



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

CHARTERED BY THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

**MINUTES
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
NORTH OKANAGAN LABOUR COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1994
VERNON SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, VERNON, B. C.**

AFFILIATES PRESENT:

R. Lang - CUPE 523	R. Pont - IAM 2710
D. Mitchell - TWU 16	G. Blanke - IAM 2710
D. Winskowski - IAM 692	K. Wollen - TWU #6
R. Hartwig - UBCJ 1346	V. Beckett - TWU #16
K. Abramsen - CEIU 20972	E. Proulx - HEU-Kelowna
B. Reid - BCGEU 507	J. Stewart - UBCJ 1370
W. Klassen - BCGEU 507	L. Ware - CUPE 523

GUESTS:

L. Widen - C.L.C.
K. Buchanan - North Okanagan United Way
K. Rothwell - CJIB Radio

Meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by President V. Beckett.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

President - V. Beckett - present
1st Vice-President - L. Ware - present
Recording/Secretary-Treasurer - E. Proulx - present
North Area Delegate - R. Lang - present
South Area Delegate - P. Bulmer - absent
Sergeant-at-Arms - K. Dunn - absent
Trustees: K. Abramsen - present
D. Main - absent
P. Munro - absent

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

M/S/C - acceptance of 14 delegates and 3 guests.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/C - to adopt the October minutes as circulated.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

M/S/C - to adopt the financial report.

REPORT OF AFFILIATES IN ARREARS:

0 affiliates in arrears.

OBLIGATION OF NEW DELEGATES/AFFILIATES: Nil.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. CLC PACIFIC REGION WINTER SCHOOL

Received brochure of courses available.

M/S/C - that the NOLC President attend the Winter School -- the cost to the NOLC being lost wages and the course is: Labour Council Officers Seminars.

2. CLC CONSTITUTION

Received two copies.

M/S/C - to purchase 50 copies for the NOLC at a cost of \$1.75 each.

3. CLC ACTION PLAN

Received numerous reports on changes to the Social Programs.

M/S/C - to refer all action plan correspondence to the Action Plan Committee.

4. LABOUR COLLEGE OF CANADA

Letter received requesting financial assistance.

M/S/C - the NOLC donate \$100.00.

5. NORTH OKANAGAN UNITED WAY

Letter received from K. Buchanan, Executive Director, requesting the opportunity to attend the November NOLC meeting.

6. DONATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Received from the New Westminster & District Labour Council re Joy Langan/Dawn Black Dinner and from CUPE Local 2709 re strike.

M/S/C - to receive and file all correspondence unless otherwise dealt with.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

PRESIDENT - V. BECKETT:

Thanked the members for their warm welcome after her lengthy absence.

1st VICE-PRESIDENT - L. WARE:

No report, as the November 5 & 6/94 Labour Council Seminar was cancelled due to low registration.

RECORDING/SECRETARY-TREASURER - E. PROULX:

Re: Labour Council Conference, October 15 & 16/94

The Labour Council Conference was well attended with approximately 50 delegates present.

CLC Executive Vice-President, Jean Claude Parrot, presented the CLC Action Plan outline that needs to be initiated, both short term and a two year mandate. Briefly, the various focal points are to include:

- membership mobilization - through rank and file involvement
- job creation (9 point resolution adopted at CLC Convention)
- public investment with a maintenance program
- expansion of public services; federal child care program
- buying at home
- national investment fund for development of secondary industries
- reducing hours of work to generate more employment (without loss of pay) and benefits of technology should be shared with employees
- need to discuss above issues (social clause) with workers from other countries.

Bob Baldwin, CLC, spoke on the Social Program Review Discussion Paper. Until 1990 the federal government was transferring 50% towards social assistance to the provinces. This has now declined to 29%. Hearings on the proposed changes to social programs will be held in Victoria and Vancouver in November.

Courses of action presented were:

- commitment from affiliates
- community forums - applications for a special project grant for 1995 will be available to labour councils - up to \$2,200.00
- CLC Winter School: an instructor's course for "Action Plan" may be available dependent on funding.
- incorporation of a CLC fax press to allow quicker distribution of information to labour councils
- "Reform Watch" - newsletter. Send newspaper clippings to David Rice, CLC (as to area happenings) or Gordon Larkin
- formatting issues in layman terms
- working T.V. - Julius Fisher
- making an issue of Corporate Tax Freedom Day - January 21, 1995

Patrice Pratt, President NDP, spoke on the NDP renewal process and membership drive. Regional conferences will be held in late January to discuss "leadership". The majority of membership is obtaining information from the news media and not at local riding meetings from NDP representatives. The question of involvement by "grass roots" could be achieved by establishing a formal relationship between unions and the federal NDP. A start would be to invite cabinet ministers and M.L.A.'s to labour council meetings. It was pointed out that labour comes up with more money to fight election issues "after the fact", instead of contributing prior to the election.

Gord Larkin, CLC Political Action Representative, informed delegates that at present the NDP is picking up 65 new members per day. The goal is to increase the membership by 5000 by the end of the year. The pre-election campaign will probably be launched in the spring and it is important to get the message to workers. Activities suggested that labour can do to deliver message:

- more labour time in ridings
- talking to the rank and file (instead of the converted)
- myths need dispelling
- overall, the key is to develop a communication network.

As there were a variety of speakers at the conference, it would take too many pages to recap in entirety. The overall discussions during the conference pertained to the above report.

In conclusion, the message is for all to get involved to fight the proposed social program changes. Each labour council is to establish an "Action Plan" to this effect.

