

Centenary Edition



Preserving our past  
*Shaping our future*

ALBERTA LABOUR HISTORY INSTITUTE  
ALBERTA LABOUR HISTORY  
2005

# CENTENNIALS 2005

## Sheet Metal Workers Local 8

Originally, the Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers International Alliance Local 254, a trade union based in Calgary, was founded on February 28, 1905. By April 17, 1907, the Edmonton branch, Local 371, was formed and on November 1, 1934, Local 371 was re-chartered to become Local 271, Edmonton. On July 22, 1924, the Union officially changed its name to Sheet Metal Workers International Association at their convention in Montreal, Canada.

Local 558 in Lethbridge was formed on July 8, 1953. The amalgamation of Locals 254, 271 and 558 into Local 8 was completed on May 1, 1973 and given jurisdiction over the Province of Alberta and District of McKenzie, NWT. As well as negotiating contracts for its members with the Calgary Sheet Metal Association, it operated an apprenticeship program for individuals learning the trade.



## Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)—the Wobblies

The romantic and colourful union, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), was founded in Chicago in 1905 to organize all workers regardless of nationality, craft, sex or race into one powerful class-aware union. The IWW pioneered innovative organizing techniques such as wobbly songs and poetry and successfully conducted strikes in many industries. The IWW was established by activists Mother Jones, Big Bill Haywood, Eugene V. Debs and others. Members included Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Helen Keller and wobbly poet and songwriter Joe Hill.

In British Columbia and Alberta, the union organizer was Arthur “Slim” Evans. Slim Evans was a colourful socialist and trade union organizer who played the leading role in organizing the On-to-Ottawa Trek of 1935.



## Plumbers and Pipefitters Union 496 (Belated)

Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 496 was chartered in 1904 in Calgary, Alberta. As the economy of southern Alberta became increasingly industrialized, the Local Union assumed jurisdiction over plumbers, pipefitters, steamfitters, sprinkler fitters, pipeline welders, instrument mechanics and non-destructive testing technicians working in building construction and maintenance, pipelines, refineries, gas plants, and other industrial installations. Local Union 496 was the first local union in western Canada to establish its own pension and health and welfare plans. It also established the Piping Industry Training School to develop skills in the pipe trades.

The United Association of Journeymen Plumbers, Gas Fitters, Steam Fitters and Steam Fitters Helpers of the United States and Canada was established in the USA in 1889. Its most recent change of name was in 1947, when it became the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada. It is also known by the short form name United Association, or more informally, the Plumbers Union.







1959 Teacher Mrs. Brooker Edwards, Grassland School, Amber Valley, Alberta.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

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Saturday

Well I suppose it was like most of the black people that came over, they were looking for a better life, a better place to raise their children. They wanted freedom. My father's uncle had this plantation and was going to sell it. But the white people around him, they wanted his plantation. So they decided to get rid of him; in fact they were going to lynch him and take the plantation. He and his family moved to Oklahoma. When they got to Oklahoma the Jim Crow Law

was enforced and they had no rights. So they decided they wanted to move where there was freedom. That's the reason they moved to Keystone—maybe 80 miles from Edmonton. They moved away out in the bush so they could have their own government. Well yes.

—Gwen Hooks, African-Canadian schoolteacher about how she came to teach school in Breton, Alberta

1905 Conference of industrial unionists in Chicago leads to the formation of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)

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1963 The 1,000,000th claim for compensation by an injured worker is filed with the Alberta Workmen's Compensation Board in its 45th year of operation

6

1973 Negotiations for a first contract at Wardair fail. A two-month strike starts

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1915 Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) poet Ralph Chaplin writes *Solidarity Forever*

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1975 Canadian Air Line Flight Attendants Association (CALFAA) lobbying campaign defeats proposal by Transport Canada prohibiting female flight attendants from working beyond the 13th week of pregnancy

24

1850 Samuel Gompers, first president of American Federation of Labor, born

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1954 Workers at Fort Saskatchewan's first chemical refinery are chartered as ICWU Local 530. Now known as Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Local 530A

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1929 Martin Luther King born

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1962 Alberta New Democrats founding provincial convention

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1737 Thomas Paine born

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New Year's Day

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Ukrainian Christmas

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December2004

SMTWTFSS

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February2005

SMTWTFSS

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## A black and white photograph of a woman with short dark hair and glasses, smiling at the camera. She is wearing a sleeveless floral top and is seated at a wooden workbench. In front of her is a vintage treadle sewing machine. She has her hands on the fabric being sewn. In the background, another woman is visible, working at a similar machine. The room is filled with shelves containing various items, suggesting a workshop or a store.

