



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

CHARTERED BY THE CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
NORTH OKANAGAN LABOUR COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1994
BCGEU OFFICE, KELOWNA, B. C.

AFFILIATES PRESENT:

L. Ware - CUPE 523	K. Dunn - HEU - Vernon
R. Lang - CUPE 523	P. Munro - HSA
R. Barkwill - BCGEU 407	S. Kavaloff - HSA
M. Broxham - UBCJ 1370	N. Ferguson - CUPE 523
R. Hallick - ATU 134	P. Bulmer - CEP 226
E. Proulx - HEU Hawthorn	K. Wollen - TWU 6
B. Cook - HERE 40	B. Reid - BCGEU 1007
R. Stensrude - BCGEU 1007	

VISITORS:

A. Broxham - Guest
A.L. Widen - CLC

Meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by 1st Vice-President L. Ware.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:

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

REPORT OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

M/S/C - acceptance of 15 delegates and 2 guests.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

M/S/C - to adopt the September 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. **C.L.C.**

- letter received from the CLC Employment Equity Working Group requesting employment equity material that Unions have developed or accessed.
- Congress of Union Retirees of Canada - requesting assistance from Unions in the field of recruitment of new and potential members.
- 3 submissions received: to the Public Alliance of Canada on hearings into public service delivery; to the Ontario Standing Committee on Resources Development for Bill 165; to the WCB of B.C. public hearings on regulation review.
- CLC Action Plan Implementation: received the Action Plan Kit with letters explaining various activities that Labour Councils could focus on.

M/S/C - that the President appoint a committee of the Labour Council to plan a schedule of activities as part of the CLC Action Plan - with the first action to take place on the earliest possible date - subject to approval of the majority of the Council Officers and with a maximum budget of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

2. **United Way**

- Letter from M. Van Steinburg extending a breakfast invitation for Union Counsellors attending the B.C. Fed Convention, Tuesday, November 29, 1994, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m., in the Timber Room, Hotel Vancouver.

3. **B.C. Provincial Council of Carpenters**

- Letter received informing that the government has appointed a committee to address the broad issue of "tendering" public construction projects.
- Discussion held as a result.

M/S/C - acceptance of the Executive recommendation: That the North Okanagan Labour Council supports fair tendering to give Union Contractors a fair opportunity to bid and that it is the position of this Council that all maintenance and construction work should be done by Union Labour, whether contracted out or in-house.

4. **H.E.U.**

- Invitation for labour council delegates or executive to attend the Hospital Employees' Union's 19th Biennial Convention.

5. **B.C. Real Estate Network Inc.**

- Letter informing that the B.C. Real Estate Network Inc. is the only unionized real estate company - OTEU 15.

6. **Donation Requests**

M/S/C - to receive and file: John Howard Society of B.C.; Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS: Nil.

REPORTS OF LOCAL UNIONS:

BCGEU #507 - Betty Reid:

Component 5 (Retail Stores & Warehouse) will soon be voting to ratify our component agreement. This week, the LDB is purchasing new cash registers. These machines will be able to access the debit card system. Hopefully, all stores will have them by February 1995.

We are experiencing the usual fall layoffs and cutbacks in staff, but the business in the stores doesn't seem to be slowing down. As a result there have been line-ups at the tills and long waits at the empty returns. If this happens to you or your members, please tell them to ask for a "Tell Us What You Think" card. The postage is pre-paid and it goes directly to the general manager of the LDB.

Please try to stay away from beer and wine stores. The liquor stores all have chillers. It only takes 3-5 minutes to chill your product.

CEP #226 - P. Bulmer:

Contract negotiations with the Daily Courier are to resume October 11/12. We have been without a contract since June and talks have not progressed very far. Layoff notices have been handed out at the Vernon Daily News in preparation for moving many of the paper's operations to Kelowna. As soon as the publisher in Vernon had served the notices, he was fired, too. Both Vernon and Kelowna are Thomson Newspapers with CEP members.

CUPE #523 - R. Lang:

Negotiations continue with seven school districts. Have met four days already and more scheduled starting October 11, 1994.

BCGEU #1007 - R. Stensrude:

Local 1007 is now a participant in a province-wide effort to negotiate a group contract with the road builders association, sometime in November 1994 (not all road builders wish to participate at this time).

The component has delegated 4 members to participate in a tri-partied group to modify the current privatized highways maintenance model. This tri-partied group will consist of Road Builders, BCGEU and the government.

An agreement of successorship between contractors is almost complete between the Road Builders and the BCGEU. The success of the agreement lies on the bond the contractors carry as to whether or not the bond will cover labour accessibility.

HEU Vernon - K. Dunn:

Ongoing ratification voted across the province for HEU's affiliation with CUPE. Ballots will be counted on October 14.

Employment Security Agreement is working in Vernon. Four HEU members have been accepted for early retirement - two members are job sharing where one of them had been displaced. Four members have been placed in other Hospitals.

