

"Soldiers guarding entrance to post office, Calgary, Alberta," 1918. NA-2354-10. Glenbow Museum.

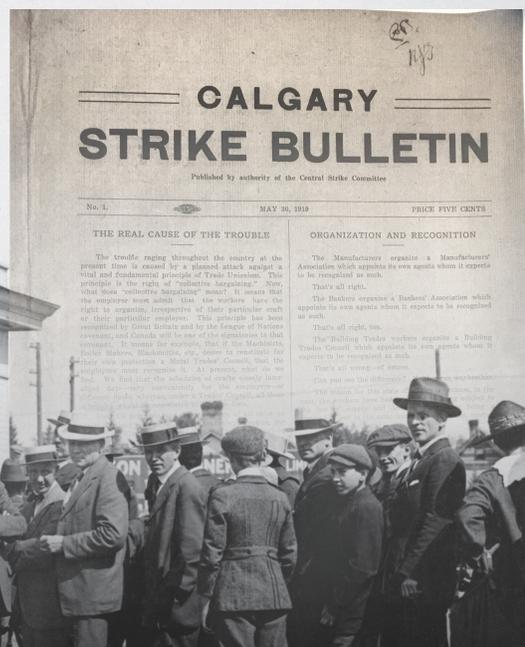
The Calgary strike began on Monday, 26 May and lasted just over four weeks. In terms of the total number of work days lost due to the strike, it was the third largest work stoppage in Western Canada (after Winnipeg and Vancouver) and the largest strike in the city's history.

Soon after the strike began, workers organized a Strike Committee to coordinate events and relay information. The committee produced a strike bulletin to provide updates and to counter the unsympathetic coverage the strike received in the *Calgary Herald* and other efforts to break the strike.

Throughout the strike, workers and their supporters organized events to bring people together and draw attention to labour issues. On several occasions, workers marched through the city accompanied by a band. They also held mass meetings at Mewata Park and St. George's Island, where they listened to speeches by labour supporters, including socialist Bill Pritchard and Unitarian minister William Irvine.

The Calgary strike continued into late June. On 17 June, as news spread about the arrest of the Winnipeg strike leaders, the Calgary Strike Committee called for a nation-wide strike in solidarity. Following the violent suppression of the Winnipeg strike on Bloody Saturday, however, strike action in other cities dwindled. The Calgary strike ended on June 25.

Calgary Strike Bulletin, no. 1 (30 May 1919): 1.



"Let your slogan be: Re-instatement of the postal workers now on strike without discrimination against any one man. The organized labor movement of Western Canada either goes down as a whole on this question or it stands together for victory. **If the Government breaks the 'posties' now, it will turn around and break you later. Think it over and don't be too long about it.**"

Calgary Strike Bulletin (7 June 1919). Postal workers were the first to walk off the job. In response, the postal service fired the strikers and barred them from being rehired.