

DRAFT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020

1. LOCATION: ZOOM Video Conference – 7:00PM

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: _____

3. NOTICE OF VDLC POLICY ON HARRASSMENT: Circulated prior to meeting.

4. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA:

M/S/ that the meeting agenda for December 8, 2020 be adopted.

5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/ that the minutes of the November 17, 2020 Regular meeting be adopted.

6. REPORT ON CREDENTIALS:

CUPE Local 15

Subrata Dasgupta

Donna Petersen

Cynthia Schadt

Tahmi Yazdanyar

BCTF- VESTA

Chloe McKnight (Alt)

UFCW Local 1518

Sartaj Birring

7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES: Pledge of New Delegates

8. GUEST SPEAKERS: Nil

9. EDUCATIONAL: Nil

10. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the November 2020 meeting.

COVID-19

All meetings in the first quarter of 2021 will be held via Zoom. We will review after that time.

Office Closure & Vacation

Our office will be closed during the week of December 20.

Political Action

Our Political Action Committee met and began discussing strategy for a possible By-Election, and for the 2022 Municipal Elections.

I have also been working with municipal locals on a number of local issues including opposing possible contracting out at a new park development, and the 2021 budget.

Our Municipal Engagement Committee met as well and discussed issues around housing and the opioid crisis. The motion on shelter and housing today flows from that meeting.

We supported Mayor Stewart's motion on decriminalizing personal possession of drugs, which passed unanimously at Council. This is an excellent step toward de-stigmatization and harm reduction. The city will now request the necessary exemption from the Federal Government in order to make this a reality. It is my understanding that the Mayor's Office fully expects the exemption to be granted.

It also notable that our new BC NDP majority government was sworn in this month, and new/returning Ministers were appointed. I'm sure we all look forward to working with our new MLA's and Ministers to move forward workers issues and interests during this term.

BCFED Convention

This week the BC Federation of Labour held their 59th Constitutional Convention.

The Federation's convention was held online this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and was executed very successfully. The VDLC sent its own convention delegates to participate in the proceedings, and many other VDLC delegates and Executive Board members participated as representatives of their own unions.

There were also many VDLC-submitted resolutions amongst the numerous reports and resolutions that were heard and approved by the convention. These included Resolution 182 - Safe Supply and Decriminalization, Composite Resolution 174A - Affordable Housing, Resolution 203 - Driving Public, Resolution 204 - AccessBC, and Resolution 208 - #Vote16BC. These motions can be found in the convention book. All other motions will go to the Executive Council.

Laird Cronk and Sussanne Skidmore were re-elected by acclamation to the roles of President and Secretary-Treasurer respectively.

Five Labour Council representatives to the BCFED Executive Council were also elected, including DJ Pohl from Fraser Valley Labour Council, Lois Rugg from the Kamloops & District Labour Council, Miyuki Shinkai from the Sunshine Coast Labour Council, Sam Raven from Kitimat-Terrace District Labour Council, and myself.

Labour Education

By the time of this month's Executive Board meeting our 2020 Program will be complete. We had a good year for Labour Education, despite the challenges of the pandemic. Our 2021 Program will be released shortly!

T-Shirts

We will be releasing a new t-shirt via pre-order early in the New Year – stay tuned!

WELLS

WELLS is currently filing for society status and will meet again in February. In the meantime, our Facilitators & Participant Experience and Curriculum working groups are working on proposals for next steps. In January we will host some training on facilitating via Zoom for VDLC facilitators who wish to participate. Details coming soon.

United Way

The Labour Appreciation Night took place on December 3 online.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

November 18 – Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Fundraiser
November 18- Portland Hotel Society AGM
November 19 – Political Action Committee
November 19 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society directors meeting
November 20 – Municipal Engagement Committee
November 20 – Cascade Region Labour Leadership Initiative gathering
November 20 – City of Vancouver Peninsula Working Group
November 21 – 131st Anniversary of the VDLC
November 23 – Meeting with CUPE 1004 and COPE Park Board Commissioners
November 23 – BC Employment Standards Coalition Basis of United Working Group
November 24 – BC Federation of Labour Convention Information Seminar
November 24 – United Way Joint Board Integration Committee
November 24 – Oath Ceremony – BC NDP Caucus
November 24 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Board of Directors
November 25 – BC Federation of Labour Convention
November 25 – Metro Vancouver Alliance Bridging the Gap event
November 26 – BC Federation of Labour Convention
November 26 – BC Government Cabinet Ceremony
November 26 – Labour Council meeting re: President Yussuff endorsement of Morneau
November 27 – Meeting with Mayor’s Office
November 27 – Meeting with CUPE 1004 and Green Park Board Commissioners
November 28 – Labour as a Force for Peace and International Solidarity
November 30 – VDLC Anti-Racism Committee
December 1 – VDLC Downtown Eastside Joint Union Committee
December 1 – Canadian Labour Congress/United Way meeting
December 1 – VDLC Housing Action Team
December 2 – “The Gig is Up” screening
December 2 – VDLC Executive Board
December 2 – Trade Unions for Energy Democracy, Labour and Climate Roundtable planning
December 3 – Advocacy: How to Make Your Case Effectively
December 3 – International Day of People with Disabilities, BCFED event
December 3 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Labour Appreciation Night
December 4 – Advocacy: How to Make Your Case Effectively
December 7 – VDLC Political Action Committee
December 7 – Worker Education and Labour Learning, working group meeting
December 7 – BC Employment Standards Coalition, Basis of Unity Working Group
December 8 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee
December 8 – Living Wage for Families Campaign meeting
December 8 – United Way Joint Board Integration Committee
December 8 – Master Trade Union Group collective agreement ratification meeting
December 8 – Regular meeting

