

# Vancouver District Area Council Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2024

Called to order at 6:02 pm

Jennifer Horsley, UPCE 20095, VDAC President

Theresa Kelly, AGR 20060

Lauri Loveland UNE 20088

Damir Moric, CEIU 20937, Treasurer of VDAC

Priscilla Lam, UTE 20050,

Ann-Marie Friesen, UHEW 20729

Nadia Sokal, AGR 20043,

Devin Bagri, DCL 22000,

Denzil John Asche, UTE 20027, Secretary of VDAC

Regrets from: Edward He, CEIU 20951; and Matthew Di Nicolo, CEIU 20937

## **1. Land Acknowledgement**

We are on the stolen lands of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, and Musqueam people, and are grateful for their stewardship.

## **2. Welcome**

## **3. Roundtable Introductions**

People told what they did for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation; and National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two Spirited People

## **4. Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved by Priscilla, Seconded by Damir. Carried.

## **5. New - ULDP Project on Membership Enrollment & Alignment (presentation)**

## **6. Ratify executive motions**

September 16, 2024

There was a motion via email for the Vancouver and District Area Council to pay \$100 for Tim Hortons coffee, tea, and snacks to support the HandyDart workers on the strike line at Pacific Central Station, as a political action expense.

## **7. Acceptance of the Previous Minutes of July 17, 2024**

Moved by Denzil, Seconded by Priscilla. Carried.

## **8. Business Arising**

**Report from President re: PSAC National Convention.** Jennifer felt very privileged to represent VDAC. Our resolutions were dealt with as follows:

Our resolution regarding 'Search the Landfill' was combined with other resolutions and was carried.

Our resolution regarding affordable childcare was combined with other resolutions and was carried.

Our resolution regarding Solidarity with Women Life Freedom and Iranian Workers did not make the floor, however dealt with and carried on June 25, 2024, as there was no cost.

Our resolution regarding tax credits for transit users did not make floor.

Our three resolutions regarding travel policy these were not included and were removed on the basis they could be dealt with internally because the National Board of Directors has the power too make the changes. This matter has been given to Jamey who will get back to us.

Our resolution regarding Remote Work language did not make the floor.

Our resolution regarding Affordable housing and Rent Control was voted down due to high costings (2.5 million dollars).

The budget was passed in record time. There will be a dues increase of 4 cents per member per month with new fiscal year. There will be an increase of \$1 per member per month to support higher strike pay

in the new cycle, 2025. Jennifer was proud to address the convention of the issue of whether increases to dues for one time costs ever come off the dues, and state that she had monitored this and seen a decrease when this happened.

**Report from events since last meeting** We estimated much better about the food for the barbecue. We had 50 or 60 members. The Mainland Human Rights Committee, Women's Committee, and the Haida Gwai Young Workers Committee were also involved and did good work. We have lots of left-over soda, and burgers. We had good information for the public, particularly about lighthouses (<https://unioncte.ca/ccg-dont-destaff-light-stations/>), as well as information about Phoenix and other issues. Many members stopped by, particularly at Labour Day.

## **9. Financial Report**

The bank balance is \$2769.

From July 17, 2024, onwards we had some payments such as reimbursements for park rental, and dues, and we had payments out, mostly to various people for reimbursements for the barbecue. The Haida Gwai Young Workers gave \$100 towards the barbecue. We donated \$100 for snacks for a political actions to support the Handidart strike. We paid \$500 to the Metro Vancouver Alliance. We spent quite a bit for member engagement, and not much for political action. We have \$300 left for donations.

Acceptance of the report was moved by Damir, Seconded by Lauri. Carried.

## **10. Standing Updates**

**A. Phoenix:** - There was a report from Ann-Marie. HR and Pay which is replacing or adjusting the current Phoenix Pay centre system is moving along. Quarterly reports are being produced and listed online - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-services-procurement/services/pay-pension/pay-administration/integrated-strategy-human-resources-pay.html>. There is a Facebook group as well

- <https://www.facebook.com/GCEmployeePayBenefits>. They are using AI to handle the backlog. They named the AI: Buffy the Backlog Slayer - it's a play on Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

**B. Metro Vancouver Alliance:** They have been moving towards action. David Barrows, Regional Director Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF) NW/Pacific who comes from Australia. IAF is the parent organization for MVA. They want to work on housing municipal elections in Vancouver and Surrey. Do we have the resources to launch the campaign, particularly in Surrey? There are Metro Vancouver Alliance training sessions on Individual Donor Campaign Training, on October 22, 2024, at 6:30 via Zoom, led by IAF leader from Calgary. A course, Foundations of Community Organising, is training about what the Metro Vancouver Alliance and IAF are and how they operate. This will be November 3 & 10, from 12:00 - 5:00. There have been efforts to be more inclusive to include Jewish and Christian people on a day which is not the Sabbath, and which would allow people to attend church on Sunday before the training. We need longer lead times for training. There will be more courses of Foundations of Community Organising courses, but we don't know when these will be held. These arena person. Jennifer is sitting board member of the Metro Vancouver Alliance. There is an effort to make sure members are current with their dues and and effort to separate teams so people can focus on their duties. Will we support their housing campaign? The Metro Vancouver Alliance wants to build more affordable, co-op housing in the city of Vancouver. How it proposes to do this is to encourage the City of Vancouver to build new co-op development on empty city-owned lot, using funding from BC Builds program; to maximise the amount of co-op units in new build; and to use new builds as temporary housing to house co-op residents while their co-ops are being redeveloped, increasing the overall stock of co-op housing in the city.