1958 Olga Danowich, nee Oschipok, in sewing room of Hatchwear Uniforms factory, Calgary, Alberta.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<p><b>1918</b> Seventy-four Edmonton Fire Department employees strike in one of the first public sector strikes in Alberta</p> <p><b>2000</b> Founding of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), Edmonton Branch</p>			<p><b>2002</b> Largest teachers' strike empties classrooms in Alberta</p>	
		1	2	3	4	5
						<p><b>1990</b> Amalgamated Transit Union Local 583, Calgary Transit System strike begins</p> <p><b>2001</b> Amalgamated Transit Union Local 583, Calgary Transit begins two month strike</p>
			Chinese/Lunar New Year			
		8	9	10	11	12
	<p><b>1990</b> Amalgamated Transit Union Local 583, Calgary Transit System strike ends</p>			<p><b>1936</b> Goodyear sitdown strike begins in Akron, Ohio</p> <p><b>1944</b> Privy Council Order 1003 comes into effect; provides national recognition of collective bargaining contracts as legal documents</p>		
6	7					
13	Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19
	<p><b>2002</b> Back-to-work orders issued by the government in an attempt to force Alberta teachers back to the classrooms</p>					
20	Family Day	22	23	24	25	26
	<p><b>1905</b> Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers International Alliance Local 254 formed in Calgary</p>					
27	28					

—Anna Ozipko, Business Agent, United Garment Workers of America about working conditions in Edmonton's GWG Plant in the 1940s

<i>January</i>						<i>2005</i>
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<i>March</i>							<i>2005</i>
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March 1937 Interior view of mine shaft, Kent Coal Company, located at 10631 – 92 Street, Edmonton, Alberta.

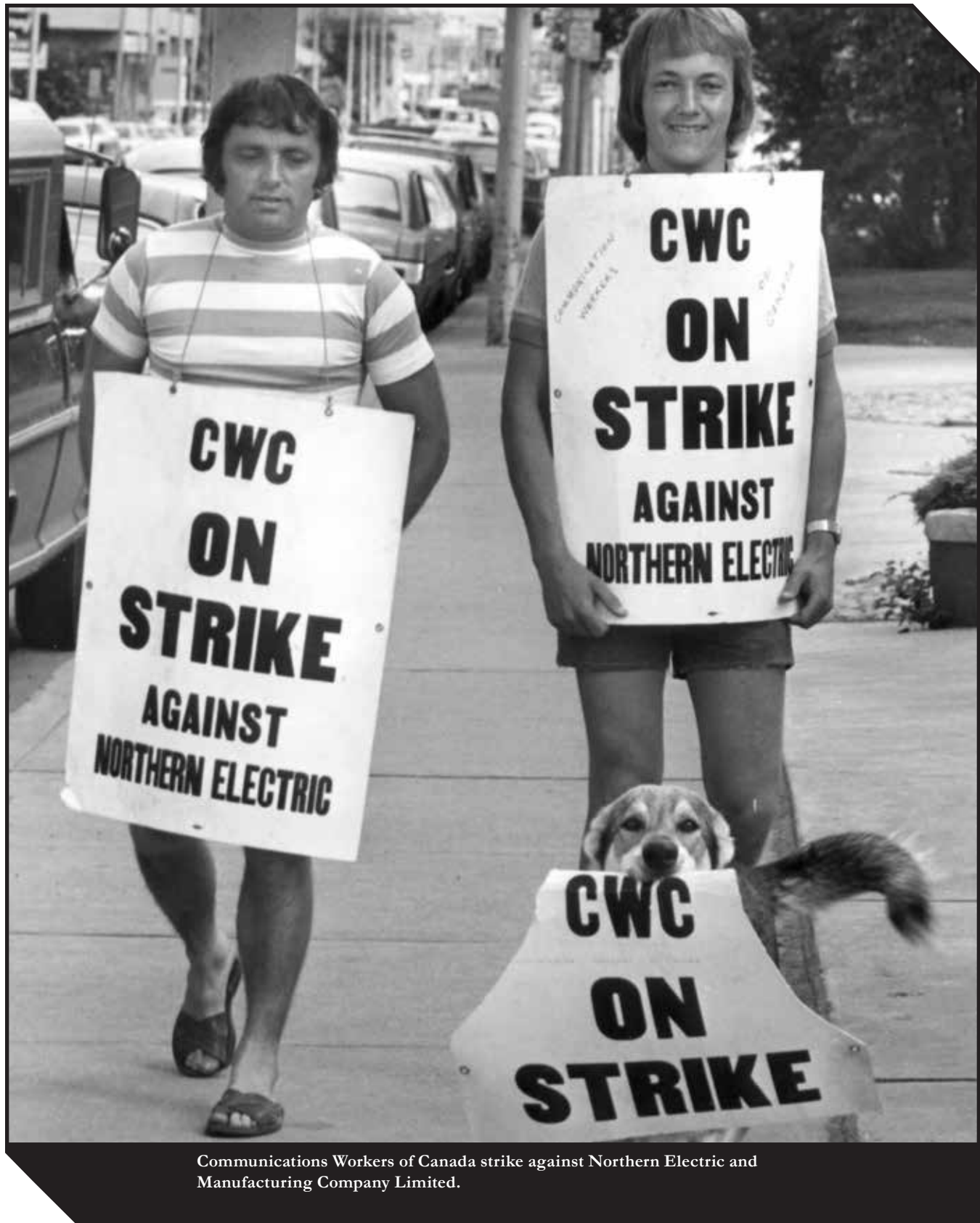
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<div>1908 First International Women's Day started in New York City by garment workers</div> <div>1978 Canadian Human Rights Act (HRA) takes effect, outlawing discrimination on the grounds of age or marital status</div> <div>1</div>	<div>1906 Seven month United Mine Workers strike in Lethbridge begins, resulting in anti-labour Industrial Disputes Investigation Act being passed by federal government in 1907</div> <div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>
<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>1917 Calgary establishes Labour Representation League to nominate candidates in elections to all levels of government</div> <div>8</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>1871 Paris Commune founded</div> <div>11</div>	<div>Feast Day of Saint Joseph, patron saint of workers</div> <div>12</div>
<div>1919 Delegates from most union locals in western Canada meet at the Western Labour Conference in Calgary and form One Big Union</div> <div>13</div>	<div>1913 First convention of the Provincial Council of Carpenters</div> <div>14</div>	<div>1951 Local 630 of Oil Workers International Union certified in Edmonton, the first local in the oil industry to last for some time</div> <div>15</div>	<div>1918 Canadian women win the right to vote in federal elections</div> <div>1977 Parkland Nursing Home Workers (CUPE) begin a lengthy strike</div> <div>16</div>	<div>St. Patrick's Day</div> <div>17</div>	<div>1911 New York Triangle Shirtwaist Fire. 147 workers, the vast majority women, perish after being locked in the factory by the employer</div> <div>18</div>	<div>1919 Civil Service Association of Alberta (CSA), precursor to AUPE, formed</div> <div>19</div>
<div>1980 United Nurses of Alberta organize program of action to publicize low nurses' wages</div> <div>20</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>Good Friday</div> <div>25</div>	<div>26</div>
<div>27</div>	<div>Easter Monday</div> <div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>1927 Cesar Chavez born</div> <div>30</div>	<div>31</div>		

