

Vancouver & District Labour Council



May Day

International Workers' Day May 1

To: VDLC Affiliates, Delegates, & Friends

As workers, unions, and non-union worker organizations, your support and presence is essential for the upcoming **May Day** activities being planned by the Vancouver and District Labour Council and our affiliates.

This year, a coalition of unions and non-union worker organizations have come together through the VDLC to plan two events on **May 1st**.

First, a **march and rally** in downtown Vancouver under the slogan of "*Stand Up, Fight Back!*" starting at **Jack Poole plaza at 2 pm**. Second, we will join with United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1518, for a rally in support of the *Save Our Safeway* campaign at **5 pm** at City Square Safeway. The rally will include speeches from a worksite activist, as well as representatives from Local 1518 and the VDLC.

Workers are fighting privatization on all fronts. Whether it's privatizing ports, airport, or health care, workers are facing the threat of increasingly precarious privatized work. The effects of privatization are felt throughout the world and we know it's not just workers in BC who are at risk. We are also opposing the use of workers hard fought pension funds to privatize industries around the world.

We must also be committed to the process of decolonization within unions and in society as a whole. The continued oppression of indigenous people is unacceptable. Unceded means the land was never surrendered, and so, being on occupied territories, we have a responsibility to work with First Nations peoples in their struggles for self-determination.

Finally, all workers deserve to live with dignity. Having a living wage and affordable housing is integral to a better life and should be something everyone has access to. For too long employers have squeezed us with low wages for work that earns them billions

To: VDLC Affiliates & Friends
Re: May Day

in profits. We must acknowledge that those workers squeezed to benefit the few include migrant workers, and so they need to be part of this fight too. If they are good enough to work here, they are good enough to stay. Landed status for migrant workers is necessary to protect them from employers who are more than happy to send them home if they dare ask to be treated with dignity or respect.

After addressing these issues throughout the course of our march and rally downtown, we will move to **City Square Safeway** at 555 W. 12th Ave. in Vancouver (by Broadway City Hall Station) for the rally in support of the **Save Our Safeway** campaign.

On May 1st, workers in solidarity around the world will stand up and fight back. **Spread the word to your members and join us in Vancouver to be a united force** against privatization and demand protections for our jobs, pensions, affordable housing, living wages, decolonization, and migrant workers' rights.

In solidarity,



Stephen von Sychowski
President