

Vancouver & District Labour Council

2020 Labour Education

Anita Yan Memorial Law Series

SPRING SESSION

Registration Open January 31, 2020
To register go to [eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca) and search vdlc

Canada Labour Code Part 1 & 2

March 3 & 4, Tuesday & Wednesday - 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Registration: 2 Day - \$120 VDLC affiliate / \$140 other

BC based workers and their unions in federally regulated industries and workplaces are covered by the *Canadian Labour Code*, both with respect to industrial relations and occupational health and safety matters. This course is designed to provide an understanding of key aspects of both areas under the *Code*. The most important sections will be reviewed, along with interpretations and key rulings that illustrate the application of the *Code*.

Instructor: Tamara Ramusovic, Moore Edgar Lyster LLP

Tamara Ramusovic is an associate lawyer at Moore Edgar Lyster LLP. She represents trade unions, as well as non-union employees, in the areas of labour, employment, human rights and administrative law. In addition to her work as counsel, Tamara has provided training to community groups on the topic of individual rights under human rights legislation and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Tamara has also made presentations on a diverse range of labour relations and employment topics including federal labour law, appeals and arbitral decisions and privacy issues in the workplace.

Labour Economics (All levels)

March 5 & 6, Thursday & Friday - 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Registration: 2 Day - \$120 VDLC affiliate / \$140 other

This course is designed as an introduction to labour economics and is a shortened version of the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School course. Participants will be introduced to the origins of economics, how inflation is calculated, the value of land, and an introduction to investments and pensions.

Instructor: Paul Finch, Treasurer - BCGEU

Paul Finch was elected treasurer and chief financial officer of the British Columbia Government and Service Employees' Union (BCGEU) in 2014, and re-elected in 2017. He is responsible for the BCGEU's ethical investment program and policy on housing affordability and land economics. Prior to this, Paul served as the BCGEU's executive vice president for three years.

Paul is a plan partner representative for the public service and college pension plans, a trustee on the Public Service Pension Plan Board of Trustees, and is chairperson of the BC Target Benefit Pension Plan. He also serves on the National Executive Board of the National Union of Public and General Employees and the Executive Council of the BC Federation of Labour.

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Human Rights Boot Camp (All Levels)

May 11, 12, 13, & 14. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday - 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Registration: 4 Day - \$245 VDLC affiliate/ \$270 other

This course will examine the history, growth, and current status of human rights in Canada by examining the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the federal and provincial human rights acts, and the relationship between human rights and collective agreement rights.

We will then examine current human rights issues such as the inter-generational Aboriginal residential school Legacy and the development of the Indigenous Truth and Reconciliation Commission; the accommodation of workers with disabilities, combatting systemic racism in employment practices, and the creation of safe workplaces for the LGBT+ community (and possibly others).

Multiple Guest speakers will present throughout the course.

Instructor: Conni Kilfoil, Consultant

Conni Kilfoil is a consultant who previously worked as the Equality Representative with CUPE in BC; she has worked as a lawyer with extensive experience as an advocate and educator.

Labour as a Force for Peace & International Solidarity (All Levels)

May 23, Saturday - 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Registration: 1 Day - \$90 VDLC affiliate / \$110 other

This course will examine the importance of international solidarity work in advancing democracy, social justice, and the rights and interests of workers here and around the world. We will examine examples where international solidarity helped turn the tide, the pivotal role of labour in the peace movement throughout history, and its ongoing importance today.

Instructors: Sarah Bjorknas, Derrick O'Keefe

Sarah Bjorknas has been a library worker and CUPE member since 1993, and a union activist most of that time. She has always had an interest in history, politics and international relations which resulted in a BA in Political Science from Simon Fraser University. Sarah is a co-founder of the Vancouver Catholic Worker, which is a small community and part of a Christian Anarchist grassroots movement known for communal living with shared resources, subsidiarity and pacifism. From 2004 to 2016, Sarah coordinated the Vancouver group of the War Resisters Campaign. She is currently a Regional Vice-President of CUPE BC and President of CUPE Metro Vancouver District Council.

Derrick O'Keefe is a proud labour and tenant union member, and a long-time anti-war and social justice activist in Vancouver. He is a former co-chair of the Canadian Peace Alliance and Vancouver's StopWar Coalition, which was formed in 2003 to oppose the war on Iraq. Derrick is a member of the Teaching Support Staff Union at Simon Fraser University, and a volunteer editor and translator with Ricochet Media. He is the author of several books and chapters on anti-war topics, and co-wrote the book "A Woman Among Warlords" with Afghanistan's Malalai Joya.