Strip mining near the Morin Bridge—it was a lot of work to remove the overburden of soil and grass. It would take a long day to return home with a full load of coal. But it kept the family from freezing. Coal also was used in heating water and cooking your meals. It was very important to us. The neighbours often went together to help each other when they were gathering coal down there.

—Clara Montgomery, miner's wife about life in Morin, Alberta in the Drumbeller Valley during the 1920s

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Communications Workers of Canada strike against Northern Electric and Manufacturing Company Limited.

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We had thousands of unemployed in Edmonton who ate two meals a day at soup kitchens. We often had riots, when they would destroy all the dishes and throw away the food. They were a big force. We had thousands of people who were being evicted from their homes because they couldn't pay taxes. We had thousands of people who had no place to go except dirty, cheap rooming houses, which were supplied by the authorities. So the idea of a hunger march caught on. The fact that we got 12,000 people is

astounding. Edmonton had a population of 80,000 at that time, so this was an enormous event. The police tried to prevent people from coming in. The RCMP blockaded all the main roads but they got around that. The farmers came in during the night on the side roads—they couldn't keep them from coming in.

—Ben Swanky, Leader, Alberta Labour Progressive Party about the lead-up to the Edmonton Hunger March of 1932

1917 Seven thousand five hundred Crow's Nest miners belonging to the United Mine Workers of America strike

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Daylight Savings Time begins

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1983 Bill 44 introduced: removes the legal right to strike for all hospital workers

1919 The Edmonton Free Press, Journal of the Edmonton Trades and Labour Council, begins publication

2001 Amalgamated Transit Union Local 583, Calgary Transit Strike ends

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1907 Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers International Alliance Local 371 formed in Edmonton

1980 United Nurses of Alberta begin legal strike at 79 hospitals

1980 Nurses defy back-to-work order winning a negotiated settlement six days later

1951 Civic, school board and healthcare employees form the Federation of Public Employees, forerunner of the National Union of Public Employees

1956 Canadian Labour Congress formed

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1933 Fourteen leaders of a Calgary relief strike are arrested

International Day of Mourning for workers killed or injured on the job

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March2005

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1919 The skilled craftsmen of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, Joiners Local 1325 constructing the Marshal Wells building that sold hardware. The Brotherhood celebrated its 100th anniversary on November 11, 2002.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1830</b> Mary Harris Jones born (Mother Jones) <b>1917</b> Civic Employees Federal Union No. 30 granted charter <b>1923</b> International Labour Day, Edmonton workers rally to support striking Edmonton coal miners		<b>1919</b> Western Labour Conference in Calgary votes to dissociate Western labour from Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and form One Big Union <b>2002</b> Edmonton United Food and Commercial Workers Local 401 strike begins	<b>1886</b> Workers demonstrating in Chicago for the eight-hour day are attacked by police on Haymarket Square	<b>1818</b> Karl Marx born <b>1903</b> First issue of Alberta's labour newspaper, <i>Bond of Brotherhood</i> , appears in Calgary		<b>1968</b> French students and workers revolt in Paris
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
						<b>1771</b> Labour reformer Robert Owen born
Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
<b>1903</b> International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen grants charter to Local 1 in Edmonton <b>1919</b> Winnipeg General Strike begins						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		<b>1921</b> Trial of Italian-American anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti begins	<b>1905</b> Calgary Trades and Labour Council granted charter	<b>1919</b> Edmonton and Calgary general strikes in solidarity with Winnipeg General Strike begin		<b>1871</b> Paris Commune crushed with 25,000 killed <b>1919</b> Eight thousand miners in District 18 join sympathy strike with Winnipeg workers
22	Victoria Day	24	25	26	27	28
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The worst mine event that I remember was the two Meyers boys being killed in the mine shaft. They were coming up off work and something happened to the cable. It came up so fast it hit the top and went right back down again. The two boys were killed. That was about the worst accident.

