



BOX 789, KELOWNA, B.C. V1Y 7P4

CHARTERED BY THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

*Bill*

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
NORTH OKANAGAN LABOUR COUNCIL  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1998  
KELOWNA, BC**

**AFFILIATES PRESENT:**

Bill Dingman	CUPE #338	David Mitchell	TWU #16
Simo Korpisto	CUPE #626	Scott Koch	BCGEU
David Doran	UBCJ #1346	Marie Mentz	TWU #16
Pat Bulmer	CEP #2000	Betty Reid	BCGEU
Tony Heisterkamp	UBCJ #1346	Loreen Lamberton	HEU
Tracie Connor	HEU	Bert Mitchell	OTEU #15
Neil Ferguson	CUPE #3523	Faye Saxon	OTEU #15
Liz Fletcher	TWU #16	Judi Filion	BCGEU #707
Dona Frayn	BCGEU #1207	Dave Eastmead	CUPE 523
Mary-Lou Bailey	CUPE #338	Pat Munro	H.S.A.

**GUESTS:**

Art Larocque, CLC Representative  
John Colbourne, SOBLC  
Lawrence Hiebert, SOBLC  
Rob Wilson, BCGEU #1007  
Josh Coles, CARPS BC Council  
Doug McCorquodale, Prov. Council of Carpenters

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by President Marie Mentz at 7:30 pm.

**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:**

M/S/C to adopt the agenda of December 9, 1998.

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Lawrence Hiebert, Labour Council Rep. On the Executive of the BC Federation Executive Council.

**ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

M/S/C to adopt November 1998 Minutes.

**CREDENTIALS REPORT:**

M/S/C: 23 present, with 19 delegates and 4 guests.

**REPORTS:**

M/S/C to adopt the following reports:



Betty Reid – BCGEU - The liquor store and warehouse component of the BCGEU still has not reached an agreement with the Liquor Distribution Branch. We are bargaining issues such as hours of work, footwear allowance, uniforms, etc. Mediator Vince Ready is presently involved. We are almost ready for Xmas. I would once again like to remind you all to please shop at government liquor stores or a unionized beer and wine store. Don't forget to buy your charity twin bear at a cost of \$10.00; you are purchasing 2 bears, one of which will be donated locally by your liquor store.

Scott Koch – BCGEU - Our "Road to Ruin" campaign regarding our Provincial highways and the need for a national standard is underway. Vernon, Coldstream, Kelowna and Keremeos have endorsed our resolution. The North Okanagan Regional District also gave endorsement. We are making presentations in future to Lake Country and Cord. Since our last report we have made application under the Federal Labour Code for the Westbank First Nations employees. In Paramedical Health Sector, Brian Foley has been appointed to make non-binding recommendations.

Pat Bulmer – CEP 2000 – The Daily Courier and Penticton Herald aren't David Black papers yet. The sale from Thomson to Little Black was supposed to take effect by now, but obviously something's delayed it. Of course, the employees haven't been told anything.

Bill Dingman – CUPE #338 – Exchange of bargaining proposals will take place on December 15<sup>th</sup> on behalf of City of Kelowna, Penticton, Princeton, Salmon Arm, Summerland, Revelstoke. A master agreement is negotiated with the Okanagan Mainline Labour Relations Association. Bargaining is anticipated to be difficult.

Neil Ferguson – CUPE #3523 – CUPE #3523 has been without a contract for approx. 18 months. In that time period our negotiating committee has put in many days of hard, frustrating bargaining. It seems that finally most of the non-monetary items are nearly concluded and it remains to decide how to divide up the little money that is on the table, which under provincial guidelines is very little. In recent years, it seems that S.D. #23 has been getting more and more difficult to deal with. The head office is called "Human Resources", but in recent years they seem to be losing the "Human" part of it. This is probably the longest, most difficult negotiations ever in our 50 year history, which is somewhat ironic in view of the fact that there is very little on the table. Our negotiating team wisely took the attitude that there is no hurry to make a deal until they can get some improvements in contract wording and general working conditions to help compensate for the lack of monetary gains. If things continue on a positive note, we should soon have a contract in place.

