

Building Our Future Together

moveUp CONVENTION 2024

Welcome to Convention 2024!

Welcome, delegates, to the 2024 MoveUP Convention! Whether you are a first-time delegate or you have been here before, Convention is an experience like none other and you will truly feel democracy in action over these next three days as you play a part in making decisions that will shape our union for the next three years and beyond.

If you have been to previous Conventions, whether it was for our union or others in the labour movement such as the BC Federation of Labour Convention or the Canadian Labour Congress Convention, you will know that the art of planning a convention is a tricky one.

There is a lot of business to attend to, including receiving reports from committees, hearing from guest speakers, running elections (as required) and, of course, debating and voting on resolutions. Everybody has a different part of convention that means the most to them.

Convention is more than just getting down to the business of passing resolutions. Everything from the theme to the speakers has a purpose of setting the tone for the event, and to provide our delegates with engaging and inspiring information that will inform their decision-making when it comes to time to debate those resolutions.

Today, one of those inspiring voices that will set the tone for our convention is Jared Walker, an organizer, activist, writer, and communications professional. Words have a way of inspiring people, and nobody knows that better than Jared, a board member with the Broadbent Institute.

Jared's body of work speaks for itself, and he knows better than anyone that inspiring activists means connecting finding a way to connect and communicate clearly with them. His past roles have include being the Director of Digital Communications and Speechwriting for the Leader and Caucus for the Ontario NDP, Speechwriter to the Leader, Parliamentary Leader and Caucus of Canada's NDP, as well as Communications Director on Jagmeet Singh's

NDP leadership campaign.

Jared has worked on national and regional campaigns in both Canada and the United States and got his start as the New York State Coordinator of Students for Barack Obama. He is also a board member at the Urban Alliance on Race Relations, where he also Chairs the Black Youth Fellowship at Toronto City Hall.

The Broadbent Institute is a progressive policy and training organization founded by its namesake, the late Ed Broadbent, former federal NDP leader and a man who many consider as the best Prime Minister that Canada never had. Learn more at broadbentinstitute.ca.

Today, we will also hear today from MoveUP President Annette Toth and Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Chu, our Communications Department and Organizing Department, several committees, as well as receive greetings from Louella Vincent, President of the New Westminster & District Labour Council, and Lily Chang, Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Labour Congress.

Vice-president candidate debates in all three component areas (Combined, ICBC, and Utilities) will take place starting at 6 p.m. Please watch for an announcement on the room locations for the respective debates. ■



Photo, left: Lily Chang (photo credit: CLC) | Photo, right: Jared Walker (photo credit: Broadbent Institute)

Photos



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Paying tribute to two long-time leaders

Throughout these next three days, you will see tribute videos at various times with special messages for past president David Black and past secretary-treasurer Lori Mayhew, two long-time leaders who have had a profound impact on our union for more than three decades.

After serving as president for over a decade, and before then having been a vice-president and other leadership positions within our union, David began the process of stepping down in June 2022 as part of his desire to ensure there would be time for our union to prepare for a leadership shift with all the passing of knowledge that it entails.

As the longest-serving president in our union's history, there are far too many campaigns and job actions to list out. But perhaps the legacy David leaves behind in his time is highlighted by our union's fight to protect our members' jobs in the public sector and to push back against government (namely, the BC Liberals now dispersed into BC United/BC Conservatives).

Without a doubt, the campaigns that our union ran throughout the years with David in a leadership capacity helped saved 5,000 jobs at ICBC, preserved public ownership of our power generation, reversed a failed privatization effort at BC Hydro and repatriated hundreds of workers back to the public utility corporation, as well as saving Hastings Racecourse and continually pushing for increased funding for our public transit systems and at Capilano University.

Lori Mayhew redefined the role of secretary-treasurer for our union. She established new processes for the way our union handles financial requests and decisions, ensuring accountability and transparency, and made shrewd financial investments to guide our union to a strong and stable financial standing both in our day-to-day operations and in our ever-critical defence fund.

Lori also broke glass ceilings and was a role model for working women in our union. She stood in the face of misogyny at a time when some among our executive board questioned "whether a women should be paid that much" as the role of secretary-treasurer transitioned into a full-time role. Towards the end of her tenure with MoveUP, she would also briefly assume the role of president becoming just the third women president in our union's history.

The tributes we have collected to share with delegates here at Convention are more than thank you messages to David and Lori. They are a testament to the impact they have had with our union, within the labour movement, and in the public sphere. Their legacy will live on in our union for years to come. Thank you, David and Lori. ■



Photos: David and Lori through the years

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