

# DRAFT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

**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 January 19, 2021 be adopted.*

**5. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

*M/S/ that the minutes of the December 8, 2020 Regular meeting be adopted.*

**6. REPORT ON CREDENTIALS:** NIL

**7. OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES:** Pledge of New Delegates

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** 1. Lillian Deeb, Ben Ger / Rent Strike Bargain Campaign

**8. EDUCATIONAL:** Nil

**9. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

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

*M/S/ to adopt the President's report.*

**10. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the December 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 December 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: Disability Assistance Rates

BECAUSE in April 2020, the Government of British Columbia introduced a \$300 supplement to disability assistance rates in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was broadly welcomed by advocates; and

BECAUSE this increase raised the base amount of disability assistance to \$1,483.42 a month, or \$17,801.04 annually, and the base amount of income assistance to \$1060.00 a month, or \$12,720 annually; and

BECAUSE the poverty line, as defined by the Government of British Columbia, is \$20,000 per year for individuals; and

BECAUSE on December 8, 2020, Minister of Finance Selina Robinson announced that starting on December 18 families and individuals could apply for the BC COVID Recovery Benefit, a one-time payment of up to \$1,000 per family or \$500 per individual based on income; and

BECAUSE the government further announced that they would not claw back the BC Recovery Benefit from people receiving income or disability assistance, but they would reduce the \$300 monthly supplement to \$150, and discontinue it in March of 2021; and

BECAUSE this decision will increase income to some recipients by \$50 by the end of March, but some recipients will not qualify and will immediately lose \$150 a month in income, and all recipients will experience a sharp reduction in income in April 2021; and

BECAUSE in all cases this removes a crucial lifeline that people relied on during the ongoing pandemic, causes significant additional uncertainty and fear, and ultimately leaves them below the poverty line; and

BECAUSE pandemic-related increased expenses disproportionately affect disabled people; and

BECAUSE the BC Recovery Benefit will therefore provide the least assistance to low-income disabled British Columbians who need it most;

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the petition “Increase B.C. Income and Disability Assistance Rates: We Need The #300ToLive!” which calls for the Government of British Columbia to maintain the \$300/month increase to income and disability assistance rates; permanently raise income assistance rates to at least the poverty line, indexed to inflation; and ensure that increases to income assistance and disability assistance include a clear, earmarked increase to the shelter portion; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER write to Premier John Horgan, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction Nicholas Simons, and Minister of Finance Selina Robinson calling for the same and asking that they also ensure that there are no claw backs in relation to the BC COVID Recovery Benefit.

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

Subject: Vancity Board of Directors Elections

BECAUSE Vancity Credit Union is holding elections for its Board of Directors this coming April; and

BECAUSE it is important to ensure progressive, worker-friendly members on Boards of Directors of member-run co-ops,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse Adrienne Smith for the Vancity Board of Directors and will communicate this endorsement to our delegates, affiliates, and contacts.

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

Subject: In Solidarity with Farmers in India

BECAUSE in September, the right-wing government of Narendra Modi deregulated agricultural markets, opening them up to takeover by multinational corporations; and

BECAUSE farmers immediately took to the streets in protests of this threat to their livelihoods, and were met with brutal police repression; and

BECAUSE despite the violence perpetrated against farmers and their allies, the protests have continued to grow, with millions demonstrating across India; and

BECAUSE the VDLC Executive Board, acting on urgent requests from members of the community, issued a statement in solidarity with the farmers in mid-December, which read as follows:

The Vancouver and District Labour Council Executive Board stands in solidarity with the millions of farmers and allies who are protesting in New Delhi and across India.

The demonstrations, which represent one of the largest mobilizations in history, are in response to legislation recently passed by the right-wing government of Narendra Modi. The legislation deregulates agriculture, opening it up to takeover by multinational corporations. Farmers have been peacefully demonstrating in defence of their land and their livelihoods but have been met with brutal police repression, including roadblocks, violence, and arrests. Despite the violence perpetrated against farmers and their allies, the protests have continued to grow.

We express our solidarity with farmers, labour activists, and other workers in India who are protesting this draconian legislation and standing up for the livelihoods of millions of families. We further call on the government of India to cease the use of violence against protestors, and release all political prisoners arrested for protesting these laws.,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the statement of the VDLC Executive Board expressing solidarity with farmers, labour activists, and other workers in India who are protesting draconian legislation which would threaten the livelihoods of millions of families, and calling for the release of all political prisoners imprisoned for protesting these laws.

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

Subject: Rent Strike Bargain

BECAUSE the Rent Strike Bargain campaign seeks to build solidarity between labour and tenant movements to win collective bargaining rights for renters in British Columbia; and

BECAUSE the campaign has created a survey which seeks to gather information on the housing issues faced by renters,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the Rent Strike Bargain campaign's goal of obtaining collective bargaining rights for tenants in British Columbia; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER encourage its affiliates to endorse the campaign, to circulate its survey, and to encourage their members to complete it.

**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:**

**19. ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:       NIL**

**20. NOTICES OF MOTION:**

**21. GOOD AND WELFARE:**

**22. MEETING ADJOURNED:**    *M/S/ to adjourn at \_\_\_\_\_pm*

**23. NEXT MEETING:**    **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021** at 7:00 pm  
ZOOM Video Conference