

DRAFT

Vancouver and District Area Council Meeting June 18, 2025

In Person and via Zoom

In Attendance:

In Person: Devin Bagri DCL 22000, Nielene Chand PSAC Regional Rep, Jen Horsely UPCE 20095 VDAC President, Priscilla Lam UTE 20050, Damir Moric CEIU 20937 VDAC Treasurer, Raphael Simard CEIU 20944 VDAC Vice President

Virtually: Shane Polak UVAE 20045, Richard Smith USJE 20090, Denzil John Asche UTE 20027 and VDAC Secretary

Regrets:

Lauri Loveland, Theresa Kelly

Meeting Called to Order at 6:31 PM

Agenda:

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Welcome and rounds question/introductions
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Adoption of previous minutes ([April 2, 2025](#))
5. Business Arising
 1. Election Activities Report back
 2. Report back from May Day
6. Financial Report
7. Standing Updates
 1. RTO
 2. MVA
 3. Phoenix
8. Affiliate Reports – maximum 3 minutes – NOTE: please send written affiliate reports to Secretary, Denzil John Asche, at murduck@gmail.com either beforehand or within two weeks after the meeting to be included in the official minutes.
9. New Business
 1. Summer BBQ
 2. Community Activities
 3. Pickle Ball Tournament
10. Motions - Expenses and Reimbursements
11. Round Table
12. PSAC Education and upcoming events
13. Next Meeting Date – September 24, 2025, 6:00 pm (in person for dinner) meeting starts at 6:30 pm

Land Acknowledgement:

Jennifer opened the meeting with the acknowledgement of the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples. We are grateful for their stewardship of the land, waters, animals, birds, creatures, and plants. June 21 is Indigenous Peoples' Day, with several events. We should think about reconciliation and the practices of the Indigenous Peoples of the lower mainland. There was a very meaningful grounding gathering by a Blackfoot Elder at a union event.

Welcome - Introductions:

Members introduced themselves.

Adoption of the Agenda:

Adoption of the Agenda

Moved: Damir ; Seconded: Devin ; Carried.

Approval of the Previous Minutes:

There were minor amendments to the heading and the spelling of two names.

Moved: Priscilla ; Seconded: Damir ; Carried.

Business Arising:

1. Election Activities Report Back
 1. We did a texting session over two nights texting all members in Peter Julian's riding. There were technical errors the first night, however it was corrected for the second night. The platform we used could be a useful tool to reach out to members. There was less response than we had hoped for. There was a lot of fear motivating the election.
2. Report back from May Day
 1. Jen and Jamey and Denzil attended and had a table. It was a well-attended event at the Birdhouse. We gave away swag and it was a great workers' event with many interesting people. There were great speakers and good music. It was good to see community people there as well as labour people. It was a great success from the point of view of the VLDC, and feedback was that it was a European-styled event, and it is hoped it will get bigger in future and be held a larger venue.

Financial Report:

There is not much to report as we have not have had many transactions. We started the year with over \$4000. Currently it is \$4254.53. Reimbursements were: The park booking charges for the barbecue, meals for the last meeting, \$500 dues for Metro Vancouver Alliance. There was a little interest com in of \$6.72. We got some affiliate dues payments.

Moved: Damir ; Seconded: Denzil ; Carried.

Standing Updates:

Return to Office

Priscilla says the return to the office is very terrible because management is denying almost all of the requests for exceptions. People are being denied training. Management is asking for power of attorney for people caring for family members at home. Damir says duty to accommodate is being routinely denied especially if it is to do with family care. Training for people to advise members is needed and members are reaching out after they have submitted requests. Management is not allowing very many opportunities to provide more information. Duty to Accommodate requests based on medical circumstances are being denied if they are not being very well presented. Raphael said there is a system where they monitor who is in the office. Damir said that data collection regarding this monitoring was to begin this month.

Metro Vancouver Alliance - Jennifer

The AGM was on Monday. Jen was re-elected as labour representative. David Barrows of the Industrial Areas Foundation was the main facilitator there from Australia. Finding common ground and communication between varying groups such as churches and unions was a useful theme. There were sessions about getting to know people's public being via conversations. There was a platypus theme. A two day training session will be coming up in November. The delegates assembly will be on September 17 at St. Thomas More Collegiate in Burnaby. There will be decision regarding taking climate change proposals to municipalities and there will be discussions regarding climate change. There are six co-ops with expiring land leases, and there will be an event to support one co-op, Heritage Housing Co-op, which the city wants to redevelop from a 30 member co-op into a tower and it was hoped the additional units would also be co-op spaces. Priscilla recommends people joining the MVA because it is a diverse group.

Phoenix - Jennifer

To be provided by Jen as some of these numbers may be incorrect.