David Mitchell – TWU #16 – The TWU is still in bargaining with BC Tel. BC Tel wants a one year rollover but we have kept our demands on the table. Our restauronics members are bargaining for their first contract and it has just gone to mediation. They had a 99% strike vote. BC Tel has agreed to an alliance with ADT Alarm Systems and are offering a package that matches home and business alarms with phone service, etc. This is work normally performed by our members and is in violation of our collective agreement. We are challenging this alliance.

Marie Mentz – TWU #16 – Education Co-ordinator – Spring School 1999 is March 27 & 28. Course selection will be relayed to CLC Vancouver by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Last chance for input on course selection. Jan O'Brien, Co-ordinator Labour Studies, Cap College has approached David Rice to run an advanced Labour Course at our spring school. Cost of this course would be around \$90.00/day. I will be in contact with David by end of December '98. Labour College of Canada 98/99: 1999 – 4 week National Residential Program is May 30 to June 25. Consists of 4 inter-related courses: Economics, Political Science, Labour History and Labour Sociology. Admission requirement is based on the premise that practical experience in the labour movement and motivation will enable workers to meet the challenge of the Labour Council program. Candidates must submit application along with a non-refundable fee of \$25.00. Cost – tuition \$625.00; Text – mab. \$200.00; Residence (including breakfast) \$905.00; Meals – variable. Scholarships/bursaries are available. For further information please contact Marie Mentz at 763-5050.

Marie Mentz – United Way – Campaign is right on target. Beer Fest was well attended. Thanks to all. Chip It for Charity is January 9-10. Lions' Club will pick up Christmas trees for a donation. "1999" is 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Way. "2000" year of the volunteer. AGM is February 1999.

Faye Saxon, member of the Board of Referees for Employment Insurance – There was a period in the summer of 1998 when there were few cases being brought to appeal level in a timely manner therefore some of these are being brought to appeal now. November and December have been very busy months for all concerned. Once again, your members should know not to “voluntary leave” a job as this will disqualify a worker from collecting benefits. Also, we have had several requests for antedates recently. Whether a person needs benefits or not, they should apply immediately they become unemployed or are without work for seven days. Also, a person who is on benefits should take great care in filling out the cards (covering two weeks) sent to them. If one does not know the exact amount of dollars to be received for a job, do put in an estimate. If this proves to be incorrect, once the pay is received let the Commission know right away to avoid any overpayment and ensuing penalty.

CLC Report – Art Larocque – copy attached.

NOLC President’s Report – copy attached.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

M/S/C – Financial Report as circulated (copy attached).

**EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT:**

1. M/S/C – To endorse the Youth Action Plan Sponsor individual to complete the training sessions.
2. M/S/C – To send letter of support to the North Okanagan Safer Communities Project.
3. M/S/C – To send \$20.00 to Amnesty International re Xmas greeting cards.
4. M/S/C – To send letter to Union Label Trades Council re new affiliation - \$30.00.
5. M/S/C – To send letter to Minister Allan Rock re Health Protection Branch.
6. M/S/C – To endorse the BCGEU Cross Roads Project. Send letter of support to Jeff Fox.
7. M/S/C – Send \$50.00 to each Women’s Centre re N.A.C. funding and letter to Minister Heddy Fry.
8. M/S/C – Recommendation to send Brother Doran to attend Global Solidarity Course at Harrison Hot Springs Winter School 1999.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Scott Koch reported on the electoral boundaries. Betty Reid and Scott Koch will attend March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Western Star motion: M/S/C that the NOLC delegates are very concerned with the long range job security of Western Star employees with the recent announcement by the company of a new production plant in South Carolina. Therefore, the NOLC will send a letter to the International Association of Machinists expressing labour council’s full support to any initiatives they may take in regard to this matter. And further, send a letter to Western Star advising of our concern and support for the IAM and request from them written guarantees that production will not move to the U.S.A. copy Kelowna City Council.

Nomination for officers at January meeting; elections in February.

**FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT:**

M/S/C: 20 delegates and 6 guests.

**GOOD & WELFARE:**

BCGEU challenges other affiliates to donate to the local Food Banks.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8.57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

BILL DINGMAN  
RECORDING SECRETARY

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1999  
7:30 P.M., AT THE VILLAGE GREEN, VERNON**

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Attach.