



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

CHARTERED BY THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

**MINUTES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
NORTH OKANAGAN LABOUR COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 2001
VERNON**

AFFILIATES PRESENT:

Judi Fillion	BCGEU 707	Tony Heisterkamp	CARPS 1346
David Mitchell	TWU 16	Pat Bulmer	CEP 2000
Terry Sawiuk	UBCJA	Flore Langeslag	BCGEU 407
Steve Malerby	TWU 16	Louise Turner	HEU
Ron Bobowski	CUPW	Mary-Lou Bailey	CUPE 338
Doug Kantymir	UFCW 1518	Dave Sampport	CARPS 1346
Kathy Dunn	HEU		

REGRETS: M. Mentz, TWU 16; D. Doran, CARPS 1346; C. Seagris, BCGEU

GUESTS:

Gord Larkin, CLC		Malcolm Broxham	CARPS 1370
Wes Kmet		Pat Ryan	
Kennon Payton	BCNU	Jean Latval	BCNU
Patricia Sebastian	BCGEU	Troy Sebastian	NDP
Cherryl Halbert	HEU	Kelly Evans-McKay	HEU
Phyllis Westfall	HEU		

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Pat Bulmer at 7:30 pm

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

M/S/C to adopt the agenda of March 7, 2001

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Troy Sebastian, NDP Candidate - Vernon Riding (549-5219 or 542-6956 Campaign HQ)

Malcolm Broxham & Pat Ryan, Kelowna Lake Country NDP Riding Executive Members

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/C to adopt the minutes of February 7, 2001 as mailed out and circulated with amendment that the meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

CREDENTIALS REPORT:

12 delegates; 1 new delegate; 10 guests

OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES:

Doug Kantymir, UFCW 1518

FINANCIAL REPORT:

M/S/C to adopt the Financial Report as circulated (attached).

EXECUTIVE BOARD REPORT/ ACTION CORRESPONDENCE: M/S/C

1. Letter from CLC re: Ergonomics and International RSI Awareness Day February 28th. (February 12, 2001). - RECEIVE & FILE
2. Letter from CLC re: Employment Insurance Legislation Bill C-2. (February 22, 2001) - RECEIVE & FILE
3. Letter from CLC re: Going Public in Our Communities: Public Services - Our Right Conference April 1 - 4, 2001. (February 5, 2001) - RECEIVE AND FILE
4. Letter from Nola Couture, Secretary Treasurer, CUPE Local 5523 Vernon re: NOLC Letter dated January 25, 2001. (February 19, 2001) - MAILING LIST UPDATED TO INCLUDE NOLA COUTURE.
5. Letter from Jerri New, OPEIU Local 378 re: OPEIU Hydro Campaign. (February 22, 2001). - RECEIVE & FILE
6. Letter from Brian Elliott, Okanagan Mission NDP re: donation. - REFER TO NEW BUSINESS; RECEIVE & NOTE CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

REPORTS OF LOCAL UNIONS, COMMITTEE REPORTS, CLC REPORT

Flore Langslag, BCGEU 407 - A strike vote is being conducted in Facilities and Community care as follows:

Facilities: March 12, Vernon Health Unit - 12:00 - 2:00 pm; 7:30 - 9:30 pm
March 13, Vernon 9:00 - 11:00 am.

Community Care: March 14, BCGEU Kelowna Area Office - 12:00 - 2:00 pm; 5:00 - 7:00 pm.
Village Green Inn, Vernon - 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

March 15, Penticton Health Unit - 12:00 - 2:00 pm. BCGEU Kelowna Area Office 8:00 - 10:00 am; 5:00 - 7:00 pm.

All members can cast their vote at the BCGEU Kelowna Area Office. Forms are available but if members have questions, no one is available to give answers. If you have questions, it is better to attend on dates & times noted above.

Judi Filion, BCGEU 707 - Legal Services received a strike vote of 90+%. The employer has applied to the LRB for mandatory mediation. The parties are scheduled to meet with the mediator March 7 & 8. If no agreement is reached, strike action could begin immediately. There is cautious optimism as a result of the BCGEU Master Agreement settling. The outstanding issues are employer concessions around health & welfare and money.

The BCGEU Master Agreement reached a tentative settlement on March 3/01. Information meetings are currently being held around the Province. The voting will be taking place at the worksites with the votes being counted on March 20/01.

Jean Latval, BCNU - Our contract will be finished March 31/01. At present, most of the Essential Service numbers have been agreed upon. Negotiations have been going on for 3 months. The Health Employers Association have brought many concessions to the table. So far no monetary items have been discussed.

We will be conducting a Province-wide strike vote on April 4/01. Any support will be gratefully accepted. We will keep you updated or see you on the picket line. Attached is a petition that we would appreciate the affiliates to fill in and return to the address at the bottom. If you would like more information, please contact Jean Latval at (250) 547-9788.

Pat Bulmer, CEP 2000 - We're still trying to find out what life and labour-management relations are going to be like at the Kelowna Daily Courier and Penticton Herald after Todd Vogt, the owner who left town in December.

Several major grievances from last year are still ongoing. Some are headed for arbitration or labour relations board hearings, coming up this month and next, but we recently were able to settle a couple of others.

We've seen some willingness from the new management to settle some issues, but the old approach seems to exist on some others.

