

DRAFT REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 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 March 16, 2021 be adopted.

5. **ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

M/S/ that the minutes of the February 16, 2021 Regular meeting be adopted.

6. **REPORT ON CREDENTIALS:** NIL

CUPE Local 394

Brett David Stone

HSA - BC Cancer Vancouver Chapter

Reanne Bowlby

HEU – VGH

Christine Shovar

Judith Haughton

TSSU

Alicia Massie

Hollis (Tayler) Schmidt

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

8. **GUEST SPEAKERS:** 1. Max Gardiner, Sustainable Communities Initiative

9. **EDUCATIONAL:** Nil

10. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

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

Political Action

Late last month there were a number of motions of interest at Vancouver City Council. The first was a motion in support of paid sick days which was brought forward by Jean Swanson. We supported the adoption of this motion in accordance with the recommendation we passed at our meeting last month. The motion was passed unanimously by City Council.

Another motion was on Social Impact Bonds (SIB's). This motion was brought forward by Councilor Bligh. SIB's involve engaging private business to provide public services with pre-determined standards that must be upheld in order to the private investor(s) to be repaid. While a lot of fancy language is used to make SIB's sound like a new and socially beneficial, benevolent method of paying for services the reality is that it is just another privatization scheme. I worked with affiliates and councilors around this issue and while we were not able to have the motion defeated outright the motion was amended substantially in a manner which took out the most problematic contents and largely reduce the motion to one calling for a staff report. This was a big improvement over the initial motion. We will continue to

monitor that situation.

Finally, there was a staff report proposing new rules limiting the use of amplification devices downtown and providing for fines. The purpose of this was intended to be to address the homophobic bigot who was “preaching” on the sidewalk frequently last year. However, the negative implications for protest and picket lines are obvious. Many community members, including from the LGBTQI2S+ community and from labour spoke out against the recommendation and it was ultimately sent back to staff to be further reviewed.

While those were largely good news stories, it was less so on the Federal scene where we say Bill C-213: An Act to Enact the Canada Pharmacare Act defeated by a coalition of Liberal and Conservative MP’s. Here in our District every NDP MP voted in favour and the only other MP to support the bill was Jody Wilson-Raybould, who cited the commitments that she and her former Liberal colleagues made when originally running for election. Unfortunately, the Liberal MP’s did not feel the same duty to uphold their promise and voted against the bill. The fight for pharmacare continues but it is clear that along with so many other things this is not a reform that will be likely to be implemented by a Liberal government unless immense pressure can be brought to bear.

Our Political Action Committee continued its meetings with progressive groups this month, adding Team Kennedy, OneCity, and the Vancouver Green Party to its list of groups met with this quarter. A meeting with COPE will be happening shortly to conclude this round. The committee continues to work on endorsement strategy and sees a difficult path ahead but is up to the task.

Labour Education

The Labour Education program continues to go exceptionally, with a number of courses sold out this month and all of them at least registering respectably. We have had no cancellations or postponements this year to date and things are looking positive for the remainder of the Winter/Spring Session. Please continue to share.

Included in this is our Labour Economics Series, which has had about 30 participants per session and has been very interesting to be part of. The rest of the sessions should be very good as well, and we will look at another series of evening sessions on some other topic in the Fall.

Finally, we are working on adding a course on note taking – details tba soon.

Day of Mourning

The Day of Mourning is coming up on April 28. Everything is on track for the usual event, in a virtual format similar to last year.

YVR Joint Union Committee

This committee has continued to meet and met once again this month with YVR leadership about issues of concern to affiliates and other items. Delegates may have seen recent news about the establishment of a vaccination centre at River Rock. We were also involved in discussions around non-medical staffing of that facility thanks to our relationship with YVR leadership.

DTES Joint Union Committee

On March 30 the committee will meet with Attorney General David Eby, MLA Melanie Mark, and representatives of BC Housing to discuss housing plans for the DTES and broader region.

United Way

A series of meetings between United Way and labour representatives took place this month to announce the integration process currently being worked on by several United Way organizations in BC. Labour continues to work on areas of concern with United Way in the hopes of ensuring that this process is a positive one for labour engagement and for impacted workers.

