



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

CHARTERED BY THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE NORTH OKANAGAN LABOUR COUNCIL
HELD WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1993
AT THE CUPE LOCAL 626 OFFICE, VERNON, B. C.

AFFILIATES PRESENT:

CARPENTERS, CUPE, CWA, IAFF, IWA, TWU

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President Val Beckett at 7:30 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

M/S/C to adopt the agenda of November 3, 1993.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/C to adopt minutes as amended:

Error on page 2 - IAFF 1517 - J. Gilroy report. Should read:

"M/S/C that Council delegates be notified of the businesses that the various Vernon Council Members own and that we will not support them."

FINANCIAL REPORT:

M/S/C as circulated.

CORRESPONDENCE:

M/S/C to receive and file correspondence. (See attached list.)

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

See attached report from President Val Beckett.

REPORTS OF LOCAL UNIONS:

TWU #6 - Carol Douglas:

Effective November 3, 1993, BC Tel will no longer accept cash payments at most of the BC Tel phone marts, and that includes all of Okanagan phone marts. This is another example of BC Tel's efforts to cut costly customer service to its residential customers. This could adversely affect people on fixed incomes, pensioners, etc., as well as cause job loss. Petitions were circulated outside the Okanagan phone marts and were signed by about 90% of those approached.

CUPE #626 - Ken Cebuliak:

CUPE Local 626 would like to remind local affiliates of the hostile attitude of the outgoing Vernon City Council towards Labour. Fortunately, two council members are not seeking re-election; they are Alderman Dick File and Ron Beliveau. Also encouraging is the challenge by well-known radio personality Patrick Nicole for the mayor's chair. You may remember that Mr. Nicole was the only council member to support CUPE 626 in its bid to keep garbage collection in-house. We would also remind you that Beryl Nerling, seeking election as a council member for the first time, has been publicly supportive of Vernon Civic Employees as well as Vernon Fire Fighters.

While we have no public record of where former mayor and aldermanic hopeful Anne Clark stood on these issues, we do know that she has always been "up front" and open in her dealings with CUPE 626. We do not know if either Mr. Nicole, Ms. Clark or Ms. Nerling seek or want our support. However, we can suggest privately that we strongly recommend the above three as an alternative to the unhappy situation we now find ourselves in.

We suggest that the present council is not acting on behalf of the citizens at large, but represents the interests of local developers and the downtown businessmen's association. The NOLC and its affiliates represent a much larger body of citizens than this. We urge all affiliate members to go before their general memberships to promote the election of a sympathetic, fair and representative local government.

Additionally, CUPE 626 will not publicly endorse any candidate unless they so seek, nor will we publicly endorse any candidate who doesn't submit a written statement of their intent or agenda.

IAFF #1517:

The professional fire fighters of Vernon have to-date been unsuccessful in concluding a collective agreement with the City of Vernon. We have been involved in these negotiations since October 1991. Our latest request of having mediator Don Cott return to Vernon has been refused by the Mayor and Council.

Mayor McGrath stated at the November 2 Council Meeting that the City is not considering locking out the fire fighters, for the moment at least. That decision apparently is based on the fact that the public safety is not in jeopardy. The reason for the decision not to lock us out is, if they do, they will have no fire protection available to the public. The part time fire fighters have indicated to the City and advised the Union that they will not respond to fires in the event of a strike or lockout, because of a safety concern to their members.

The major stumbling block in these negotiations is wages. The City is attempting through a media campaign to break the fire fighters off of the industry standard, which eighty-three percent of all fire fighters receive in this province.

The City's offer of five percent over three years falls far short of the industry standard. Our position on wages is to receive the same percentage increase over three years as the fire fighters in Kamloops, Kelowna, Penticton and Revelstoke. Coincidentally, this is the same increase achieved by eighty-three percent of all professional fire fighters in the Province.

The City's bargaining team and members of council have no justification for their position on wages, other than to say to us that we live in Vernon and should expect to earn less.

There are other issues in this dispute that are important to the members of our union that also will have to be resolved. One issue, although not part of contract negotiations, but continually brought up by the City, is Okanagan Landing fire protection. We have taken the position that all Vernon tax payers should receive the same level of service. This area is now covered by a volunteer fire department, and subject to response delays. This issue has been referred to binding arbitration by the union for settlement.

We expect delays in our contract talks due to the civic elections. We will endeavour to conclude a collective agreement as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Beryl Nerling signed Municipal Political Action Plan.

M/S/C to donate \$200.00 to her campaign.

2. Notice of Motion re By-Law Changes: A Notice of Motion was presented. Please see attached list of proposed By-Law changes.

3. B. C. Fed - Discussion re convention to be held biennially.

GOOD & WELFARE:

1. Scholarship and Bursaries - CLC

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

CAROL WALKER

CW:DMG
opeiu 491
Attach.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1993
AT THE BCGEU OFFICE, KELOWNA