M/S/ to adopt the President’s report.

11. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the November 2020 meeting.

M/S/ to adopt the Treasurer's report.

12. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

Ron Stipp reported on the Canadian Labour Congress since the November 2020 meeting.

M/S/ to adopt the Canadian Labour Congress report.

13. CORRESPONDENCE: Circulated prior to meeting.

M/S/ to accept the correspondence as circulated.

14. EXECUTIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

a) *M/S/ that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Shelter and Housing for All

BECAUSE shelter capacity in the City of Vancouver is currently down 30% due to physical distancing measures required due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BECAUSE there is an increased need for emergency shelter as a result of impacts of the pandemic; and

BECAUSE as we continue through the cold, wet Fall and Winter months the need to ensure shelter for all our residents becomes and increasingly urgent matter of public health and safety; and

BECAUSE housing is a human right,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL continue to support the City of Vancouver's efforts to obtain, through lease or purchase, the necessary shelter space to accommodate all unhoused residents; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon the City, the Province, BC Housing, and relief agencies to work together to do all that is necessary to ensure shelter for all who need it, and to make every effort to transition all unhoused residents to appropriate permanent housing with the necessary wrap around services as soon as possible.

b) *M/S/ that the following recommendation be adopted:*

Subject: Federal Government's Safe Start Agreement

BECAUSE the Federal Government's Safe Restart Agreement (SRA) promises \$19 billion to provinces and territories for the safe restart of economies and to promote resiliency in light of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BECAUSE these funds are to address seven priority areas, of which support for municipalities is one; and

BECAUSE the SRA states that "Municipalities are on the front lines of a safe restart of the economy and will need to put in place appropriate precautions to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and manage public spaces and critical services, like public transit. The Government of Canada will contribute up to \$2 billion to support municipalities with COVID-19 operating costs for the next six to eight months. Provincial and territorial governments will continue to support municipalities and will cost-match federal supports with investments made this fiscal year. In addition, the Government of Canada will also cost-match more than \$2.3 billion to support any additional provincial/territorial contributions for public transit."; and

BECAUSE some of these funds have already been dispensed to municipalities, via the province, and access to additional funds is anticipated in the near future; and

BECAUSE the previously dispensed funds were provided using a distribution metric developed by the Provincial Government that disproportionately saw federal money going to small municipalities, leaving cities like Vancouver receiving less money per-capita than other similar sized cities across Canada,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon the Provincial Government to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of SRA funds to municipalities which gives due consideration to population density and alleviating pandemic-related funding shortfalls; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call upon municipalities to ensure that these funds are used to support crucial public services, and the workers who provide them, including library workers, parks and recreation staff, 311 operators, City Hall workers, support staff answering public inquires, engineering, planning, and development staff, firefighters, as well as workers involved in operating water, sewage, waste collection, and other systems. It also includes direct service providers, including those providing critical services to vulnerable communities like Vancouver's Downtown Eastside.

15. REPORTS OF UNIONS: Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes.

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____

M/S/ to adopt reports of Unions.

16. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Solidarity in Action – Reported by:

Education – Reported by:

Young Worker's – Reported by:

Women's – Reported by:

May Day/Labour Day – Reported by:

M/S/ to adopt the reports of Committees.

17. REPORTS OF LABOUR COUNCIL APPOINTED REPRESENTATIVES:

BC FORUM – Reported by:

United Way of the Lower Mainland – Reported by:

PNE Board – Reported by:

M/S/ to adopt the reports of labour council appointed representatives.

18. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nil

19. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: Nil

20. NOTICES OF MOTION: Nil

21. GOOD AND WELFARE:

22. MEETING ADJOURNED: *M/S/ to adjourn at _____pm*

23. NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020** at 7:00 pm
ZOOM Video Conference