

ALHI PROVINCIAL TIMELINE (Updated January 12, 2005)

- 1799 Expedition establishes Greenwich House in Lac la Biche, workers refuse to proceed to Lesser Slave River because of lack of provisions (Burley 214)
- 1803 7 Men selected by Fidler to go to Lake Athabasca would not stay unless higher wages (Burley 201)
- 1820 Peace River/Ft. Chipewyan near-mutiny (Burley 217)
Men of Ft. Edmonton District refuse to renew contract without higher wages (Burley 202)
- 1862 Men of Ft. Edmonton on-strike because of lack of rations (Burley 218)
- check on aboriginal workers actions
- 1882 Canadian Pacific Railway reaches Medicine Hat
- 1883 Building trades workers go in strike in Calgary at the height of building boom inspired by coming of the CPR
- 1884 Leaders of Northwest Rebellion receive support from settlers along North Saskatchewan River alienated by Dominion Government and the CPR (Finkel)
- 1885 Railway navvies launch major strike
- 1886 Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers local formed in Medicine Hat
Knights of Labour form Assembly in Calgary
- 1888 Formation of Society of Equity and Non-Partisan Leagues amongst farmers in the Northwest Territories (Alberta & Saskatchewan)
- 1892 United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America forms Local 75 in Calgary; does not survive
- 1897 CPR receives enormous grants and concessions to build a line through the Crowsnest Pass to spur development in the Prairies (Finkel)
- 1897 Strike at Galt Mine in Lethbridge, organized by first Local of Western Federation of Miners in Lethbridge
- 1900 First railway union locals formed in Calgary
- 1900 Head tax organization
- 1901 Track maintenance workers, members of Brotherhood Of Railway and Track, strike in Calgary
- 1902 United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America form local in Frank, Alberta
International Typographical Union organizes local in Calgary
Organization of Edmonton construction unions begins in earnest when the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners provides a charter to Local

- 1325 in Edmonton. Local 1325 operates to the present day, making it the senior construction local in Alberta.
- 1903 United Brotherhood of Railway Employees strike in Calgary
Construction workers strike in Calgary
- 1903 WFM recognition strike in Crowsnest Pass (Noble Cause 34)
District 18 United Mineworkers formed; Frank Sherman elected President (Noble 34)
- 1904 Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 488, later to become Canada's largest local of plumbers and pipefitters, has its humble beginnings as seven plumbers and pipefitters receive a charter from the international union.
Socialist Party of Canada founded (track Alberta branch – Noble Cause 34)
- 1905 Local labour councils are formed in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat
- 1905 The Canadian Northern transcontinental completed in Edmonton, and railway brotherhoods began organizing in the city.
Series of UMWA recognition strikes begins in Lethbridge, Frank, Bankhead, etc. (Noble Cause 76)
- 1906 The Edmonton Trades and Labour Council, created three years earlier, receives a charter from the American Federation of Labor.
- 1906 Building trades unions form central council in Calgary
Trades and Labour Council formed in Edmonton
Seven month strike of miners in Lethbridge and surrounding communities gives rise to the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act
- 1907 United Mine Workers of America makes first of many futile attempts to organize Edmonton miners in the face of well-organized employer opposition to union mines
- 1907 Socialist Party of Alberta founded in Calgary, Dec. 14 (Robin 89-90)
- 1908 Alberta enacts its first Workers' Compensation Act to move compensation of injury away from a basis in tort law
- 1909 Socialist Charley O'Brien is elected Member of the Alberta Legislature to represent the Crowsnest Pass
First Closed Shop won at Crowsnest Pass Company mines by UMWA
United Farmers of Alberta formed (Noble Cause 116)
- 1911-12 New industrial additions in Edmonton include several packinghouses and GWG, the latter a clothing manufacturer employing largely female labour.
- 1912 Workers at the Great West Garment plant in Edmonton form Local 120 of United Garment Workers International Union

