

## Vancouver and District Area Council Meeting – May 15, 2019

### In Attendance:

Todd Smith (AGR 20044), Crystal Isaac (UTE 20027), Aaron Chang (CEIU 20938), Jen Horsley (UPCE 20095), Sky Belt (AGR 20044), Donna Odne (AGR 20044), Andre Bessette (UHEW 20729), Shane Polak (UVAE 20045), Emerald Lorete (UVAE 20045), Damir Moric (MHGYWC delegate), Terri Lee (AGR 20044) – via teleconference; Janet Andrews – Guest (NWDLC), Stephen Von Sychowski – Guest (VDLC), Patrick Bragg – Staff, Monica Urrutia - Staff

Regrets: Marion McLarty (UNE 20150), Steve Faria (AGR 20060), Jamey Mills (REVP)

Stephen Von Sychowski and Janet Andrews presented about the Vancouver District Labour Council and the New Westminster District Labour Council before the meeting was called to order.

Called to Order at 6:00 PM

### Agenda:

1. Approve previous minutes – March 13, 2019
2. Business Arising from previous minutes
  - a. Report on Member Mixer on bargaining and Phoenix – April 4<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Report on Vaisakhi
  - c. Report on May Day – May 1<sup>st</sup>
  - d. Election for 3<sup>rd</sup> Member at Large VDLC Executive position
3. Metro Vancouver Alliance Update
4. Upcoming Events
  - a. Car Free Day – Jun 17<sup>th</sup>
  - b. National Indigenous People's Day – June 21<sup>st</sup>
  - c. Canada Day – July 1<sup>st</sup>
  - d. Annual softball tournament – July 19<sup>th</sup>
  - e. Pride (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in August)
  - f. Annual Barbeque (July/Aug?)
  - g. Baseball & barbeque (July/Aug?)
  - h. CLiFF (fall)
  - i. Labour Day (Sept 2)
  - j. Federal Election (???)
5. Phoenix Subcommittee
6. Affiliate Reports
7. New Business
8. Round Table
9. Adjournment/Next meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2019

Agenda adopted (M/S/C) Sky/Aaron

Welcome & Acknowledgement – Todd opened the meeting with the acknowledgement of the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh. Todd spoke about Bear Witness Day, which acknowledges Jordan's Principle which is on May 10. This is Spirit Bear's birthday and an important date in the history of Jordan's Principle at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. The Tribunal's

first non-compliance order called for Canada to fully implement Jordan's Principle by May 10, 2016. Unfortunately, it took several more years and many non-compliance orders (September 2016, May 2017, November 2017) against Canada before any real progress was made.

Jordan's Principle ([www.jordansprinciple.ca](http://www.jordansprinciple.ca)) is a child first principle and legal rule named in memory of Jordan River Anderson. It ensures First Nations children receive the services and supports they need when they need them. Show your support and "Bear Witness" to ensure Jordan's Principle is fully implemented.

#### **Previous Minutes – Jen / Aaron (M/S/C)**

Passing these minutes also indicates that we have ratified the changes made to the Area Council Bylaws that were made at the previous meeting.

#### **Business Arising**

##### **Member Mixer downtown Vancouver**

Todd opened the floor for comments:

Aaron – was good, an opportunity to meet people affected by Phoenix. It was a good length of time. Liked having tables set to move to. We shouldn't be afraid to own our success.

Crystal – I liked the tables but should have a timer to make people move on and explore other tables, but also have a social area where people can stand if they don't feel like exploring some of the other tables.

Patrick – if we were to do it again, we wouldn't have so many places to sit, move the open area to have people move through

Terri – we need to give people a reason to move, maybe a passport stamp or better food at another table, an incentive to move, not just stay in place

Crystal – really good attendance

Andre – it attracted different people than normally attend, it was different enough to pull in people who normally wouldn't go to a union event

A round of introductions was held at this point, as a few more people came in, and there were some new delegates to the Area Council

##### **Report on Vaisakhi – Sky**

Sky said that it didn't go forward this year as she was not able to partner with anyone from the Sikh community. She will try again next year.

##### **May Day**

Todd opened the floor

Jen – it was really well attended. Lots of good chants and it was great stopping traffic throughout downtown Vancouver.