—Tilly Herman, miner's wife, East Coulee, describing a mine accident in the Drumbeller Valley in the 1940s

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1941 – 1945 During WWII, beet growers in Southern Alberta brought Japanese labourers from British Columbia to work in the sugar beet fields.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<div>1986 01 June to 14 December "The Battle of 66 Street". United Food and Commerical Workers Local 280P begin six-month strike at Gainers Meatpacking Plant. UFCW workers at Fletchers in Red Deer begin strike</div> 1	2	3	<div>1912 Alberta Federation of Labour founded in Lethbridge</div> 4
5	6	<div>1935 The On-to-Ottawa Trek reaches Calgary from Vancouver</div> 7	8	9	10	<div>1872 Trade unions provided first recognition in Canadian law but with severe restrictions that force most of them to forego registering</div> 11
		<div>1976 Alberta Union of Provincial Employees formed</div> 13	14	15	16	17
National Public Service Week12						18
<div>1914 In Alberta's worst mine disaster ever, 189 miners die in Hillcrest mine</div> <div>2002 Alberta Teachers Association reaches deal that ends the dispute with the Conservative government</div>		<div>1919 "Bloody Saturday"—Police repression of workers in Winnipeg General Strike results in two deaths</div>				<div>1919 Winnipeg General Strike ends</div>
Father's Day19		Summer Solstice21	22	23	24	25
	<div>1869 Emma Goldman, famous anarchist-feminist, born</div>	<div>1926 Six Labour members win seats in Alberta provincial election</div>		<div>1919 Government raids unions across Canada, enforcing new "sedition" legislation meant to restrict unionism and fend off socialism</div>		
26	27	28	29	30		

But getting back to the police, I remember one evening when we were all down there demonstrating. I turned and looked and here come twelve of them on horseback—not a very nice scene. We tend to think that we live in this free country where we have the right of free collective bargaining. That's a farce if there ever was one. The right to sign your name on the paper for somebody to take it away, that's all the right we have. Anybody who thinks that it's free—they gotta be drinking something pretty good.

—Gib Todd, National Representative, Communications Energy & Paperworkers talking about the Calgary Herald Strike of 1999

May 2005						
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1975 School children join Canadian Union of Public Employees caretaker picketers, Calgary, Alberta. Canadian Union of Public Employees were on strike over salary, overtime and job description issues.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
There aren't enough policemen to arrest us all. There aren't enough judges to try us all. There aren't enough jails to hold us all.  —Dave Werlin, former President, Alberta Federation of Labour about police intimidation on UFCW 280P picket line at Gainers Meatpacking Plant, Edmonton, August 1986				1919 July 01 A mass arrest of One Big Union members is coordinated by federal government	1935 On-to-Ottawa Trek is violently repressed by RCMP in Regina 1968 Federal monies became available to provinces that established universal, comprehensive, public medical health insurance  Canada Day	1980 AUPE "wildcat strike" at ALCB 1968 Canadian Union of Public Employees 474 Edmonton is granted a charter
					1	2
3	1977 United Nurses of Alberta begin legal strike at seven Alberta hospitals affecting 2,500 nurses 2000 After eight months of a bitter first contract fight, Communications, Energy and Paperworkers of Canada Local 115A strikers lose the fight for a union contract	4	1949 International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers Local 720 charter issued	7	1918 Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union organizes two hotels and six restaurants after Calgary Trades and Labour Council threatens a general strike 1953 Sheet Metal Workers Local 558 formed in Lethbridge	9
10	1997 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1118, meatpackers at the High River, Alberta Cargill plant go on strike	11	1961 Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America Local 583 strike Calgary Transit July 11 to August 22	14	1912 Woody Guthrie born	16
17	1936 Spanish Civil War begins	18	1921 United Farmers of Alberta government is elected. Four Labour members are also elected	20	1966 Canada Packers strike by United Packinghouse Workers of America	23
24		1948 Canadian Air Line Flight Attendants Association (CALFAA) is certified	1997 Canadian Auto Workers Local 4050 go on strike against Marriott Food Services, Michener Center, Red Deer	27		30
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				June 2005		August 2005
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				26 27 28 29 30		28 29 30 31





1961 Edmonton Club waitresses on strike in Edmonton, Alberta. Edmonton Club locked workers out when they asked for a 5 cent raise (to 80 cents/hour).

