

# **Vancouver & District Labour Council**

Regular Meeting of Council

**December 10, 2019**

A stylized, grey-toned illustration of a city skyline and waterfront. The skyline includes several buildings of varying heights and a prominent tower with a circular observation deck. In the foreground, there's a waterfront area with a pier, a small boat, and a flagpole. The overall style is clean and modern.

**MEETING PACKAGE**

*Available online – [www.vdlc.ca/resources](http://www.vdlc.ca/resources)*

# Agenda

## **Regular Monthly Meeting**

December 10, 2019

- Call the meeting to order
- Adopt the minutes of the November Regular Meeting
- Credential Committee's Report
- Guest Speakers – 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
- Queen Alexandra Elementary School Choir
- Social

# 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: Affiliation of PSAC Local 20088 (Union of Canadian Transportation Employees)**

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL approve the request for affiliation of eighteen members of PSAC Local 20088 UCTE.

b) MS that the following recommendation be adopted:

**Subject: Safer Supply Saves Lives**

BECAUSE despite the immense efforts from community organizations, drug user groups and government since the overdose crisis was declared a Public Health Emergency on April 14, 2016, every day 4 British Columbians die as a result of the poisoned illicit drug supply; and

BECAUSE every community in BC is impacted by this crisis, with a disproportionate impact on First Nations people, people living in poverty and those struggling with chronic pain and mental health issues; and

BECAUSE establishing a public health, regulatory approach to psychoactive substances is recommended by the Health Officers' Council of BC, the BC Centre on Substance Use, Canadian Drug Policy Coalition, BC's Provincial Health Officer, and Vancouver Coastal Health's Chief Medical Health Officer;

BECAUSE in April 2019 the BC Government rejected calls by Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry for policy changes that would prevent people who use illicit drugs from facing jail time or a criminal record for simple possession, despite support

# Executive Recommendations

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from the Victoria and Vancouver police departments and legal mechanisms under the provincial Police Act to set policing priorities,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the City of Vancouver's Safe Supply Statement and support its efforts to advocate for a safer supply of drugs in order to protect and prevent further loss of our family members, friends, neighbours and loved ones; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER urge the BC Government to work with the Solicitor General to immediately decriminalize personal possession of drugs to reduce the stigma of substance use disorder and support engagement in harm reduction and treatment, and press the Federal Government for the same; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY write to the BC Federation of Labour, and the Canadian Labour Congress, enclosing a copy of this recommendation and asking them to press for action from the provincial and federal governments respectively.

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

**Subject: Canadian Labour Congress Convention**

BECAUSE the Canadian Labour Congress has issued the Convention Call for its 2020 convention; and

BECAUSE as a Labour Council chartered by the Congress, the Vancouver and District Labour Council is entitled to send two (2) delegates to this convention,

# Executive Recommendations

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THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL appoint President Stephen von Sychowski and one (1) other member of the Executive Board to attend the convention as delegates.

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

**Subject: 2020 Rent Hike**

BECAUSE Vancouver has seen record levels of homelessness this year, and an 83% increase in average rent from \$1,200 to \$2,200 in only three years (2016-2019); and

BECAUSE this crisis of affordability is also hitting elsewhere in British Columbia, including throughout the lower mainland, Greater Victoria, and Kelowna; and

BECAUSE for many years rents were allowed to be raised unchecked through high allowable increases, fixed-term lease loopholes and bad-faith renovations; and

BECAUSE last year public pressure led to the government cancelling the rent hike, and in a minority government we know that all parties will be watching public opinion especially closely; and

BECAUSE without a break from endless increases in housing costs, the other good work being done to improve affordability in this province will be counteracted and more people will be at risk of losing their homes,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL write to Premier Horgan and Housing Minister Selina Robinson urging them to cancel the planned 2020 rent increase, and will circulate and endorse the AffordableBC petition urging the same.

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**Next Meeting**

**Tuesday**

**January 14, 2020**