BCGEU #407 - Gatsby Vernon:

Will be starting shorter work week October 16, 1994 - from 37.5 hour to 36 hour work week.

CUPE #523 - Neil Ferguson:

Okanagan East and West NDP will, in the next two to three weeks, be conducting membership drives. You may be called upon to do some phoning, as well as to take out or renew membership. This is quite important as rebates from membership monies is the main source of income to keep Constituency Offices operating and promoting the party locally.

On October 28, Jackie Peman (Highways Minister) will be in Kelowna, meeting with various groups. At 7:00 p.m. the Local NDP will hold a public meeting, with Jackie as guest speaker. This will be at the Seniors Centre on Grey Road in Rutland. Supper will be served; cost will be modest, probably \$5-\$7.

HEU - Hawthorn - E. Proulx:

Strike walk out 3:00 p.m., Monday, October 3, 1994. Morale good at this point. Picket Headquarters, Mission Park Motel, Room #218. Picketing hours to-date 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Noticing there is an over abundance of family members showing up at facility. Courtyard Gardens and Diversicare proceeding with binding arbitration, but Diversicare is refusing to include Hawthorn Park. Employer has hired "excluded personnel" for essential services.

Interior Health & We Care crossing picket line. HEU is seeking clarification from LRB re this issue. Basic need is for picket line support, especially long weekend. Requesting Labour Council to establish a phone committee to contact affiliates for support activities - picketing - rally, e.g.

HERE Local 40 - B. Cook:

Village Green Hotel, Vernon - restaurants, bars and kitchens closed entirely on September 30. Guest rooms and meeting rooms are operational and staffed with our members. Approximately 50 members laid off.

Union busting? Could be. However, we disagree with a boycott as it will adversely affect our members who remain employed in the front desk, housekeeping, catering, maintenance and janitorial departments. Our laid off members have 6 months recall rights. We are hopeful that the property will sell to a real hotel operator.

ATU #134 - R. Hallick:

In June the B.C. Transit task force made a ruling which changed the ground rules for the "call for proposals" for the tendering of transit work across the province. It now requires the continuation of wages, benefits and seniority for all non-management employees. It does not provide for the continuation of the entire collective agreement.

This means job and wage security for the transit workers across B.C., regardless of which company wins or loses a contract. This was well received. However, the ATU feels there are many inequities between the lower mainland and the interior of the province such as wage parity, pensions, and tendering procedures. On August 25/94, our International Vice-President Jim Daley met with the Minister of Labour and the Minister responsible for B.C. Transit. He discussed our concerns and presented a comprehensive brief to the Minister. We are currently awaiting any results which may arise from this meeting.

In September it was announced that the incumbent company would continue for another five years.

Our members would like to thank the Labour Council for its involvement which played a major role in playing out this dispute to a successful conclusion. Indeed, the B.C. Fed and the Canadian Labour Congress were also very much involved, mostly recently in assisting us to arrange the meeting with the Minister.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Letter to CLC enclosing cheque for additional payment for single rooms for the Labour Council Conference, October 15 & 16, 1994.
- Letter to the New Westminster & District Labour Council enclosing donation towards the Dawn Black/Joy Langan dinner.
- Letter to Bob Battensby, CUPE 2709, enclosing a cheque towards the strike and extending an invitation to attend Labour Council meetings.
- Letter to Teamsters Local 213 extending invitation to attend Labour Council meetings as guests until affiliations with the B. C. Federation of Labour and the CLC have been finalized.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Regional Health Board/Community Health Council

It was reported by President V. Beckett that apparently nominations were being held for positions on this Council. HSA delegate P. Munro felt that it was probably for the steering committee which would be interim until municipal elections took place.

No names were brought forward at this time, but it was suggested that if a delegate wishes to run for a position, to submit the application to Health Minister Paul Ramsey.

2. B.C. Federation of Labour Convention

North Okanagan Labour Council is entitled to 3 delegates. Executive Recommendation:

1 delegate with lost wages and all expenses

1 delegate with expenses only and registration

1 delegate with registration fee only: the extra credential would be available if an affiliate wanted to cover the expenses

ELECTIONS TO BE HELD IN NOVEMBER.

M/S/C - acceptance of the recommendation. 3 opposed.

3. North Okanagan Labour Council Strike Committee

In view of the HEU Hawthorn Park strike, a discussion was held regarding the formation of a strike committee which would be beneficial for other Unions in a strike position as well.

M/S/C - to establish a Strike Committee.

The Strike Committee members are:

Betty Reid - BCGEU #507

Pat Munro - HSA

Ray Barkwill - BCGEU #407

Neil Ferguson - CUPE #523

GOOD & WELFARE:

Brother Broxham reported that a verbal complaint was lodged to the Environment Ministry re the packing plant addition at Western Star. Apparently this building was not hooked into the sewer system and the soil has been contaminated.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

ELAINE PROULX

Recording/Secretary-Treasurer

EP:DMG

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**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1994
SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE, VERNON, B. C.
7:30 P.M.**