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div><div>1918 August 01 Workmen's Compensation Act becomes effective for the coal mining industry. Trade union pressure led to passage of the Act and later its extension to most other industries</div><div>1944 August 01 A federal bill establishing family allowances passes in the House of Commons</div><div>1940 The Unemployment Insurance Act receives royal assent. Labour had fought a long battle for a federal program of UI</div></div> <div>7</div>	<div><div>1906 Edmonton Trades and Labour Council granted charter</div><div>1932 The CCF is founded in Calgary by labour, farmer and socialist parties, along with one union, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees</div><div>Heritage Day</div></div> <div>1</div>	<div><div>1997 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1118 settles strike</div></div> <div>2</div>	<div><div>3</div></div>	<div><div>1908 Two month national rail strike of CPR shop and yard workers begins</div></div> <div>4</div>	<div><div>5</div></div>	<div><div>1981 Wardair locks out its 700 flight attendants. The lockout lasts 13 weeks, with the company using scabs and a strike-breaking security firm</div><div>1906 Edmonton Trades and Labour Council established (forerunner of the EDLC)</div></div> <div>6</div>
	<div>8</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>
<div>14</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>
<div>21</div>	<div><div>1911 Amalgamated Transit Union 569 granted charter</div><div>1961 Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America Local 583 Calgary Transit strike ends</div></div> <div>22</div>	<div><div>1834 British National Trades Union founded</div></div> <div>23</div>	<div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>
<div>28</div>	<div><div>1980 Solidarnosc founded in Gdansk, Poland</div></div> <div>29</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div>			

Well, the hotel [Chateau Lacombe] was opening up. So I went to McDougall United Church close to there and talked to the grand old minister. “Yes,” he says, “you can have the basement. Bring them down, sign them up down here.” So Evelyn used to go up the stairways in the hotel when we were organizing chambermaids. Evelyn would take about six hats with her. She’d change her hat on the main floor and take the elevator up. Pretty soon they’d get to know her by her hat, so she’d change it.

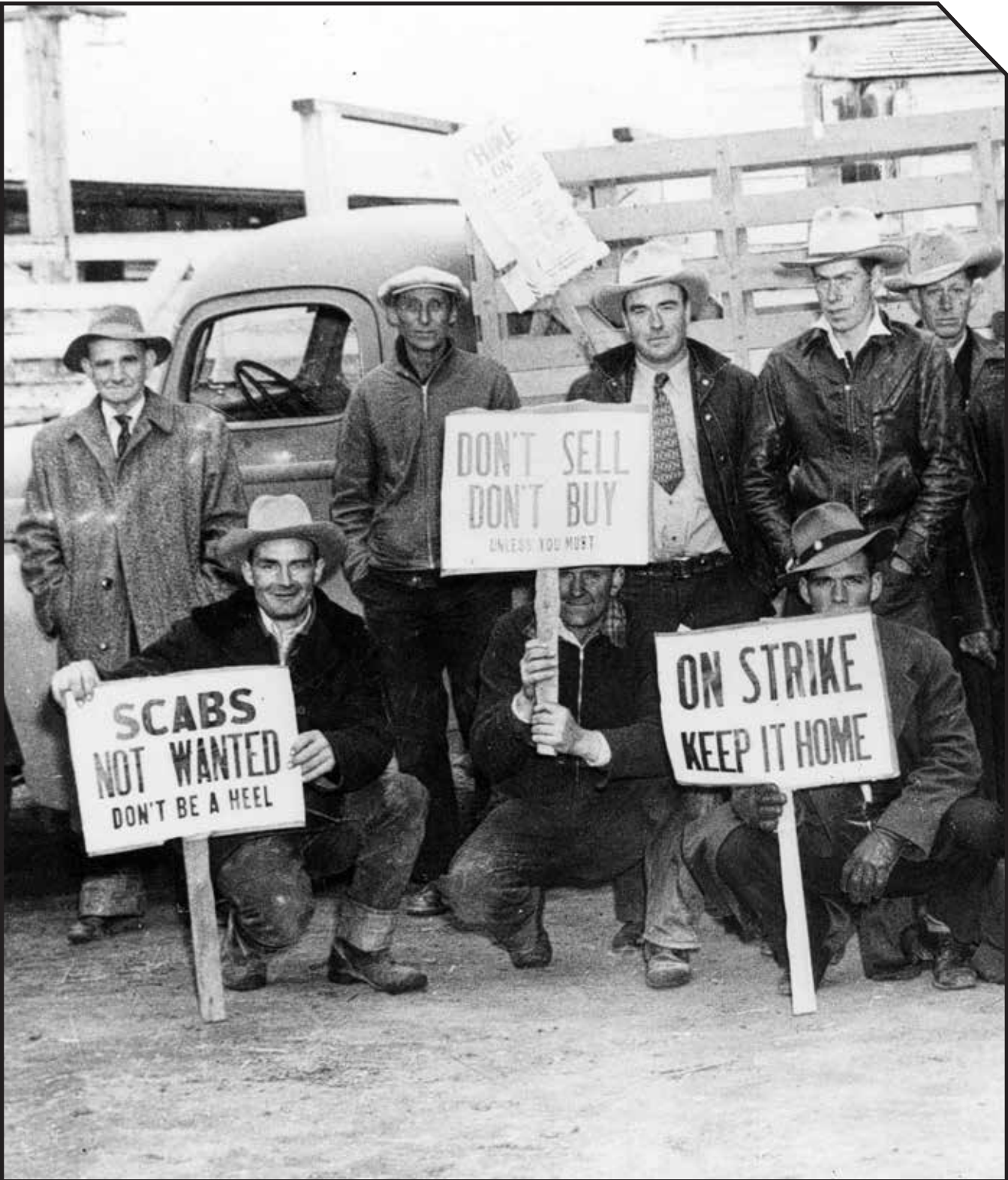
—Doug Tomlinson, *Union Organizer, Alberta Local, Hotel & Restaurant Workers Union, about working with his wife Evelyn Tomlinson*