Labour – Climate Forum

There will be a forum on climate change and the labour movement on April 10th. Details and registration information will coming shortly. This is being organized by Trade Unions for Energy Democracy.

Events Attended / Dates of Note

February 17 – Political Action Committee / Team Kennedy meeting
February 18 – YVR JUC / CEO & VP HR meeting
February 18 – BC Employment Standards Coalition
February 19 – United Way Community Investment & Relations Committee
February 22-24 – Labour Education: Duty to Accommodate
February 23 – United Way Joint Board Integration Committee
February 23 – United Way of the Lower Mainland Board of Directors
February 24 – Labour Education: Economic Reconstruction After COVID
February 25 – Unite Here! Local 40 re: campaigns
February 25 – Political Action Committee / OneCity meeting
February 26 – Labour Education: Bullying & Harassment
March 1 – Political Action Committee / Green Party of Vancouver meeting
March 1 – CUPE 15 meeting re: childcare
March 1 – WELLS, Facilitator/Participant Experience Working Group
March 2 – Living Wage for Families Campaign Municipal Working Group
March 2 – United Way/Labour meeting re: possible integration
March 3 – WELLS directors meeting
March 3 – United Way/Labour meeting re: possible integration
March 4 – United Way/Labour meeting re: possible integration
March 4 – BC Federation of Labour, provincial election debrief
March 4 – YVR Joint Union Committee
March 5 – Meeting re: living wage in Metro Vancouver
March 6 – United Way Campaign Cabinet Labour Committee
March 6 – VDLC Political Action Committee
March 6 – VDLC Women’s Committee International Women’s Day event
March 9 – Labour Education: WCB Level 1
March 9 – United Way Joint Board Integration Committee
March 9 – Trade Unions for Energy Democracy planning meeting
March 9 – VDLC Anti-Racism Committee
March 9 – VDLC Young Workers Committee

March 10 – Labour Education: WCB Level 2
March 10 – Labour Economics: Land Economics
March 11 – VDLC Executive Board
March 12 – BC Federation of Labour Executive Council
March 12 – Broadway Plan briefing
March 15 – Labour Education: Effective Representation in High-Conflict Situations
March 16 – Webinar, The Theory and Practice of Workers’ Voice in Canada
March 16 – Regular Meeting

M/S/ to adopt the President’s report.

11. TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer Stefan Nielsen reported on financials since the February 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 February 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: 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 Khelsilem for re-election to the Vancity Board of Directors and will communicate this endorsement to our delegates, affiliates, and contacts.

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

Subject: Vaccines for All

BECAUSE the migrant and undocumented people are often working in essential jobs, and in industries with high rates of COVID-19 infections; and

BECAUSE despite this, many migrants don’t have a health card or coverage, and those who are undocumented are often afraid of accessing healthcare in case their personal information might be shared with federal immigration enforcement; and

BECAUSE at the same time, migrant advocates indicate that some employers are already threatening to terminate workers who are not vaccinated,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL endorse the Migrant Rights Network's "Vaccines for All" campaign, which calls on federal and provincial governments to ensure full access to the COVID-19 vaccine to all migrants regardless of immigration status and for vaccine provision to:

- Be free of charge; and
- Not require a health card or health card number; and
- Be accessible; and
- Not collect any ID or addresses, or information about immigration status, and develop alternative mechanisms for tracking vaccine doses. Health authorities must guarantee that any personal information that is collected will not be shared with immigration enforcement or police; and
- Not be coercive or mandatory; and
- A comprehensive multi-lingual public education and outreach strategy, as well as training for healthcare providers, should be created. Relevant authorities must coordinate with and take leadership from migrant-led organizations to ensure that migrants can receive the COVID vaccine and testing in a safe, accessible, and dignified manner, no matter where they work or live, and without fear of punitive consequences.

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

Subject: Trustee Appointment

BECAUSE there is currently a vacant Trustee position at the Vancouver and District Labour Council,

THE VANCOUVER AND DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL WILL appointed Debbie Mohabir of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 15, to serve as Trustee for the remainder of the current term.

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:

Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes

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:

Submitted in writing in order to be included on meeting minutes

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, APRIL 20, 2021](#) at 7:00 pm
ZOOM Video Conference