

Vancouver & District Labour Council

Regular Meeting of Council

June 16, 2020



MEETING PACKAGE

Available online – www.vdlc.ca/resources

Agenda

Regular Monthly Meeting
May 19, 2020

- Call the meeting to order
- Adopt the minutes of the May Regular Meeting
- Credential Committee's Report – New Credentials this evening
- Guest Speaker – No Guest Speakers this evening
- Educational – No Educational this evening
- President's Report
- Correspondence (see meeting package)
- Executive Recommendations (4)
- Report of Unions
- Report of Committees
- Other Reports
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Notice of Motion
- Good & Welfare
- Adjourn

Correspondence

Regular Monthly Meeting

List is attached to package and on the website as PDF



Executive Recommendations

Regular Monthly Meeting

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

Subject: Lives Over Profit

BECAUSE the Federal Government has committed more than one billion dollars to develop COVID-19 vaccines, medicines, and diagnostic tests; and

BECAUSE most of this public funding is flowing to private entities, with no requirements that lifesaving vaccines or medications be made accessible and affordable for those who need them; and

BECAUSE Doctors Without Borders has launched a petition calling upon Canada’s Minister of Health, Patty Hajdu, to impose safeguards requiring that any medicines, vaccines, or health innovations discovered or developed with public funds be made affordable, accessible, and available for everyone who needs them – free of patents, monopolies, and high prices,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse and circulate the Doctors Without Borders petition “Lives Over Profit”, calling on Minister of Health Patty Hajdu to ensure that any medicines, vaccines, or health innovations discovered or developed with public funds be made affordable, accessible, and available for everyone who needs them.

Executive Recommendations

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b) MS that the following recommendation be adopted:

Subject: Public Inquiry into Health and Safety in the Construction Sector

BECAUSE the BC Building Trades Council is calling for a public inquiry into health and safety in the construction sector; and

BECAUSE the inquiry is one of the council's recommendations to the Premier's Economic Recovery Task Force, which brings together leaders from labour, business, First Nations and the non-profit sector to inform the province's economic response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BECAUSE the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed a cultural of non-compliance in certain sectors of the construction industry, and without continued enforcement, sanitation practices will return to their poor pre-pandemic state; and

BECAUSE the legacy of COVID-19 should be safe and healthy construction sites where sanitation and hygiene practices abide WorkSafeBC's occupational health and safety regulations, and the orders of the public health officer,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the call of the BC Building Trades Council for a public inquiry into health and safety in the construction sector.

Executive Recommendations

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

Subject: #BlackLivesMatter

BECAUSE the recent murder of George Floyd by police has been a tipping point in the struggle for Black Liberation and against police violence in the United States, and has spread to other countries including Canada; and

BECAUSE #BlackLivesMatter protests and uprisings have been occurring over the past two weeks and are beginning to win promises of change from leaders in some jurisdictions; and

BECAUSE these demonstrations of popular outrage have been met by widespread police violence and repression targeting everyone from demonstrators to media personnel, medics to bystanders; and

BECAUSE the labour movement has an important role to play and cannot be silent about how racism hurts our members, divides our communities, and weakens our movement,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL reaffirm its longstanding commitment to oppose racism and discrimination in all its forms, including Anti-Black racism, and in doing so will:

- Express our solidarity with the #BlackLivesMatter movement, and with those who are demanding justice for George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Chantel Moore, and all who have lost their lives to racist violence.
- Condemn the widespread police violence and repression against demonstrators, media, medics, and bystanders, which is being witnessed and decried across the globe.

Executive Recommendations

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- Acknowledge that racism, including Anti-Black racism, are not only problems in the United States but are equally problems here in Canada as well. We must not downplay or dismiss the experience of people of colour in Canada by drawing false comparisons with other countries.
- Recognize that racism is not merely a series of harmful beliefs held by individuals, but a systemic feature of our socio-economic system with deep roots in its historical development. Therefore, we must press not just for educating individuals but for fundamental societal change.
- Commit to hearing, and engaging in, the discourse on the question of policing reform, which has been thrust to the forefront by recent events and has seen a rapid growth in mainstream acceptance (For example, majority of City Councillors in Minneapolis have declared their intent to defund and dismantle the city's police force and replace it with "a new model of public safety...").
- Commit to standing up for the rights and dignity of all, and promoting anti-racism, inclusivity, justice, and respect in our workplaces and communities.
- Uphold the dignity of every member as essential to a healthy and vibrant union and workplace, while recognizing that racism and other forms of bigotry and discrimination divide workers and weaken our movement thereby harming all workers.

Executive Recommendations

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- Work with our affiliates, the BC Federation of Labour, and the Canadian Labour Congress in conjunction with government, Indigenous peoples, civil society, and communities, to develop policies, programs, and initiatives to combat racism and bigotry of all forms.
- Continue to seek to expand our Labour Education Program content dealing with questions of human rights, including anti-racism.
- Commit that while this list may not be complete, and we do not presume to have all of the answers, we will listen, learn, and stand in solidarity.



Executive Recommendations

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

Subject: Defund the Vancouver Police Department

BECAUSE countless Black, Indigenous, and other lives have been claimed by state violence and neglect in recent years; and

BECAUSE governments have continually used police as a substitute for proper social programs; and

BECAUSE the Vancouver Police Department budget currently takes over one fifth of the city's budget and has grown by over 100 million dollars over the past 10 years; and

BECAUSE this is money that would be far better spent on programs based around such things as mental health, crisis management and de-escalation; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support Black Lives Matter Vancouver's call on the City of Vancouver to dismantle systems of violence and oppression (<https://blacklivesmattervancouver.com/vancouver-dismantle-systems-of-violence/>); and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to Mayor Kennedy Stewart, and Vancouver City Council urging them to defund the VPD and redirect that money to other initiatives.

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Next Meeting

Tuesday

July 21, 2020