July 2005						
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September



September 23, 1946 Farmers picket at Olds during Alberta Farmers Union delivery strike blockading Mountain View Livestock Co-op yard.

2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1907 More than half of Calgary's population attends Labour Day parade organized by Trades and Labour Council	2004 First Industrial Workers of the World North American General Assembly in Alberta held in Edmonton September 03 to 06
				1	2	3
1920 Edmonton Free Press becomes Alberta Labour News; serves as official paper for AFL	4 Labour Day	1946 Alberta Farmers Union begins 30-day strike demanding minimum fixed price for wheat				1904 Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 488 receives first charter: largest plumbers and pipefitters local in Canada and one of the largest in North America
	5	6	7	8	9	10
						2003 Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Local 1900 walk out in Edmonton in effort to ratify contract with A-Channel
	11	12	13	14	15	16
						1963 Canadian Union of Public Employees is formed by a merger of National Union of Public Service Employees and National Union of Public Employees
	18	19	20	21	Fall Equinox	22
1918 Borden government outlaws publications and meetings in 14 languages. Canada's radical and labour press are key targets						23
2003 Levi Strauss announces closure of GWG plant in Edmonton	25	26	1912 IWW organizes a strike of 250 sewer construction workers			24
			1918 Borden government bans 14 organizations, including IWW, Social Democratic Party, Chinese Labour Association and Ukrainian Social Democratic Party	27	28	29
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The split [with the US] came when we merged with Gas Coke, International Chemical Workers. We should have been able to merge in Canada without them merging in the US—the kind of autonomy we have now. We were quite sad when [the International] Convention rejected our position. The rank-and-file didn't want us to leave, because we were the progressive unit at their Conventions. They said we could do things in Canada that they can't do in the US, and that's likely true.

—Neil Reimer, National President, Energy & Chemical Workers Union about the 1979 split of the Canadian section from the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Int. Union

August				2005		
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October

2005



October 1933 Unemployed demonstration during the Great Depression, Edmonton, Alberta.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

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Thursday

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Saturday

It separated the community, because Newcastle was the hotbed of radicalism. Anybody around a coal mine, particularly members of the union, was perceived as being in the Red camp and everybody else was in the other camp. It affected the way we chose our friends—not only as adults, but as kids. There was a young person I went to school with and we became quite chummy to start with. But her father was an RCMP officer—he had been in the RCMP at the time of the

On-to-Ottawa Trek [1935] and had been in Regina, and had been injured in that attack. Right away that separated us. My mother paid for it more than we did. It wasn't so bad for the kids, but it affected the valley and the whole community.

—Jan Tarasoff, teacher and member of Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association about the effects of the Cold War during her childhood in the Drumbeller Valley

1920 One Big Union miners begin province-wide strike. Government passes Order-in-Council for miners to accept UMW as their official representative

1948 International Union of Operating Engineers Local 955 granted charter

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1918 Amalgamated Meatcutters Union formed in Edmonton

1958 Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 379 chartered in Calgary

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1919 Alberta Teachers Alliance holds province's first teachers' strike

1918 Unionists in Calgary stage sympathy strike with Calgary freight handlers

1975 Grace Hartman becomes CUPE president, the first woman president of a major union in North America

1976 Canadian Labour Congress holds national day of protest against the Trudeau government's wage-control policy

1919 Alberta Teachers Alliance strike resolved

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Thanksgiving

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1865 Delegates meet and form the National Bricklayers Union