The update 320,000 outstanding claims 109,000 are more than 12 months old. 65,000 have to do with transfers 43,800 are also to do with people leaving public service with 35,000 more than a year old. Letters are going about regarding overpayments, some of which are for payments more than 6 years. ? Letters were sent out. Canadian corrections service have members with payments clawed back without letters. If that happens talk to your component. The new system is day force but it is projected to launch in 2032 maybe soft launch in 2028. Damir has had member reach out with requests to pay back amounts from 2018 and 2019. On May 30 PSAC advised people not to sign off on overpayments more than 6 years because when you sign off you have to pay.

Affiliate Reports:

Priscilla's report from UTE Local 20050 and her report from Mainland Human Rights Committee. Were given but no written documents were received.

Shane's report from the Vancouver District Labour Council in written form was as follows:

May 30 Union Protein Project at Queen Alexandra School

June 10 VDLC Municipal Engagement and Housing Committee

June 17 VDLC Motion to oppose Bill C-2 the Golden Dome Defense Bill

June 29 CPSHR's Annual General Assembly - Providing a solidarity statement on behalf of the VDLC to the Canada-Philippines Solidarity for Human Rights (CPSHR) General Assembly.

New Business

2. Summer BBQ

1. It will be July 19, 2025, at Memorial Park South, Vancouver – behind the pond at 41st and Prince Albert, in the picnic area. We will be getting food from Costco, but it will need to be stored. Our shopping list from last year had too many burgers. We can do cookies or brownies but we have no way to store ice cream. The price might have gone up. After next week we can co-ordinate when to shop (probably the 18th.) Nielene will be supporting us, and hopefully there will be some swag. We have Thirsty for Justice colouring books and some Remote Work items such as bags. Set up is between 11:00 am and 12:00, and we will start cooking at noon with the event going to 3:00 pm or 4:00 pm. People should be encouraged to bring chairs, utensils, and drinks. We need to create an RSVP event and a poster. The RSVP needs to include a question about serious allergies. It would be nice to have handouts about the VSAC and the Mainland Human Rights Committee. Jen will bring some outdoors sorts of games, being Badminton, bubbles, and a toss game.

3. Community Activities

1. There will be a Labour Day event September 1, 2025, if people can come to help. It is in Burnaby at Edmonds Park. It is a community event and there will be labour booths and community booths and no political booths. There will be Pride events coming up. The Mainland Human Rights committee is organising Pride activities and are looking for volunteers. Surrey Pride is June 28 at Surrey Plaza. They are also co-sponsoring the Fusion Fest in Surrey with the West Fraser Valley Area Council. We are looking at joining in the Vancouver Pride Parade with the Ferry Workers union and a multi-union group. We did not get accepted for Burnaby Pride. Apparently they select no unions, but community services which focus on 2SLGBTQIA+ people. We will be at New Westminster Pride on August 16, and we are hoping for some reimbursement for entry fees. East Fraser Valley is organising Fraser Valley Pride on July 19, in Mission, and Chilliwack Pride will take place July 13.

4. Pickle Ball Tournament

1. Damir is now taking the lead on the Pickle Ball event. There is an indoor venue near Damir. It is a large facility with nine Pickleball courts as well as similar games. And there is an area which could allow a coordination of food. We could look at this for Autumn.

Motions - Expenses and Reimbursements:

To reimburse Priscilla the amount of the meal for in-person attendees for \$164.30.

Moved: Rafael ; Seconded: Denzil ; Carried.

For VDAC to contribute $\frac{1}{4}$ of the cost of a table at New Westminster Pride (\$125) from the Member Engagement line item.

Moved: Damir ; Seconded: Rafael ; Carried.

Round Table

1. Jenn - There is a petition put out by the VLDC for victims of the Promised Land Consultancy in which people from the Philippines were charged exorbitant fees for a fraudulent immigrations scheme. Many were pressured to sign away rights and almost none have received refunds after the fraud was discovered. It would be good if we could circulate this petition.
2. Richard - Has been out of town and his father passed away. He finds the housing issue meaningful for family reasons. He is concerned with the military industrial complex affecting Canada via the US.

PSAC Education and Upcoming Events :

The fall education schedule will be coming out in June

There was great feedback regarding Indigenous programs

New steward series in the fall including Trauma Informed sessions

The Racialised Regional Conference will be in October at Hilton Metrotown.

The BC Triennial Convention will be in May 2026. Delegates need to be elected six months prior. Resolutions need to be submitted by February. November 22 to January 22 delegates need to be selected. We get one delegate.

Next Meeting

September 24 18:00 in person; 18:30 online

Adjournment

8:22 PM

Moved: Devin ; Seconded: Damir ; Carried.