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Investigations & Interrogations: Representing Members in Employer Interviews (All Levels)

May 26, Tuesday - 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Registration: 1 Day - \$90 VDLC affiliated union / \$110 other

Picture this, you are a shop steward and get a request from an HR manager to sit in on an interview of a union member as part of an investigation; they won't tell you or the worker what it's about or let you speak alone, and the manager is vague and accusatory and threatens to discipline the member if they do not cooperate. What can you do as a shop steward? How do you best represent the member and reduce the possibility of discipline? At discipline arbitration's the employer's key evidence is their investigation. This new course will help you, as a worker's advocate, to level the playing field by knowing the rights of the employees and limits of employers in Investigations.

Instructor: Mary Thibodeau, Victory Square Law

Mary Thibodeau is a lawyer at Victory Square Law Office. She represents both union and individuals workers in the areas of labour, employment, and human rights law. Mary has previously been a shop steward and organizer for a public sector union. Mary is excited to be returning to the VDLC to facilitate the knowledge exchange and lively discussions amongst unions that take place during the course.

Discipline & Discharge (All Levels)

June 9, Tuesday - 9:30am to 4:00pm

Registration: 1 Day—\$90 VDLC affiliated union / \$110 other

How do you represent a member who's been disciplined? Find out the rules that employers must follow and get up to date information on recent developments. How do you use the new Labour Code rules about expedited arbitration? We'll share practical tips and strategies to assess and present a discipline grievance.

Instructor: Carmela Allevato, Allevato Quail & Roy

Carmela Allevato is a partner at Allevato Quail & Roy, a law firm that represents unions and their members in Labour relations matters, human rights, utilities regulation cases and in election/campaign and lobbying issues. Until 2015, Carmela's career was as in-house legal counsel at various unions including HEU, CUPE, PIPSC and the BCTF. While at HEU Carmela also served as Secretary Business Manager, as an officer of the BCFED and a member of the LRB. She has represented unions of all levels of courts and at innumerable arbitrations and LRB hearings. In addition to her law degree, Carmela also holds an adult education diploma and has developed and instructed courses for union staff, stewards and elected officers.

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Striking with History (All Levels)

June 10, Wednesday - 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Registration: 1 Day - \$90 VDLC affiliated union / \$110 other

Striking with History combines training for activists with labour history to help people think creatively about today's struggles and tactics. It will draw on the experiences of the participants, interactive role-play, and history from the struggle for the 9-hour day to the recent Unite-Here hotel strike to develop critical thinking and organizing skills for activists and organizers.

Instructor: Mark Leier, Professor — SFU

Mark Leier is a professor of labour history at Simon Fraser University. He has received the SFU Excellence in Teaching Award, and has worked with unions and activists for two decades. He is the author of four books on Labour and left history, including *Rebel Life: The Life and Times of Robert Gosden*, *Revolutionary, Mystic, Labour Spy* and *Where the Fraser River Flows: The IWW in British Columbia*.

***Stay tuned for further details on courses
to be offered during our Fall Session.***

*Vancouver & District Labour Council
Suite 170 - 111 Victoria Drive
Vancouver, BC V5L 4C4*

*#604-254-0703
www.vdlc.ca*

If you are unable to register online, please submit this form.
VDLC 2020 Spring Labour Education Series

Name: _____

Union/Organization: _____

Phone: (hm) _____ (mobile) _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

COURSES REGISTERING FOR: Online Registration through eventbrite.ca

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Methods of Payment Available: *(please let us know if invoice required)*

- ◆ Credit Card (contact VDLC office or bring card to course)
- ◆ Cheque (payable to the VDLC - Suite 170, 111 Victoria Drive, Vancouver, BC, V5L 4C4)
- ◆ Cash (contact VDLC office or bring cash to course)

Fees include lunch & material - **Please advise of special dietary needs at time of registration by emailing office@vdlc.ca**

CANCELLATIONS must be received 5 working days prior to course start for refund. No-shows will be charged the full course fee. Exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Pre-registration is required as course space is limited - registration is open to all, union membership is not necessary.

To register you can contact Elizabeth 604-254-0703 / office@vdlc.ca or via eventbrite.ca.

Payment can be made in cash or cheque payable to "VDLC", or with credit card (contact VDLC). Many unions will pay or reimburse tuition. Some financial subsidies are available.

Location - 111 Victoria Dr., in the Maritime Labour Centre. The building is wheelchair accessible and there is free parking at the rear of the building off Pandora Street. If using transit from Powell or Hastings, get off at Victoria Drive - Triumph Street is 1 block south of Powell/ 3 blocks north of Hastings.