VIDC delegate to BC NDP convention Nov 6-8, 2015

The recent BC NDP convention was held in Vancouver, right after the CUPE National Convention. On behalf of the Council, VIDC Political Action Committee Chair, Keith Todd and I attended. There were about 25 CUPE members and staff representing division, locals, district councils, labour councils and other affiliated organizations in attendance, alongside several hundred other NDP delegates. Jennifer Graholm, former Governor of Michigan was the keynote. She told us we need to be strong, clear and fierce in our fight. If you want to see a dynamic speaker please look her up. Her work as governor working with labour and business to diversify the state’s economy and her clean energy policies is impressive. There were panels on healthcare and jobs in the modern economy. There was a vote to determine if we needed a provincial leadership review. The result was a resounding no which indicates John Horgan is our leader going into the 2017 election. There were three development training sessions offering eight different topics. As the sessions were at the same time as the resolution components (innovation, opportunity, change) it was tough to choose where to be. I did participate in one session: Recruiting and Motivating Volunteers, it was worthwhile session. There were victory speeches from some of our MPs and MLAs and Tom Mulcair received a resounding ovation when he gave his address.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Waite