- 1912 Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) organizes a strike of 250 sewer construction workers in Edmonton – railway construction workers across Alberta (Noble Cause 116)
- 1912 The founding meeting of the Alberta Federation of Labour is held in Lethbridge; farmers are included in organization
- 1913 Edmonton Musicians go out on strike
- ____? Apprenticeship programs officially established in Alberta [Hubler/Critoph]
- 1914 The latest of a number of explosion at Hillcrest Mines results in loss of 189 lives
- 1916 Edmonton's inside workers lead the way in creating continuing trade unions for municipal employees.
- 1917 The Edmonton District and Labour Council creates the Labour Representation League to field working-class candidates for all levels of government. The League, opposing the federal government's plans to use conscription to fill military ranks, calls for conscription of wealth before conscription of men can be considered during the war. (Finkel)
- 1917 IWW organizing amongst farmworkers in Southern Alberta (Danysk 107)
Bolshevik revolution in Russia lays basis of USSR
Borden Government imposes conscription
- 1916-17 Alberta leads with some of the most progressive labour legislation in Canada
- 1918 Alberta Legislature passes a Workmans' Compensation Act based on the Meredith Principles
- 1919 One Big Union formed in Calgary at a meeting of Western Federations of Labour on March 13
Civil Service Association of Alberta (CSA) is formed in Edmonton
Edmonton teachers go on strike
Sympathy strikes take place as Alberta caught up in general strike movement; support Winnipeg General Strike *
- 1919 A year of radicalism in Edmonton, marked by a month-long sympathy strike with Winnipeg's General Strike participants
First teachers' strike in Alberta
Establishment of the Civil Service Association of Alberta (forerunner of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees)
Creation of a labour newspaper, the *Edmonton Free Press*, which, in various incarnations, survives until 1953.
- 1918-22 Miners across in the Crowsnest, Drumheller and Lethbridge areas lead militant Province-wide strike action

- 1920s Packinghouse workers in Calgary & Edmonton, members of the Amalgamated Meatcutters' Union organize and go on strike
- 1921 The political arm of the United Farmers of Alberta forms the Government of Alberta with support from the trade unions (Finkel)
Communist Party of Canada formed
- 1922 Canadian Labour Party is formed with a provincial wing in Alberta (Finkel)
- 1922 Edmonton local of Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union goes on strike against four cafés that want to cut waitresses' wages by 27.5 percent, and wins major concessions from three of the café owners.
- 1923 A huge May Day rally supports striking Edmonton coal miners.
Mineworkers Union of Canada formed by miners in Crowsnest Pass
- 1925 Chinese organize against the Exclusion Act
- 1926 Six members of the Canadian Labour Party are elected to the Alberta Legislature (Finkel)
- 1927 MWUC joins with Canadian Brother of Railway Employees in the new All-Canadian Congress of Labour (Noble Cause 162)
- 1926 Edmonton elects teacher C.L. Gibb to the legislature, the first provincial member from the city elected on a Labour ticket.
- 1929 Workers' Unity League is formed, later incorporates the MWUC (Noble Cause 162)
- 1931 Edmonton elects the Canadian Labour Party (CLP) candidate for mayor, Dan Knott, and a CLP majority on council, including Margaret Crang, Labour's first woman councillor.
- 1930? Farmers' Unity League formed; farmers' strikes begin (Taylor)
- 1932 Edmonton's Hunger March on December 20 attracts 12,000 people, but is broken by a police riot ordered by provincial and civic officials.
- 1932 A meeting of socialists, farmers and trade unions is held in Calgary to form the Canadian Commonwealth Federation, precursor to the New Democratic Party (Finkel)
Plumbers & Pipefitters in Edmonton lead strike of construction workers in Edmonton against wage roll-backs
Federal government imposes relief camps policy
- 1934 Workers' Unity League elects a full slate to the Blairmore Town Council
- 1933-6 Labour and political activists organize widespread resistance to relief camps; Calgary organization wins highest relief rates in Canada
- 1935 On-to-Ottawa trek stops in Calgary and Medicine Hat in June; enjoys community support and hospitality

that the owners pay the mandated female minimum wage. Unemployed workers in Edmonton had been involved in a variety of strikes during the Depression, demanding better treatment from relief authorities. Many of them joined the “On to Ottawa Trek,” which called for the disbandment of the prison-like relief camps and for governments to guarantee workers a job and a living wage

