

DRAFT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 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 February 16, 2021 be adopted.

5. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

M/S/ that the minutes of the January 19, 2020 Regular meeting be adopted.

6. **REPORT ON CREDENTIALS:** NIL

HEU – VGH

Christine Shovar

Judith Haughton

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

8. **GUEST SPEAKERS:** 1. Kate Holowatiuk, Delivering Community Power Campaign
2. Bea Bruske, Team Unite CLC

9. **EDUCATIONAL:** Nil

10. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

President Stephen von Sychowski reported on activities since the January 2021 meeting.

Political Action

Our Political Action Committee is in the process of its next round of meetings with the various progressive forces in the City of Vancouver. Late last month we met with representatives of Vision Vancouver. We had not been able to arrange a meeting with them in our previous round of meetings last Fall, and therefore wanted to meet with first. Next, I am working on arranging a meeting with Mayor Stewart's team. We will also meet with COPE, OneCity, and the Greens.

I have been working with CUPE 1004 and a number of Park Board Commissioners and City Councillors to ensure that maintenance of a new rooftop park at Oakridge is not contracted out.

I attended an E-Rally in support of pharmacare last month. There is a big push currently to ensure that Bill C-213: An Act to Enact the Pharmacare Act is passed. It will be debated for the second time, and voted on for the first time, later in February. I have sent a letter of support to MP Peter Julian, who brought forward the Private Members Bill. We have also been asking people to sign the NDP and CLC petitions and to send a letter to their MP.

Labour Education

Our Labour Education courses for the first half of 2021 are filling up fast. Several are already full, and others are going well. There is still room available particularly in the later Spring courses, so please continue to promote. We have hosted two courses so-far: Steward Level 1 & Level 2. It appears likely that we will need to re-offer these courses later in the year as they filled up and there has been additional interest expressed in them.

The WELLS Zoom 101 & 102 courses also filled up and went very well. These were free courses, paid for by WELLS. Over half of the participants were VDLC facilitators, and other included committee activists, and allies from community organizations.

Day of Mourning

Plans are underway for a virtual Day of Mourning ceremony once again this year. The ceremony will include impact speakers as well as speakers from WCB, VDLC, BCFED, and the BC Business Council. Promotional materials will be released shortly both digitally and physically.

YVR Joint Union Committee

Our YVR Joint Union Committee continues to meet to discuss and collaborate on issues of common concern to affiliates at the airport. Most of these are of course COVID-related at present, particularly around the protection of jobs.

We have secured quarterly meetings with new YVR CEO Tamara Vrooman, and new VP of Human Resources, Richard Beed.

DTES Joint Union Committee

The DTES Joint Union Committee continues to meet monthly and discuss and address issues of concern to affiliates representing Community Health and Community Social Service workers in that neighbourhood.

The Committee has secured quarterly meetings with Attorney General David Eby, and will bring in other participants as appropriate. Our next meeting will focus on housing and will include representatives from BC Housing, as well as MLA Melanie Mark.

CLC Winter School

2nd VP Nick Aubichon, and I, attended the Labour Council leaders session at Winter School this year, which was held virtually.

T-Shirts

Our t-shirt order has been placed. We did not get as many orders as last time, but still had a respectable order to put in.

United Way

Several United Way's are currently undergoing an amalgamation process. I am the labour representation on the amalgamation committee, as those of you who are returning from last term will recall. A meeting was held recently with Labour Council leaders to brief them on the process. A further meeting will take place soon, which will provide additional information and offer an opportunity for dialogue. There will also be similar meetings held with affiliate leaders.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