The number of grievances has declined in the first couple of months of this year. About the only one we've filed so far that wasn't a carry-over from 2000 was settled, eventually, but not until we threatened arbitration.

Alison Yesilcimen is the new Todd Vogt-appointed publisher. She comes from Hollinger's national ad agency. Willy Kerntopf, the No. 2 under Vogt, is still prominently in the picture as well. The circulation department, the source of, by far, the majority of our grievances last year, has a new manager as well - and a nasty termination grievance ongoing.

Mary-Lou Bailey, CUPE 338 - Executive Committee continuing to work with the City of Kelowna to develop a Disability Management Program.

City has recently terminated 1 employee. This employee has had difficulty returning to work from a stress/depression illness and the employer has advised that the employee is considered to have abandoned his/her employment. We have contacted the employee and advised of his/her rights to file a grievance claiming a "failure to accommodate to a point of undue hardship".

Our President recently attended the BC Federation of Labour offices to join the LRB Advocacy Working Group meeting and will continue to attend as Local 338's delegate.

The City has still not decided the fate of its Guards & Matrons. However, I spoke to the Director of Human Resources and he has indicated that the one submission they received provides for a substantial cost savings to the City/RCMP. The recommendation will go to City Council on Monday, April 9.

We have 1 delegate attending the CLC Privatization & Deregulation Conference in Ottawa, April 1 - 4, 2001.

Malcolm Broxham, Executive Member, Kelowna Lake Country, NDP - I am attending the NOLC meeting tonight representing the NDP Kelowna Lake Country riding with a plea for financial support from the Labour Council for the upcoming Provincial Election. Your contribution will assist our campaign.

In addition the Kelowna Lake Country Riding is seeking full time candidates/volunteers to assist in working in the riding during the election or for your support in recruiting new members, office supplies, personal donations, postage or any material for use in the election.

Any assistance will be appreciated and receipts given where requested. You may contact me at HOME (250)861-5112 or CELL (250)470-8159. Our riding has located our campaign at the old "CKIQ Radio Station Building" on Highway 97 N across from the new Home Depot in Kelowna.

Gord Larkin, CLC - The Congress continues the fight to force the Federal Liberal Government to use the UI funds to support unemployed workers - not to pay down the debt.

Delegates are asked to support the Oregon Farmworkers Day of Action March 9/01 by faxing NORPAC brokers urging them to negotiate with the Farmworkers.

Privatization Conference is a very important event - delegates are asked to raise the issue of attendance at their local meetings.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a) **CLC Winter School - Community Building through the Labour Council - report attached.**
- b) **Weekend School March, 2001 - Spring School is completed for another year. We had approximately 46 participants, 6 youth and 22 PSAC activists. Financial report will be submitted at the April meeting. Our scholarships were given to 2 CIWA people.**

Job Smart "Train the Trainer" will be held on March 24 at 8:00 am at the Capri Hotel, Kelowna. Please submit names to Marie Mentz at 763-5050 or e-mail nolc@telus.net. Names will be accepted until March 20th.

- c) **Golf Tournament, Mission Creek Golf Course - August 5, 2001**

Poster is being printed today and will be included in the minutes. Please post photocopies at your worksites.

Texas Scramble - \$59/person for 18 holes; \$49/person for 9 holes
Registration fee includes lunch, auction, awards, door prizes. Lunch only is \$20. All proceeds will go to Student Crimestoppers. Call Marie at 763-5050/nolc@telus.net.

- d) **Baseball Tournament, Mission Sports Field - August 18/19, 2001**

2nd Annual NOLC Mixed Family Softball Tournament will be held at the Mission Sports Fields on August 18 & 19. Registration fee is \$100/team; there will be a limit of 10 teams.

Last year's tournament was great. Come out and have some fun!

We are looking for volunteers - ump's, scorekeepers, etc. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Bob Barten @ 769-3729 or Justine Mentze @ 763-5050.

- e) **International Women's Day - March 8th/01**
- f) **Day of Mourning - April 28th/01 - further information to follow at the April meeting.**
- g) **Shepherd's Reach Ministries - Donation request from February meeting; more information requested and has been received. M/S/C to make a \$50.00 donation.**

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Hydro Deregulation Committee -

Would like to strike a committee to deal with Hydro deregulation - volunteers should contact the Labour Council at 763-5050 or nolc@telus.net

b) BC Gas Pricing Committee

Would like to strike a committee to deal with BC Gas Pricing - volunteers should contact the Labour Council at 763-5050 or nolc@telus.net

c) Provincial Election Donations - M/S/C The executive be given the authority to donate up to \$3000.00 per riding within our jurisdiction. The exact amount to be determined by financial situation of the Council.

d) E. I. Board of Referees - M/S/C To nominate Karen Abramson to the position of Board of Referees. The position was recently vacated by Art Larocque.

FINAL CREDENTIALS REPORT:

14 delegates; 10 guests

GOOD & WELFARE:

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 10 at 1:00 pm for Malcolm Thomson, a long-time union and NDP activist in the Vernon area. All are invited to this memorial, taking place at the Pleasant Valley Funeral Home, 4303 Pleasant Valley Road. A former Dairyland worker, Thomson was a member of the International Union of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and prominent with the local NDP.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Judi Filion
Recording Secretary

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2001
AT THE BCGEU OFFICE IN KELOWNA AT 7:30 PM.**