Shane – still has one of the chants echoing in his mind – “May Day, May Day, International Workers Day”  
the person leading the chants was tireless

### **Election – 3<sup>rd</sup> Member at Large on VDAC**

Chair was turned over to Monica to run the election

This position was vacant from our AGM in January, due to there being no staff rep available for the previous meeting the election was moved to this meeting.

Andre Nominated by Sky, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Aaron – Acclaimed

### **MVA Report - Jennifer**

Jennifer hasn't been able to attend very many events due to PSAC conflicting activities, including Regional Council and this meeting tonight. The MVA is in a bit of dire financial straits right now and are actively looking for new member affiliates. If anyone knows of any community groups, faith groups or labour or academic groups that might want to join, please let Jen know so that she can pass it on to Tracey Maynard, the lead organizer for the Metro Vancouver Alliance. Also of note, the website and email are currently down due to them being registered to a person instead of the Alliance and the license coming up.

### **Car Free Day – June 16**

We have chosen to participate in the Car Free Day on Main Street on Sunday June 16. We have confirmed our booth space. The event takes place between Broadway and 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue on Main Street. We will send out the exact location of our booth to volunteers once we have it confirmed from the event organizers. The event requires us to be there from 9:00 AM for setup to 7PM (up until 9PM) for teardown. Monica and Hetty will be the Staff resources, Monica AM and Hetty PM. We will need people available to assist Monica and Hetty for setup and teardown, the tent requires a few people to help out. Terri will be there early to help, she lives in the area. Todd will send out a schedule for people to volunteer in blocks to staff the tent.

Car free day is a community event featuring games, live music, food vendors and community and retail booths.

<https://www.carfreevancouver.org/>

### **National Indigenous Peoples Day – June 21**

Sky is working with the Mainland Human Rights Committee to participate at Trout Lake on June 21. We have a booth. The event runs from 11 – 4, we need volunteers to staff the booth. Andre, Sky, Donna, Crystal volunteered, Marion had indicated at a previous meeting that she was interested.

<http://www.bcnationalindigenousday.com/>

### **Canada Day – July 1**

We had been trying to partner with the West Fraser Valley Area Council to do Canada Day at Cloverdale, but have not had much response. Sky is looking into Canada Day at the Quay in New Westminster.

Vancouver is too cost prohibitive. Todd mentioned that the “Wheel of Misfortune” is ready to make a comeback for this event.

### **Annual Softball Tournament – July 19**

Crystal reported that Gordon Park is booked for the event. 2 teams have signed up so far, **please encourage people in your locals to form a team to join in.** it is \$10.00 per member to participate, this covers costs and a donation to the Metro Vancouver Alliance. So far we have a Young Workers team and a CRA team, if there are people who want to participate but can't form a full team there will be an Area Council team made up of individuals who register. There has also been talk of the possibility of a PSAC Staff team. Also, if you have friends or family who want to participate, that would be okay to, just need to make sure that we have enough PSAC members participating.

### **Pride – August 4**

[www.vancouverpride.ca](http://www.vancouverpride.ca)

The PSAC National theme for Pride this year is “Blood is Blood” which speaks to the blood donation ban for gay men and transgendered people. While the ban has been reduced over time, there should not be any discrimination for blood donations. This will be the messaging and focus for Pride parades across the country this year.

<http://psacunion.ca/blood-donation-ban-discriminates-based-sexual>

There is still the possibility of a PSAC float, still working on the logistics with BCFed. While Vancouver Pride is our big event, if you are in the area there are Pride events also at:

Surrey – June 24 - <https://www.surreypride.ca>

New Westminster – August 17 - <https://newwestpride.ca>

Burnaby – is also having an event, Sky will provide a date when she has it -

[https://www.burnaby.ca/Things-To-Do/Calendar-of-Events/Burnaby-Pride-Street-Party\\_s\\_p6530.html?EventMode=View&EventOccurrence=0](https://www.burnaby.ca/Things-To-Do/Calendar-of-Events/Burnaby-Pride-Street-Party_s_p6530.html?EventMode=View&EventOccurrence=0) (this is what Jennifer could find on the web)

Damir asked if there are usually any employer presence in the parades?