REPORTS OF LOCAL UNIONS

K. WOLLEN - TWU #6

The CRTC has ruled that telephone inside wiring of residential homes be de-regulated so that independent contractors may install inside wire. B.C. Tel management has assured employees that there will be little or no job loss due to B. C. Tel R.U.P. (rural upgrade program) which is an ongoing program.

E. PROULX - HEU - HAWTHORN PARK:

Picket lines went down Friday, November 4/94, at 5:00 p.m. "Return to Work" that was negotiated was ratified by membership. There are still some problems that will need to be looked into regarding employer practices on the scheduling of the return to work.

Currently HEU & BCNU are in "interest arbitration". Hearings hopefully will be scheduled within the next week and a contract attained by mid-December 1994.

The membership of Hawthorn Park wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to all those affiliates who so kindly gave of their time on the picket line and financial support.

D. MITCHELL - TWU #16

We are receiving a lot of complaints from customers regarding long distance competitors to B.C. Tel. Two of concern are Glentel and Eatons/~~Sprint~~^{Sprint} Canada. Glentel is a re-biller with sales people misrepresenting themselves as being affiliated with or representing B.C. Tel. They are not. They buy long distance service from B.C. Tel in bulk and resell it to their customers. They do, however, use B.C. Tel as their supplier. They are set up similar to Amway. They are also falsely telling their potential customers that all the high ranking officers of B.C. Tel are customers of theirs. Eatons/~~Sprint~~^{Sprint} are distributing \$10 merchandise coupons to all Eaton's credit card holders. This coupon must be signed to redeem it. Problem is, by signing the coupon and not crossing out the fine print at the bottom of the coupon, the customer is unknowingly signing up with Sprint Canada for their long distance services. Note: These are non-union companies. If anyone knows of any problems caused by these companies sales people, please advise any TWU delegate.

K. ABRAMSEN - CEIU 29072

Our workers will be affected by the Social Security Review and are actively participating in campaigns to stop the cutbacks to the Federal Public Service. We are also engaged in an educational campaign in support of federal workers and the services they provide.

K. ABRAMSEN - EDUCATION COORDINATOR

List of available courses to be circulated with the decision about specific courses to be made at the December meeting (in Kelowna).

K. ABRAMSEN - UNITED WAY REP TO BOARD

Ken Georgetti spoke at the United Way Kick-Off Breakfast. Attached is a report that is suitable for inclusion in Union Newsletters and I encourage any unions to ensure this information is circulated.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **UNION LABEL TRADES COUNCIL CONFERENCE**

Letter enclosing delegate credential forms for the upcoming Convention, November 27/94, in Vancouver.

M/S/C - that President V. Beckett attend the convention.

1. **B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOUR CONVENTION**

M/S/C - that President V. Beckett attend the convention, with full expenses and lost wages; with the balance of delegates to be elected at the general meeting.

M/S/C - to allow CLC Representative to use any available credentials, as no further delegates that were present were available to attend or they were already delegates from their Union.

3. **ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE**

To date a committee has not been established. Any member wishing to volunteer as a committee member, please advise the executive at the December 1994 NOLC meeting. If no volunteers come forward, the NOLC President will appoint a committee.

CLC funding is available for action plan committees.

M/S/C - to apply for the \$2,200.00 grant - to be used as the budget for the Action Plan Committee.

4. **SOUTH OKANAGAN BOUNDARY LABOUR COUNCIL RE: B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOUR CONSTITUTION & STRUCTURE REVIEW**

SUBJECT: Re 4 labour council members to be elected to the Executive of the B. C. Federation of Labour.

Fax received from the South Okanagan Boundary Labour Council re the proposed constitutional changes including a number of resolutions re these proposed changes.

M/S/C - to endorse the SOBLC's resolutions.

M/S/C - to recommend the following to the South Okanagan Boundary Labour Council re proposed caucus November 29/94:

1. amend proposed #5 to include Victoria (instead of Vancouver Island)
2. establish an agenda
3. discuss possible structures
4. attempt to form a formal caucus
5. motion(s) to adopt a structure.

M/S/C - that the North Okanagan Labour Council endorse President V. Beckett as a nominee for the Labour Council Executive position on the B. C. Federation of Labour Executive. Following to attend Labour Council Caucus November 29/94: V. Beckett, Randy Lang and Linda Ware. Alternates: B. Reid and D. Mitchell.

5. **BY-LAW CHANGES - NOTICE OF MOTION RE SECTION 14 - MEETINGS**

M/S/C to circulate attached notice of motion to be dealt with at the NOLC December 1994 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **NORTH OKANAGAN UNITED WAY**

Executive Director, Ken Buchanan, gave a brief outline of the United Way involvement and requested labour's involvement.

M/S/C - to endorse the United Way Campaign.

2. SOUTH AREA DELEGATE

Letter of resignation received from P. Bulmer due to shift schedule changes to night shift.

M/S/C - to accept the resignation.

M/S/C - that K. Abramsen will take the position on an interim basis until next elections.

3. C.L.C. - CEIC BOARD OF REFEREES - KELOWNA

grouby

Letter received that an additional female candidate is required for the Kelowna Board of Referees, due to the unavailability of two members. Interested members to contact NOLC President V. Beckett.

GOOD & WELFARE

Nil.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ELAINE PROULX
Recording/Secretary-Treasurer

EP:DMG
opeiu 491
Attach.

*- for mtg nomination of executive
- Feb election of executive*

**NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 7, 1994, 7:30 P.M.
AT THE BCGEU OFFICE
1591 SUTHERLAND AVENUE
KELOWNA, B. C.**

*1 - mp appointed
1 - bus
1 - labour*

6 cases/wk = 1 day

*- Gord Stanteberg
- Adele*