There was a motion that VDAC support the MVA co-op housing campaign. Moved by Lauri, Seconded by Priscilla. Carried.

## **11. Affiliate Reports**

– maximum 3 minutes – NOTE: please send written affiliate reports to Secretary, Denzil John Asche, at [murduck@gmail.com](mailto:murduck@gmail.com) either beforehand or within two weeks after the meeting to be included in the official minutes.

Ann-Marie Friesen (she/her), local president of 20729 UHEW. I identify as a Chinese woman of immigrant parents. For those who have no vision, low vision or are not able to see me well - I have pulled back black hair and wear glasses.

I work at the ECCC headquarters in downtown Vancouver. The return to office is being managed as well as could be expected. September 9 was super busy but the office has gone back to normal with a bit more staff than before.

ECCC term rollover has been stopped. Managers are telling staff that there is a hiring freeze or budget cuts to justify not extending terms or cancelling sunset program employment early. Please see attached e-mail for specific details.

ECCC Enforcement has created a group of employees to aid each other. The head of the group got a 2024 departmental inspiration award . I sent the group's website <http://cfeoa.com> to the UHEW Enforcement advisor as I believe this type of group should have some union involvement.

There are SO many networks and groups available to members now both internal to the department and federally  
- [https://wiki.gccollab.ca/GC\\_Diversity\\_Networks\\_-\\_Réseaux\\_de\\_la-diversité-du\\_GC](https://wiki.gccollab.ca/GC_Diversity_Networks_-_Réseaux_de_la-diversité-du_GC). Peer support seems to be a great help as many members are upset with management mainly about accommodation issues.

Thank you,  
Ann-Marie Friesen

local president 20729 PSAC UHEW

## 12. New Business

- A. Provincial Election:** The election is October 19, 2024, with early voting beginning tomorrow. There are many opportunities to volunteer, getting people to the polls, and getting out the vote and so forth. If you have the resources to do this, please do so.
- B. Return to Office:** Do we as an area council want to plan anything to support the campaign opposing the return to office? There is a joint union campaign at <https://www.acep-cape.ca/en/telework-local-organizing-committees> . Various workplace situations are different. We could call workers... because they can put a sign behind them if the backgrounds are not allowed. There may be other actions about which we could call them? Many offices are being unreasonable about maintaining in-office days even if circumstances would suggest otherwise. Do we want to set up a call-hub to call members and tell them... something? We will put this out to other councils. There was a brief discussion about the recommendation to file grievances.
- C. Motion to support New West Pride –** There was a motion that Vancouver District Area Council contribute 1/3 of the cost of our PSAC BC booth at New Westminster Pride (\$175) from VDAC's Member Engagement budget line item. New Westminster Pride occurred on August 17th, 2024. The full \$525 vendor fee was paid by the REVPs office earlier this year so this payment would be paid as a partial reimbursement and was sent via Interac money transfer to HarrinT@psac-afpc.com.

Moved by Denzil, Seconded by Priscilla. Carried.

## 13. Roundtable

**Priscilla:** is Women's Coordinator and the Mainland Human Rights Committee co-chair.

We are planning for a member engagement event. Details are below:

Date: December 2 2024 (Monday)

Time: Evening

Place: Cineplex International Village  
88 West Pender street 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Vancouver BC

Movie: Moana 2

For your information:

We are targeting about 50 people to 80 people max on Monday night.

Breakdown of the costs:

Facility Fee \$250

Ticket fee \$15 each x 50 people = \$750 + GST

Refreshment (small popcorn and drink) \$10.25 x 50 people = \$525

Welcome message \$250+GST (We are thinking inviting Sharon DeSousa and Jamey to record a small video and play before the movie)

Total is about \$1775 + GST

Cineplex International Village is a unionized movie theatre located in Chinatown.

It is skytrain accessible.

We are asking for your support from your committee budget.

We are asking up to \$200 from the Vancouver Area Council to support this event. I'll make the motion in the meeting.

We target 50 seats and 80 seats max to ensure we have enough money.

We will be planning more member engagement event in 2025.

We hope you will support with your budget if the event is approved by committee.

Please feel free to let us know if you have any questions.

Moved by Priscilla. Seconded by Lauri. Carried.

**Lori:** was wondering if Monica would take feedback regarding the presentation to be given anonymously to the presenters.

**Damir:** Made a motion to reimburse the cost of dinner, which was \$155.24.

Moved by Damir. Seconded by Lauri. Carried.

**Monica:** The schedule for the Canadian Labour Congress Winter School is up and there are 15 subsidies available. The deadline is November 13, 2024 for the subsidy. There is a December deadline for the school. <https://psacbc.com/2025-clc-pacific-region-winter-school-psac-bc-education-subsidy-and-school-information/>  
There are also other courses available. Take a look at the website

Jennifer moved and Damir seconded  
Adjournment at 21:03 pm. This carried.

**Next Meeting Date – January 29, 2024.**