January 20 – United Way, Community Investment & Relations Committee
January 20 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society – Zoom 101 training
January 21 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society, Directors meeting
January 21 – Meeting with Attorney General David Eby and DTES Joint Union Committee
January 25 – Political Action Committee meeting with Vision Vancouver
January 25 – Columbia Institute webinar, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion
January 26 – United Way Joint Board Integration Committee
January 26 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society, Zoom 102 training
January 26 – Labour Council leaders meeting re: United Way
January 28 – Pharmacare E-Rally
January 29 – Day of Mourning planning meeting
January 30 – Steward Level 2, facilitating
February 2 – Meeting with Councillor Swanson / CUPE 1004 re: Oakridge development
February 3 – Worker Education and Labour Learning Society, Directors meeting
February 4 – YVR Joint Union Committee
February 8-9 – Canadian Labour Congress Winter School – Labour Council Officers Session
February 8 – BCFED Chairs of Standing Committees meeting
February 9 – Climate Action Roundtable planning meeting
February 10 – United Way Labour Committee of the Board
February 10 – BCFED All-Committees meeting
February 11 – Political Action Committee
February 11 – Executive Board
February 16 – BCFED meeting re: Community Social Action Committee
February 16 – Regular Meeting

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

11. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the January 2021 meeting.

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

12. CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS REPORT:

Ron Stipp reported on the Canadian Labour Congress since the January 2021 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: Paid Sick Days

BECAUSE eleven months into a global pandemic that has killed thousands, no government in Canada has legislated adequate, employer-paid sick days; and

BECAUSE the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit is temporary, inaccessible and not of use for the crucial first few days of an illness; and

BECAUSE had paid sick day legislation been in place before the global pandemic, lives would have been saved because infection rates would have been reduced; and

BECAUSE the lack of legislated paid sick days has especially hurt Black, Indigenous, workers of colour and women workers who are over-represented in frontline jobs, with low pay, few benefits, and without the ability to work from home,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL support the call for a minimum of ten (10) permanent, paid sick days for all workers and additional days during public health outbreaks; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER endorse the following principles. Paid sick leave should be:

- Universal: Available to all workers regardless of workplace size, work status or FTE, type of work, or immigration status. Legislated, with no exemptions.
- Paid: Fully paid to ensure workers are not financially penalized for following public health advice.
- Adequate: At least ten (10) paid sick days provided on a permanent basis, with additional paid sick days as required during public health emergencies.
- Permanent: Available during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
- Accessible: No barriers to access. Prohibit employers from requiring sick notes; ensure no disruption of income or unnecessary applications; and provide sufficiently flexible leave that reflects the reality of workers' lives, healthcare needs, and caregiving responsibilities; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER oppose further public subsidies for corporations like Amazon, Walmart, and Loblaws that are profiting from the pandemic and who should be implementing employer-paid sick days and raising wages; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FURTHER lobby provincial and federal government representatives to introduce and pass paid sick days legislation; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL FINALLY encourage members to be involved in campaign for paid sick days.

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

Subject: HEU – Make it Public Campaign

BECAUSE private contractors in BC’s hospitals profit by paying low wages and benefits for the essential work of cleaning and providing food; and

BECAUSE the BCNDP election platform promised to “bring these valuable workers back into the public service”; and

BECAUSE the government is now limiting that promise to “where possible and appropriate”, opening the way to long-term contracts with companies; and

BECAUSE it would be a profound injustice to allow companies to continue super-exploiting hospital workers; and

BECAUSE HEU’s Make It Public campaign demands that the government live up to its promise; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on the BC government to live up to their promise to bring housekeeping and dietary workers “back into the public service”; and

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse and call on affiliates to join HEU’s Make It Public campaign.

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

Subject: Research Assistants at Simon Fraser University

BECAUSE Simon Fraser University (SFU) has delayed the process of bargaining for recently unionized Research Assistants and Grant Employees (RA’s) for over 14 months, so over a thousand RA’s are still bearing healthcare expenses rather than receiving employer-paid coverage that all other SFU employees receive. The Teaching Support Staff Union (TSSU) is asking for the VDLC to support our campaign to demand that SFU pay for RA Healthcare Now. We have also started a petition.

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL call on Simon Fraser University Administrators to immediately:

1. Recognize all RA’s as workers, including those whose work overlaps with their studies;
2. Provide healthcare and dental benefits for all RA’s, including group MSP enrollment for the International Student Health Fee;
3. Reimburse the International Student Health Fee for all RA’s, backdated to September 1, 2020, to provide immediate relief;
4. Begin bargaining with TSSU for a first collective agreement for RA’s.

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, MARCH 16, 2021** at 7:00 pm
ZOOM Video Conference