Patrick answered that there are a few, for example the Coast Guard and CBSA

### **Annual Barbeque**

Monica reported on the Nat Bailey Baseball and Barbeque nights, the cost is \$37.00 per person, they run from June 14-August 30, and require a minimum of 30 people in attendance. The last time we did this the cost to the member was ½ the cost and the other ½ was covered by the Area Council in partnership with the REVP's office and Young Worker's Committee. There is a reduced rate for children, but we would need to know ahead of time how many children would be attending in order to get the reduced rate. There are other less expensive options, but don't come with the private barbequing area where we could have the one on one with members. There are a limited number of dates still available, Monica will check what is available and report back to the Area Council Executive.

Todd noted that our other option is to do a barbeque in a park where we would have more interaction if we can't secure a private barbequing area at a Canadians game.

Shane said that he liked the idea of the baseball and barbeque.

Patrick noted that if the Area Council couldn't partner with another committee to reduce costs, we could ask the locals to sponsor tickets for their members as well.

Todd put it to the floor and asked who was interested in the BBQ/Baseball option?

The members indicated that they were interested in this option if it is available. We decided to try to find late August dates. Todd and Sky will coordinate.

### **CLIFF – Fall dates**

There are no updates for this, Patrick noted that at this time of year they are probably gathering materials for the Festival, the call-out to host usually goes out in September. CLIFF is the Canadian Labour International Film Festival and features Labour or Social Justice themed films that are hosted in various venues, from movie theatres to union offices.

<http://labourfilms.ca/>

### **Labour Day – September 2**

There will be two events this year, one hosted by the VDLC in Jack Poole Plaza and the other hosted by the NWDLC in Holland Park in Surrey.

Jack Poole Plaza will feature booth, food, the VDLC is still looking at entertainment options. The request for volunteers will be going out soon. This is a high traffic area where we will have good exposure.

Holland Park – running from 11:30-2:30, the WFVAC will likely have a booth there, Sky will pass the information to the WFVAC, as it is being held in Surrey, which is in their catchment area.

### **Federal Election - ???**

Plan for the Region will be coming out from the Regional Council, not yet finalized.

Shane – participates on the UVAE National Political Action Committee. They will be doing a campaign focusing on veterans on a national basis particularly about services and positions for service providers not being filled properly. They will be bringing the focus on “do you support veterans”

Damir – everyone in his local still talks about the free mac n cheese event that was held at Harbour Centre the last time around, will we be looking at doing anything like that again. Todd answered that that was specifically a CEIU initiative, but that UTE had also held one at the Surrey Tax centre that had been successful.

Andre – is looking to volunteer for the NDP anyway, are there venues for Labour to participate in the election?

Janet – there will be labour canvases, the District Labour Councils will be putting out calls for volunteers to canvass in targeted campaigns/ridings

Andre – are we going to get bombarded with volunteer opportunities

Sky – yes, once you sign on

Janet – you are always paired up, especially if it is your first time canvassing

Patrick – our plan is a bit different, PSAC is a non-partisan union. We will encourage members to vote and volunteer with CLC/Labour campaigns, but not who to vote for. We will direct them to engage on campaigns, but can't fund LWOP or directly fund campaigns.

Todd – the 1 pager about your rights in political campaigns will be coming out again

Patrick – we should also remember that not until the early 90s were federal employees allowed to even put a political sign on their lawns.

### **Phoenix Subcommittee**

Who has seen the Phoenix damages offer? The blanket offer is 5 days paid leave, but you have to have a minimum of \$1500 of documentable financial impact in order to qualify for compensation for damages. More information can be found here:

<http://psacunion.ca/compensation-phoenix-damages>

Everyone has been impacted differently, some members are not happy that PSAC walked away from the damages offer. There is some support from the REVPs office for “unscheduled” MP lobbies, informal lobbying efforts, occupations of MP offices. We would need 6-12 volunteers to take over MP offices over a period of 3 days.

It is coming up to 4 years, and there is a continuing lack of respect for people not getting paid and the government coming to the bargaining table with no mandate to bargain. We also have to keep in mind that people are worn out and just don't want to talk about their issues with Phoenix anymore.

To do the occupations we will need to have a specific ask for the MPs and an exit strategy. We also will need a constituent of the MP whose office we go into.

Shane asked if we are targeting MPs with cabinet portfolios.

Todd passed around a list of Liberal MPs in BC.

Janet mentioned that a specific ask can be to ask them to raise the issue in the house, asked if we are looking beyond who is in power.