- 1937 Packinghouse workers organize sit-down strikes in Calgary and Edmonton
- 1938 The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act legitimizes trade union organizing by providing for recognition of trade union contracts and establishing machinery for dealing with violations of labour laws.
- 1938 or 39 Pat Lenihan, Communist and trade union leader, is elected to Calgary City Council
- 1940 Unemployment Insurance legislation is passed, containing relatively generous socio-economic security provisions
- 1941? Relocation of Japanese citizens to Southern Alberta; many work on sugar beet fields
- 1944 Government of Wm Lyon Mackenzie King invokes PC 1003, a Wartime Measures Act, in reaction to wave of labour militancy; provides framework for post-War collective bargaining legislation across Canada
- 1945 President of Calgary & District Labour Council elected Mayor of Calgary
- 1946 Justice Ivan Rand delivers arbitration award to end UAW strike at General Motors; provides basis for Rand Formula for union security
- 1947 Farmers organize ‘parity strike’ across Alberta
All Edmonton packinghouse workers join a national strike in the industry that wins major concessions for employees in that industry.
Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers organizes massive strike at Medalta pottery works in Medicine Hat
- Leduc #1 well begins oil boom in Alberta (rednecks buy unprecedented number of ½ ton trucks with gun-racks and Confederate flags on rear window)
- 1948 United Labour Farmers’ Temple Association (ULFTA) becomes the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians in response to Cold War pressures
Social Credit Government passes draconian labour legislation in response to Mine Mill strike at Medicine Hat, reversing tradition of progressive policies
- 1949 Industrial Federation of Labour of Alberta formed
- 1950s Decline of coal mines results in loss of over 7000 jobs; decline of militant mine unions
- 1951 Certification of CIL Plant in Edmonton creates first long-term union organization in Alberta’s petroleum industry.

- 1954 Province-wide strike of Hotel Restaurant Employees union centred in Edmonton, Calgary, Medicine Hat and Lethbridge; is defeated
Ft. Saskatchewan chemical workers organize local of the International Chemical Workers Union; later to merge with the Oil Chemical & Atomic Workers
- 1956 Merger of the Canadian Congress of Labour with the Trades & Labour Congress forms the Canadian Labour Congress; leads to mergers of Alberta Trades & Labour Congress with the Industrial Federation of Alberta; followed by local labour councils
- 1957 Civil Service Association leaves the Alberta Federation of Labour citing differences in political philosophy
- 1959 Alberta establishes Civil Service Commission; reduces the role of patronage in provincial politics and services
- 1961 Elmer Roper elected Mayor of Edmonton
New Democratic Party is born in national conference making trade union movement a formal partner with the CCF in new political party
Alberta workers join national strike of CPR's running trades unions
- 1961 Amalgamated Transit Union members hold bus strike in Calgary; insulted by Mayor Harry Hayes
- 1962 Edmonton-based unionist Neil Reimer, the key figure in organizing workers in oil refineries and chemical plants, becomes the first provincial leader of the New Democratic Party.
- 1963 City locals of the National Union of Public Employees and the National Union of Public Service Employees unite as Canadian Union of Public Employee locals.
- 1963 Millionth Workers' Compensation claim filed in Alberta
- 1966 National postal strike instrumental in winning bargaining rights for federal government workers
- 1967 Federal government employees granted collective bargaining rights under the Public Service Staff Relations Act following period of labour militancy
Garth Turcotte elected first NDP Member of the Alberta Legislature in by-election in Pincher Creek-Crowsnest; exposes Social Credit scandal in land deals associated with founding of hamlet of Sherwood Park
- 1968 Massive strikes occur in the Post Office
- 1969 Civil Service Association becomes the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees; gains limited right to engage in collective bargaining
- 1971 New Conservative Leader Peter Lougheed promises full, free collective bargaining rights to provincial government employees, prior to being elected in general election that sweeps out the Social Credit