1999 Founding meeting of Alberta Labour History Institute at southside Rosie's, Edmonton

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Daylight Savings Time Ends

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Halloween

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September2005

SMTWTFSS

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November2005

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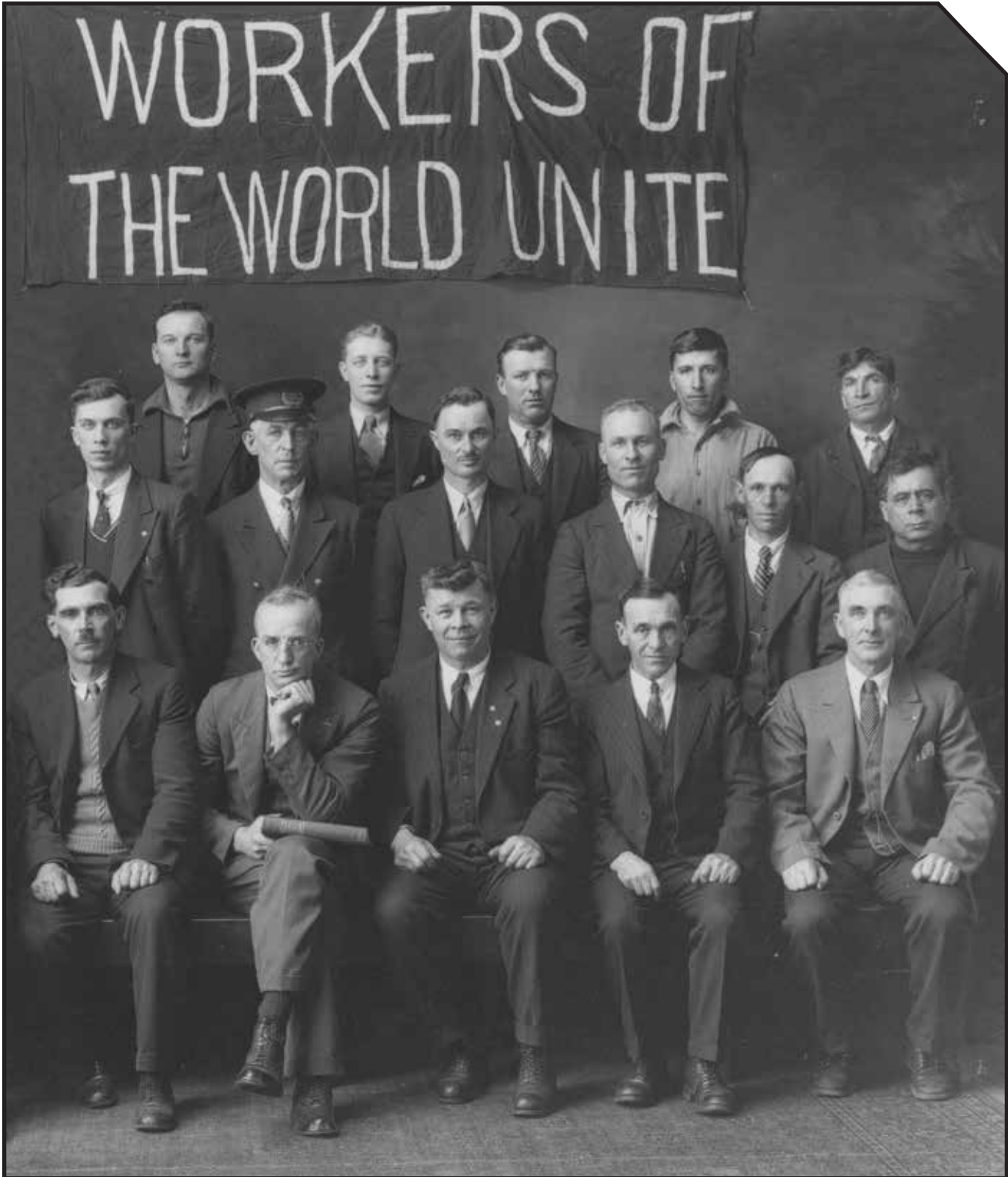
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1934 Full slate of Workers Unity League (WUL) supporters elected to town council in Blairmore, Alberta. The WUL fought for immediate demands, such as the “work and wages” sought by the 1935 On-to-Ottawa trekkers.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<div>1934 Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers International Alliance Local 371 re-chartered to become Local 271, Edmonton</div> <div>1</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div>
<div>6</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>1999 Members of the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers of Canada Local 115A and the Graphic Communications International Union Local 34M at the Calgary Herald walk off their jobs after seeking a first contract for more than a year</div> <div>8</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>1902 United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America granted charter as Local 1325 Edmonton, the oldest construction union still operating under its original charter in Alberta</div> <div>Remembrance Day</div> <div>11</div>	<div>12</div>
<div>13</div>	<div>1995 CUPE Local 8 laundry workers in Calgary engage in illegal strike to stop contracting out. Strike spreads to all of city's major hospitals and members from other unions, including Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, walk out</div> <div>14</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>1997 Maple Leaf pork plant (formerly Gainers) workers strike despite company threat to close plant if workers strike</div> <div>16</div>	<div>17</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div>
<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>2002 Edmonton Shaw Conference Centre workers UFCW Local 401 strike ends with workers winning first contract</div> <div>22</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>1995 CUPE Local 8 and Local 12 hospital laundry workers' illegal strike in Calgary ends with a moratorium on contracting out</div> <div>24</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>
<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>			

So I started with Calgary Transit as a cleaner, then I became serviceman and trolley repairman. In 1961 I participated in the first strike. Strikes in general shouldn't be necessary, but they really create solidarity between members when they know they're all in the same boat; they have to look out for each other. My wife became involved also. The late Senator Harry Hayes was the mayor of Calgary then. He was not one to respect unions. One of his favourite expressions was, “You should all be rickshaw drivers in China, then you'd know what it would be like to have a job and be happy.”

