnaby South, Jagmeet Singh will be the NDP candidate.

CLC Harrison Winter School course catalogues are out. There are a number of new courses and for the first time BCGEU is running an organizing academy for 4 weeks.

BC Fed Convention – labour councils are entitled to 5 seats on the BC Fed Executive Council, 2 of which go to the Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley (VDLC, New Westminster and District Labour Council, and Fraser Valley and District Labour Council). It's by mutual agreement that the 3 councils rotate out, this term it is the VDLC's turn to have a seat. The remaining 3 labour council seats are also rotated, but by region. The CLC is hosting a reception for labour council activists to show their appreciation for the work done by labour councils.

b) BC FORUM – Reported by Russ St. Eloi

The Advocate has just been published; this issue labour's endorsed candidates are listed inside, BC Health Coalition update on their fight against Day and his private surgical clinic, and the fight for Pharmacare. FORUM has sent out a package to members urging them to vote for proportional representation.

c) Labour Day – Reported by Stephen von Sychowski

A debrief meeting was held and a survey was sent out to sponsors of the event at the PNE. Results have been positive with some concerns over the booth areas and the private/public areas. The event drew well over 3,000 people which is exciting. Stephen and Michelle Livaja met with the PNE about the concerns and are working out if the PNE can remedy them if we are to do it again next year.

MSC to receive the other reports.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Statement of Inclusivity and Solidarity was tabled and deferred to the Executive in June for further input from delegates and affiliates. The input of affiliates and delegates was sought and the Statement was revised.

The revised Statement of Inclusivity and Solidarity was recirculated weeks prior to the meeting and again made available to delegates at the meeting.

MSC to adopt the VDLC Statement of Inclusivity and Solidarity as circulated. (attached)

Feedback regarding Article 2 of VDLC Constitution and By-Laws, section quote in Statement, is duly noted. A Constitutional review is likely in the new year.

12. NEW BUSINESS: Nil

13. NOTICE OF MOTION: Nil

14. GOOD AND WELFARE:

- Left Coast Labour Chorus is hosting a cultural event, *We Do the Work, Then and Now*, November 18 at the Russian Hall, 600 Campbell Avenue, Strathcona. The event will include performances by the 4 winners of the young workers' song contest, a theatrical performance about the murder of Ginger Goodwin, and, of course, the Left Coast Labour Chorus. Tickets \$20 via Eventbrite.ca or from a member of the Chorus.
- Battle of Ballantyne Pier musical being previewed at the Maritime Labour Centre, October 25 and at Carnegie, October 26. Free event. It's really worth checking out.
- Reminder of the questions on the back of the municipal election ballot about capital spending.
- Proportional Representation referendum ballots – be sure to get them back in the mail.
- 50/50 Proceeds to go towards fund for member of ILWU Local 502 that was tragically killed on the job this past summer.

15. MEETING ADJOURNED: MSC to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

16. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2018**, 7:30 pm,
Maritime Labour Centre.

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

Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Campaign (BDS)
Canada Palestine Association of Vancouver

Pizza by donation

THE LEFT COAST LABOUR CHORUS PRESENTS

FEATURING

Left Coast Labour Chorus
with Peggy Hua
From the canning line to the picket line

Yours in Revolt, Ginger
1918 Union organizer Ginger Goodwin is shot by police in Cumberland. In protest, thousands of workers in Vancouver take to the streets in BC's first-ever general strike.
A short play by The Troika Collective

Announcing the top winners of the first ever
We Do the Work Song Contest
On-stage performances and awards presentation.

SUN. NOV. 18
7:30 P.M.
Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

RUSSIAN HALL
600 Campbell Ave.
in Strathcona

TICKETS: \$20
LCLC members or eventbrite.ca

We Do The Work:
THEN AND NOW