- Federal government of Pierre Trudeau extends Unemployment Insurance protection to cover 97% of unemployed workforce; appeal procedures introduced
- 1973 Major strike occurs at Edmonton-based Wardair
- 1974 National headquarters of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union is established in Edmonton.
- 1975 Alberta government signs deal with Syncrude, a consortium of Crown and private oil companies, to build massive tar sands plant in North-East Alberta
- Alberta legislation creates a North-East Alberta Commissioner with sweeping powers to govern region during construction and start-up of Syncrude plant
- Federal Government of Pierre Trudeau invokes comprehensive Wage & Price Controls policy
- 1976 Alberta passes Canada's first comprehensive Occupational Health and Safety Act after years of union campaigning for such legislation.
- Syncrude plant begins construction, with massive grants and concessions from Canadian and Alberta governments
- Alberta workers join in Canada-wide demonstrations against the Federal Wage Controls and the Anti-Inflation Board
- Workers at Lethbridge radio station CJOC begin extended strike
- 1977 Members of Canadian Union of Public Employees begin strike at Parkland Nursing Home in Edmonton
- Friends of Medicare formed with participation of Alberta's trade unions
- 1978 CUPE Local 37, Calgary outside workers, hold successful strike
- Federal Government passes comprehensive Human Rights Act, including prohibited grounds for discrimination in employment; followed by Alberta legislation
- 1979 Nurses launch Province-wide strike; newly-elected President Margaret Ethier leads 'Nurses are Worth It' campaign
- 1979 Wage controls for federal employees are extended beyond the conclusion of the Anti-Inflation legislation
- 1980 Illegal strikes by Alberta government workers and nurses demonstrate worker defiance of legislation passed in 1977 that forbids strikes throughout the public service.
- 1980s CNR employees go on nation-wide strike
- 1982 Alberta Government invokes Bill 11, the Medical Health Services Continuation Act in response to strike by United Nurses; empowers Alberta Cabinet to decertify a trade union for violation of Act

- 1982 Building trades break from Alberta Federation of Labour as part of national action which results in formation of the Canadian Federation of Labour
- 1983 Alberta's 'Six-Pack' construction companies employ 24-hour lockout strategy to unilaterally terminate collective agreements with Building Trades unions
- CUPE Representative Dave Werlin is elected President of Alberta Federation of Labour; first Communist to hold such a position in Canada
- Alberta invokes Bill 44, the Labour Statutes Amendment Act, to extend draconian features of PSERA and Bill 11 to other Alberta workers;
- Alberta Federation of Labour kicks off Province-wide 'War on 44' campaign
- Alberta Federation of Labour organizes farm-gate pickets to support farmers faced with evictions
- Unemployed Action Committees formed across Province as part of Canadian Labour Congress program; Unemployed Action Centres established in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Red Deer and Calgary
- 1983 As a major recession hits Alberta, the provincial government allows unionized construction companies to set up "dummy" companies to which the union contracts do not apply.
- 1984 Construction workers form the "Dandelions" organization that fought to restore unionism to the construction industry.
- Alberta NDP Leader Grant Notley killed in airplane crash; MLA Ray Martin assumes leadership of the Party
- 1986 Major strikes across Province reach a climax in summer, led by strike/lockouts of: McMurray Independent Oil Workers (later ECWU) at Suncor; UFCW at Gainers in Edmonton, Fletchers' Fine Foods in Red Deer, and Lakeside Packers in Brooks; IWA at Zeidler's in Edmonton and Slave Lake, and AUPE Local 50 at the Alberta Liquor Control Board; includes a number of other actions
- 16 Members of the New Democratic Party elected to the Provincial Legislature
- Conservative Government of Brian Mulroney takes action against the Canadian Air Traffic Controllers' Association; following successful action by US President Ronald Reagan to break the union south of the border
- 1986 Six-month strike by the United Food and Commercial Workers local at Gainers, during which police repression of strikers and support of scabs enrages the city's workers, focuses attention on the province's labour laws.
- 1987 Alberta Government responds to militancy of 1986 by calling for a Labour Law Review led by Labour Minister Ian Reid

