

Vancouver & District Area Council (VDAC) meeting - May 31, 2023

Present: Jennifer Horsley (VDAC President, UPCE 20095, Metro Van Coordinator), Damir Moric (VDAC 1st VP, CEIU 20937 & Pride Coordinator), Aaron Chang (VDAC Treasurer, CEIU 20938), Matthew DiNicolo (Metro Van Coordinator, CEIU 20937), Alisha Uppal (1st Alt Metro Van Coordinator, CEIU 20949), Edward He (Metro Van Coordinator, CEIU 20951), Deanne Larocque (UNE 20150), Denzil John Asche (UTE 20027 & 1st Alt Pride Coordinator), Priscilla Lam (UTE 20050, Women's Coordinator), Jamey Mills (REVP-BC), Monica Urrutia (PSAC staff)

Regrets: Donna Twemlow (3rd Alt Metro Van Coordinator, UVAE 20045), Shane Polak (UVAE RVP BC)

Agenda:

- Welcome and Indigenous Acknowledgement
- Rounds Question and Introductions
- Adoption of the Agenda
- Previous Minutes-11jan2023
- Business Arising
- Financial Report
- Standing Updates
 - Phoenix
 - Covid-19
 - Metro Vancouver Alliance
- Affiliate Reports – maximum 3 minutes
- New Business
 - Elections (2nd Vice-President, Secretary)
 - Yearly planning – what do we want to do? Barbeque, Softball, Labour Day, Pride, anything else?
 - Motion – Endorse the “Charter of Minimum Demands of Iran’s Independent Trade Unions and Civic Organizations” – document attached
 - Convention and Strike/Bargaining discussion
 - MVA Listening Session
- Round Table
- Next Meeting Date – September 20, 2023

1. Jennifer provided a land acknowledgement and began the meeting at 6:06 pm.
2. A round of introductions were made.
3. Agenda approved – m/s/c (Damir/Edward)
4. Previous minutes, January 11, 2023 meeting – m/s/c (Priscilla/Damir)
5. Business arising – none, January meeting was to address resolutions that were submitted to the appropriate bodies.

6. Financial report – m/s/c (Aaron/Damir)
 - a. Aaron shared that interest for the year received to date, UCTE 20088's Area Council dues, and annual allocation received from PSAC BC come to an account balance of \$5361.40.
 - b. UPCE 20095 dues cheque is coming.
7. Standing updates
 - a. Phoenix. Jamey shared an impromptu update on the situation, essentially situation is still not getting better with a high number of backlog cases and new cases still coming in. Worst situations are still interdepartmental transfers and terminations that aren't a result of retirement. Discussion was held on overpayments and what members should do. We do not provide tax advice. Please look to FAQs for more info. <https://psacunion.ca/phoenix-overpayment-recovery-faq> Members shared that LWOP for strike hasn't been implemented yet for both TB and CRA, members wondering when it will be so can prepare for that financial impact.
 - b. COVID-19. Discussion that this be taken off as a standing item given the World Health Organization has declared the end to COVID-19 as a global health emergency. However, the Area Council members are welcome to raise any concerns with it during affiliate reports or roundtable at any future meetings.
 - c. Metro Vancouver Alliance (MVA) – Jen provided that the VDAC was a founding member of the MVA and that it's been in rebuilding mode. It relaunch on April 23 and Jen provided a testimonial. The MVA makes connections in communities and develops leadership skills. It is launching a listening campaign on housing affordability (more on this later). June 11 event, Saving Our Planet, mainly targeting faith groups. June 16/17 event, Community Organizing Methods. Links will be sent by Jen to Monica to be shared with VDAC.
8. Affiliate reports – shared verbally, but if affiliates want it in the minutes they will send a written submission either before or within two weeks after each meeting.
9. Elections – The 2nd VP and Secretary were positions left vacant at the Feb AGM. Monica initiated a discussion as folks at this meeting were either at the AGM and explained their reasons for being unable to run, or this was their first meeting. The group discussed the historical purpose of the 2nd VP role and decided to provide a notice of motion that there will be a by-laws proposal for the next meeting to delete the 2nd VP role and revise the by-laws accordingly. The group also agreed to try to recruit a Secretary before the annual Area Council/Regional Committee summit that the REVP Office normally organizes. Additional action: Jen reminded herself she needs to get Damir added as a financial signer, and Warren and Marion removed.
10. Annual plan. A vibrant discussion ensued. Main points were captured below, placed in chronological order by event. People volunteered to lead on events, but **more help is always welcome.**

- a. Bowling event – instead of softball this year, several members at the meeting supported organizing a bowling fundraiser. There was an idea to generate teams amongst BC Fed affiliates. Or could also have it be a member plus one family member. Targeting Commercial Drive lanes. (Leads: Damir and Denzil)
 - b. Summer bbq – was very successful last year so definitely want to hold one again this year. Won't get a clear weekend because of all of the Component Conventions but will do the best despite conflicting dates. (Leads: Jen, Damir)
 - c. Labour Day – Sept 4, organized by the Vancouver & District Labour Council and the New West & District Labour Council. This year it will be at Edmonds Park (7433 Humphries in Burnaby) from 11:30-2:30. VDAC is confirmed to table. (Leads: Jen). **Anyone willing to join the table please let us know.**
 - d. Other discussions were held about Car Free Day (various locations and dates) but offline decided it's a no-go for this year and membership appreciation events that the REVP Office may be organizing.
11. Motion – Endorse the “Charter of Minimum Demands of Iran’s Independent Trade Unions and Civic Organizations” – document attached. This document was circulated in advance of the meeting. Jen shared her experience speaking at one of their weekly rallies in support. A motion was made for the VDAC to endorse the charter as attached. m/s/c (Denzil/Damir) Rallies are weekly on Saturday afternoons.
 12. Convention/strike bargaining discussion: Jamey thanks those who participated in the strike and especially those who took on leadership roles. Debriefs are planned in various ways. Discussion on strike pay, still being addressed. (N.B. After the VDAC meeting there was an update from the RO Admin on how to address strike pay issues which is included here. *Van RO Admin staff have developed an additional system for resolving strike pay issues. If you receive any inquiries about missing strike pay, overpayments, etc. please ask members to email us at: Van-RO-Admin@psac-afpc.com and use the subject line: “Strike Pay Issues”. Please ask them to ensure to provide the info below along with an explanation of their issue. This is in addition to filling out the national strike form. Info required: Full Name; PSAC ID; Bargaining Unit and Group; Number of days missing; Dates missing.*)
 13. Metro Vancouver Alliance listening session. PSAC is being asked to host a listening session on housing affordability before the end of June. This has to be in person and facilitated. Jen Horsley is trained to facilitate this 1-1.5 hour discussion. Has to be minimum 6, maximum 15 people. Damir is interested to attend. Aiming for June 22. If we don't get the minimum numbers by June 19, we won't hold the session. Motion: To support a listening campaign session by providing dinner/refreshments up to \$300. m/s/c (Damir/Priscilla)
 14. Roundtable – Monica shared that while she is away during the summer, Nielene Chand will be her backfill so can assist the VDAC during her absence.

Meeting ended at 8:33 pm.