



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

CHARTERED BY THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

**MINUTES
NORTH OKANAGAN LABOUR COUNCIL MEETING
HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1998
BCGEU OFFICE – KELOWNA**

PRESENT:

Betty Reid	BCGEU #507	Liz Fletcher	TWU #16
Scott Koch	BCGEU	Dave Doran	UBCJ #1346
Marie Mentze	TWU #16	David Mitchell	TWU #16
Tony Heisterkamp	UBCJ #1346	Don Thomas	UBCJ #1370
Neil Ferguson	CUPE #3523	Bill Dingman	CUPE #338
Dave Eastmead	CUPE #523	Erik Reid	CUPE #523
Randy Lang	CUPE #523	Marie Tokarchuk	HSA
Jose A. Mendes	BCGEU #1007	Bob Cook	HERE #40
Shirley Kavaloff	HSA	Pat Bulmer	CEP #226
Faye Saxon	OTEU #15	Bert Mitchell	OTEU #15
Karen Folz	HERE #40	Simo Korpisto	CUPE #626
Alix Broxham	BBSU #120B	Malcolm Broxham	UBCJ #1370
Pat Munro	HSA	C. Cooper	TWU #16

GUESTS:

Art Larocque, CLC Representative
Len Lifchus, C.O. United Way
Wendy Pope, HSA
Karen Abramsen, NDP

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President Betty Reid at 7:32 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

M/S/C to adopt the agenda of February 4, 1998.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/C to adopt January minutes as sent out and circulated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Marie Mentze gave the following Education Report:

Job Smart – Train the Trainer: Feb. 28/98, Coast Capri Hotel, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Unfinished Business, Education Report – cont'd.

Spring School, March 28/29, 1998: Job Smart, Labour Law – Provincial, Assertiveness Training I, and Steward as Educator, WCB – Rep Training, Stress in the Workplace, Facing Management.

BC Federation of Labour Women's Rights Committee Conference – "Visions of Equality" – March 5-7, 1998. Child care included. Deadline for registration: February 9, 1998.

Summer Institute for Union Women, July 8-12, 1998 – waiting for information.

CREDENTIAL REPORT:

M/S/C: 30 present, with 26 delegates and 4 guests as at 7:42 p.m.

OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES:

Cheryl Cooper – TWU #16

FINANCIAL REPORT:

M/S/C – December and January reports as circulated.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

M/S/C – President's Report as attached.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

President – Marie Mentze
Vice-Presidents – Betty Reid, David Mitchell, Scott Koch
Secretary-Treasurer – David Doran
Recording Secretary – Bill Dingman
Northern Executive Member – Simo Korpisto
Southern Executive Member – Pat Bulmer
Sergeant-at-Arms – Liz Fletcher
3-Year Trustee – Bob Cook

CORRESPONDENCE:

- (a) Amnesty International Funding Crisis – M/S/C to send \$50.00.
- (b) Letter from BC Union Label Trades Council re per capita of \$30.00.
- (c) Letter from CoDevelopment Canada – M/S/C to receive and file.
- (d) Letter from Vernon & District Women's Centre Society looking for volunteers.
BC & Yukon Territory Building & Construction Trades Council – table; we will send a letter.

REPORTS OF LOCAL UNIONS:

CLC Rep Art Larocque re Labour Code Review, Employment Insurance, BC Fed Workshop – Making It Happen; Local 40 organizing drive in the Okanagan; Alternative Federal Budget; CLC position on Bank of Montreal & Royal Bank Merger – No; Global march on child labour.

CEP #226 – Pat Bulmer:

The long running negotiations between The Daily Courier and its mailroom employees may finally be over. A ratification vote is being held tonight. Things began to move last month after a mediator was appointed to the talks at the union's request.

The Daily Courier made money last year, according to stats posted by our publisher. The Courier made \$394,000 in 1997 compared to \$1.1 million loss in 1996, but circulation dropped by almost 500 to 17,601 at the end of the year. Both the profit level and circulation numbers were short of the company's plan.

CEP #226 has agreed to enter into merger talks with CEP #115. Local 226 is a province-wide local with more than 1,000 members. Local 115, which includes Pacific Press, has about 1,300 members in the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley. If the talks are successful we could create a strong and influential local.

The provincial government did the expected last month and re-exempted youth newspaper carriers from the Employment Standards Act. Our union, which has fought exempting carriers from the Act, received a promise from the Employment Standards Branch that it would monitor the contractors for the newspapers, especially some of the known bad ones.

Statistics Canada came out with some interesting numbers about unions in Canada in December. The number of union members has declined since the 1990 high point, StatsCan said. In 1990, 3.841 million Canadians belonged to unions, but that dropped to 3.547 million in 1997. Public Service workers, who make up 18 percent of the work force, account for 42 percent of the union membership.

Worth taking notice of are StatsCan numbers that showed union membership definitely has its benefits. The hourly average wage for union members in the first nine months of 1997 was \$18.84, compared to \$15.18 for non-union workers. Union members are also more than twice as likely to have pension, health-care, dental and sick leave coverage than non-members.