We are, but this is specific targeting.

Aiming for July, to visit as many MPs as possible. Todd asked who in attendance liked the idea of this, most members raised their hands.

Patrick said that the Area Council needs to come up with a plan for Jamey to take to the National Phoenix Subcommittee so that this can also go nationally, if we can get it to go nationally, we could get some funding for LOS.

Donna asked if there is any word on ditching Phoenix

Sky – there are trials going on for 3 providers to replace Phoenix, but it is still 4 or 5 years away, they need to fix the current problems and data in order to implement a new program, otherwise your just feeding bad information into a new system and it will start all over again

Monica – we need to long term plan and keep on the government to get it fixed

Terri – sometimes we miss opportunities on quick action

Todd – mentioned he is part of a WhatsApp Group to keep up with politicians and where they're at, proposed a Quick Action/Lauch WhatsApp group for the Area Council and that we could invite activists in to participate

Patrick committed to sign up for the Parliamentary Activities newsletter and keep us up to date

### **Affiliate Reports**

**UPCE 20095** – Jennifer was recently elected President of the Local, as well as passing updated Bylaws for the local at the AGM. She attended the UPCE National Education session with her Local Vice President, some of the highlights were the Blanket Exercise, marking Bear Witness Day, a visit to the National Human Rights Museum and attending the 1919 Cennitary Conference. Jennifer was also recently sworn in as a National Officer for UPCE. Also of note, the pay increases that were recently negotiated will not be implemented until August.

No other Affiliate Reports were received.

### **New Business**

June 12 – Day of Action – Todd chaired a call with activists and it was decided that there would be a day of action held during National Public Service Week. It is being left up to the locals what level of engagement they want to participate in. What the PSAC is asking members to do is to post on Social Media, expect to see more details coming soon.

There will be additional messaging, with double sided placards to amplify the message. If your local's action requires additional resources, contact the regional office. We want members to show their dissatisfaction with bargaining, Phoenix and the damages offer. We want to demonstrate mobilization in June. This can be anything from group photos, leafleting, doing an action on breaks, someone even suggested a "smash cake"

Reflecting back on the April 4<sup>th</sup> Member Mixer, is this something that we want to do again? We could look at a Summer Mixer after the June 12 Day of Action, hold again on a weekday in the evening. This time we were looking at focusing on New Westminster/Burnaby area, we'll need to map out where the majority of members are in this area to choose a venue. Look at being on a Skytrain route. Summer would be a prime time to do this sort of activity.

Damir asked where the concentration of offices are?

Todd answered. Surrey has CRA, RCMP and Veterans Affairs. Burnby has Service Canada, CFIA, Purolator, Canada Post.

### **Round Table**

Monica – the Fall education schedule is being worked out and they are proposing holding TUB, Grievance Handling, DTA, Representing Members with Mental Health, H&S Activism and Creating Respectful Workplaces, please let your PSAC Rep know which ones would benefit your local.

The Regional Women's Conference call-out was sent out on May 14, the application deadline is August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

For Treasury Board members, there will be meetings upcoming about bargaining and the impasse, keep your eyes on the PSAC BC website for details.

<http://psacbc.com/treasury-board-bargaining-information-meetings-qa-session>

Aaron – we have \$2700 budgeted for political action, but have so far only used \$4.00 for a conference call, we should keep this in mind moving forward in our planning

Shane – some activities that he has participated in recently that were not covered in the reports were the Day of Mourning on April 28<sup>th</sup>, where he was struck by the solidarity of the ILWU. He also was at the May Day parade and participated in the Unite Here 40 Rally. He was one of the participants that also attended the negotiations afterward, which are open negotiations. The major issues for Unite Here are job security and the availability of full-time work, particularly with the Four Seasons closing in January of 2020.

Todd – for our meeting in September the parking situation is going to be different. The parking that is currently available out front will be gone, it is being converted into a bus lane. Also, for our next meeting we will need to start discussions around resolutions to the PSACBC Regional Convention, make sure you jot things down as they come to you, so we are prepared to discuss resolutions.

Thanks to Damir and Emerald for attending their first VDAC meeting.

To Everyone – Bring a friend next time.

Andre was sworn in as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Member at Large

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 PM

Next Meeting September 11, 2019