- Extended strike by USWA at Damm Galvanizing in Medicine Hat ends in defeat
- Alberta Federation of Labour denies CLC-NDP calls for support to the Meech Lake Accord
- 1988 Alberta trade unions becomes active participants in Pro-Canada Network, formed to oppose movement towards a free trade pact with the United States
- 1988 Members of the United Nurses of Alberta hold strike vote in defiance of Provincial ban and Labour Board orders; later go on strike
- UNA fines half a million dollars for contempt of court in strike; Friends of Nurses formed as community support group
- Ross Harvey elected in Edmonton East, first-ever NDP Member from Alberta
- Federal government assault on Unemployment Insurance begins in earnest with a series of moves to curtail benefits, decimating percentage of unemployed workers covered
- Members of newly-formed local of Canadian Auto Workers begin lengthy strike at Engine Rebuilders in Edmonton in bid for a first agreement; forced to settle for substandard contract
- 1989 Jan Reimer, pro-labour politician, NDP activist, and City Councillor is elected as Edmonton's first woman mayor.
- 1990 AFL leads Alberta activists in Action Canada Network action against the GST
- ATU holds transit strike in Calgary
- 1991 Pro-Canada Network becomes Action Canada Network, as Conservative Government of Brian Mulroney pursues massive cutbacks in social service and health care cost-sharing, pursues a North American Free Trade Agreement, and promises a value-added tax on goods and services; Alberta trade unions lead an active provincial wing
- PSAC organizes nation-wide strike of federal government employees against continuing wage restraints
- Massive reorganization and cutbacks as Unemployment Insurance Commission transformed into Employment Insurance
- 1992 Alberta Federation of Labour leads provincial Action Canada struggles against NAFTA
- 1993 Ralph Klein becomes Alberta Premier; promises massive cuts to operating budget
- Members of CAW in Edmonton hold second strike at Engine Rebuilders; win glorious victory

- 1994 Provincial government cutbacks result in massive layoffs in the general service, health and social services with Edmonton, as provincial capital, hardest hit.
- 1995 Projectionists, members of the International Association of Theatre, Stage Employees, hold province-wide strike
 Laundry workers in Calgary, members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 8 and Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, Local 55, hold wildcat strike against contracting-out; are first to make Premier Klein 'blink' as they win limited protection
- 1996 United Food and Commercial Workers local strikes Safeway stores in Edmonton as the chain attempts a major rollback in wages.
- 1997 The United Food and Commercial Workers local at Maple Leaf Foods, successor to Gainers, strikes despite the owners' threats to close the plant.
- 1998 PSAC members celebrate groundbreaking pay equity award from the Canadian Human Rights Commission
- 1999 Members of Canadian Energy & Paperworkers' Union go on strike against the Calgary Herald and Conrad Black
- 2000 The United Food and Commercial Workers local strikes Safeway stores as that chain attempts a major rollback in wages.
 Alberta Friends of Medicare organizes massive protests against Bill 11, which opens the door wider to privatization of healthcare services, particularly hospitals.
- 2002 Shaw Conference Centre workers, members of the United Food and Commercial Workers, strike for seven months before winning a first collective agreement
- 2003 A-Channel workers, organized by Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union, strike for comparable wages and working conditions to other broadcast employees in the city.
 High-profile support for the Kyoto Protocol by the Canadian Auto Workers and the Communications Energy & Paperworkers is crucial to ratification by Canadian Government
- 2004 GWG closes its Edmonton plant, moving to Haiti where wages are minimal