HSA:

Current contract expires March 31, 1998. HSA will have representatives at three separate tables this year, all of which will be negotiating master agreements:

Paramedical – besides HSA, includes BCGEU, CUPE, HEU, UFCW and PEA;

Nurses – HSA and BCNU (as HSA represents Reg Psyche. Nurses)

Community Sub-Sector – HSA members working in child development and adult day care, community service agencies, drug and alcohol services and mental health services.

In the last six years, the health sector has undergone major reforms initiated by the government. Those reforms produced a landmark health accord that gave us job security but held wages in check, reduced our work week but increased our workloads, and while we got enhanced participation in health care decision making at regional and community levels, our union hasn't negotiated a new master agreement since 1992. This round of bargaining will be aimed at enhancing the job security provisions we won earlier in the decade and enabling our members to recover some of the ground they have lost in regard to compensation levels. As well, the protection of the classification system was identified as a major priority by delegates at the bargaining proposal conference. No dates have yet been set for bargaining.

HERE #40 – Bob Cook:

Collective Bargaining:

Beaver Foods, University College of the Cariboo – Kamloops. Concluded 2-year deal. Ratified by 86%.

Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 26 – Kelowna – 2-year agreement ratified by 100%.

Politics and Such: On January 4, 1998, at our Provincial Nominating Meeting, our entire 19 person Executive Board was elected by acclamation. This marks the first time in our 98 year history that not one of the Union's Executive Board positions was contested.

TWU #16 – David Mitchell:

We had two fatalities this past year and one close call due to our workers coming in contact with Hydro lines. The Labour Board maintains we should have three metres clearance, while BC Tel says 1.2 metres will suffice. We hope to resolve the issue before our members suffer any more.

Board of Referees for Employment Insurance – Faye Saxon:

See attached report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (a) NDP Provincial Convention, March 6, 7, 8.
M/S/C – to send two delegates.
- (b) Regional Labour Councils Conference, June 13th, Revelstoke.
- (c) Day of Mourning, April 28, 1998.
- (d) International Women's Day, March 8, 1998.

GOOD & WELFARE:

- (a) Report on MAI – Multilateral Agreement on Investment.

For those who don't know what MAI is, it is the Multilateral Agreement on Investment. If adopted, the MAI will give corporations the right to conduct business and move their operations wherever and whenever they like, with little or no government regulation. Canadians have been given little or no chance for public discussion or debate. This agreement will be devastating for Canadian workers. The MAI will:

- restrict Canada's ability to regulate foreign investment
- Prevent countries from imposing economic sanctions like those used to end Apartheid in South Africa
- could prevent requiring investors to create jobs locally
- Will allow corporations to attack environment protections
- will make it far more difficult for the Government of BC to protect our jobs

February 1998 Minutes Page 5

I urge all to write to your local MLA and MP in opposition of this agreement. Sign petitions. For full text of the MAI – e-mail: <http://www.web.net/coc>.

- (b) NDP Meeting, Okanagan West.
- (c) Karen Abramsen – Alternate Delegate to Treat Negotiations re First Nations.
- (d) Don Thompson re Labour Day Picnic.
- (e) Thanks to Malcolm Broxham from Scott Koch re Treaty Negotiations.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

BILL DINGMAN
Recording Secretary

BD:DMG
Opeiu 491
Attach.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH, 1998, 7:30 P.M. AT THE VILLAGE GREEN HOTEL, VERNON.

NORTH OKANAGAN LABOUR COUNCIL
JANUARY 1 - 31, 1998

CHEQUING ACCOUNT

BALANCE FORWARD (DECEMBER) \$3,185.41

RECEIPTS:

CEP 226	\$ 64.00	
CUPE 338	153.60	
CUPE 523	284.00	
CUPE 1123	76.40	
CUPE 3523	391.40	
IWA 1-423	230.00	
IAM 2710	360.00	
IAFF 1517	38.40	
TWU 16	225.60	
UBC&J LOCAL 1346	234.00	
UBC&J LOCAL 1370	26.40	
UFCW 2000	261.60	
HSA	40.00	
OTEU 15	48.00	

	\$ 2,433.40	\$2,433.40

Total \$5,618.81

EXPENSES:

# 613 Mentz, M.- B.C. Fed Expense	\$ 46.40	
# 614 Dingman, W. - Honorarium	25.00	
# 615 Okanagan College - Weekend School	813.20	
# 616 Doran, D.- B.C. Fed Expense	83.95	
# 617 Doran, D.- Honorarium	120.00	
# 618 Dorna, D. - Deposit Stamp	21.65	
# 619 C.L.C. Winter School -	400.00	
# 620 Co-Development Can - Donation	100.00	
# 621 CEP Target Bargaining - Donation	200.00	
# 622 Reid, E. - Phone expense	62.69	
# 623 C.L.C. - Winter School	20.00	

	\$ 1,892.89	< \$1,892.89 >

BALANCE..... \$3,725.92

Chequing Account Balance\$3,725.92
Shares..... 43.45

Total Balance in all accounts\$3,769.37

Bank Statement for January not in.