—Gunter Bruckner, President and activist, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 583, about a transit strike in Calgary

October 2005						
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December 2005						
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1980 Nurses at the Mewburn Pavillion at the University Hospital in Edmonton. Before tearing down the Mewburn to make way for the new emergency wing of the University Hospital, the Mewburn was the centre for veteran care and dialysis.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1905 J.A. Kinney, president of Carpenters Local 1325, becomes first president of American Federation of Labor (Alberta)	
				1	2	3
4	5	1921 William Irvine of Calgary wins first federal labour seat in Alberta for Canadian Labour Party	1896 International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers is issued a charter by the American Federation of Labor		1869 Knights of Labor founded 1910 Bellevue Mine disaster claims the lives of 31 miners	1886 American Federation of Labor founded
	1883 Railway engineers and firemen in Calgary strike against wage cuts	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1944 Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1374 chartered in Calgary			1932 Edmonton Hunger March is ended by police violence with over 100 arrested			1904 United Association Pipe Trades Local Union 496, Calgary granted a charter by the United Association
18	19	20	Winter Solstice 21	22	23	24
					1886 Knights of Labor establish first Alberta base with an assembly in Calgary	
Christmas Day 25	Boxing Day 26	27	28	29	30	31

The government can make all the laws it wants, but it can't stop people from going on strike. They can make laws saying that you can't strike, and if you do, there will be the penalty. They may indeed make you pay the penalty; you may refuse—but they cannot prevent you from going on strike. Our nurses would discuss that. How are they going to make me do this? OK, they can fine me, but they still can't make me go to work. They could get the army out and march me to work, but can they make me work? No.

—Marg Ethier, President, United Nurses of Alberta, 1980-1989 about Alberta Government response to the 1982 nurses' strike

November 2005						
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1929 Installation of gas transmission lines from Viking to Edmonton, Alberta.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1905 Conference of industrial unionists in Chicago leads to the formation of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)					1963 The 1,000,000th claim for compensation by an injured worker is filed with the Alberta Workmen's Compensation Board in its 45th year of operation
New Year's Day 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				1973 Negotiations for a first contract at Wardair fail. A two-month strike starts		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1929 Martin Luther King born		1915 Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) poet Ralph Chaplin writes <i>Solidarity Forever</i>				1962 Alberta New Democrats founding provincial convention
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		1975 Canadian Air Line Flight Attendants Association (CALFAA) lobbying campaign defeats proposal by Transport Canada prohibiting female flight attendants from working beyond 13th week of pregnancy		1850 Samuel Gompers, first president of American Federation of Labor, born	1954 Workers at Fort Saskatchewan's first chemical refinery are chartered as ICWU Local 530. Now known as Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Local 530A	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1737 Thomas Paine born						
29	30	31				

When I started in 1973, there was very little work that wasn't union—certainly all the commercial and industrial work, and even the residential, to quite an extent, as well as pipelines and all that kind of stuff. It was a good time overall, a good environment for working people. But when the 1980s came along, the whole world changed. There was massive unemployment, and there was Bill 110, which in a sense made it legal for a contractor to use a spin-off company if he so desired and the 24-hour lockout—all of these things were just crippling to a union.

—Jack Hubler, *Business Agent, United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 488, about circumstances which gave rise to the 'Dandelions' in the 1980s*

December 2005						
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February 2006						
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# Preserving our past *Shaping our future*

## Who we are

The Alberta Labour History Institute (ALHI) was formed in 1999 by a group of trade unionists, community activists, archivists and historians, who decided to take the first steps to collect, preserve and publicize the stories of Alberta's working people and their organizations. We incorporated under the Societies Act and are governed by a board that has been growing steadily.

## What we do

ALHI has done considerable work to spread the story of unions and cultural communities by capturing the life stories of workers and trade unionists on film and in print, collecting and archiving records and artifacts of trade union and working class history, organizing Labour History Day as part of Edmonton's History Week, and publishing and distributing a Labour History Calendar. We also provide speakers, displays and walking tours on labour history for conferences, meetings and other events, and are committed to building research capacity for history students. Some examples of recent and on-going projects include:

- An Oral History Project: As part of our ongoing efforts to preserve our history, ALHI has been interviewing labour activists of years past. This project has captured the voices and stories of dozens of Albertans who have played a vital role in union and working class history.
- A City Called Home website: ALHI contributed pictures, oral history clips, timelines of events and other information to "A City Called Home," Edmonton's 2004 centennial project. Our contributions ensured that the struggles and successes of the working people of Edmonton were not forgotten.
- Piece by Piece—The GWG Story: The Great Western Garment (GWG) Company was established in Edmonton in 1911, becoming a wholly owned subsidiary of Levi's

in 1972. In September 2003, Levi-Strauss announced that it would be moving all of its North American manufacturing jobs to Haiti. The Edmonton plant closed in March 2004, marking the end of an important era in Edmonton's history. In partnership with the University of Alberta's Work and Learning Network and Don Bouzek of Ground Zero Projections, we have been working to preserve the history of the GWG/Levi's plant and the stories of its workers.

- Labour History Map: A new effort, this travelling map will be built by rank and file members who contribute their insight and experiences helping to define where we are today.

## How can you support ALHI?

ALHI began its work with funding from a number of sources, including Alberta Culture, unions and individuals. Even though volunteers conduct most of our work, we require on-going support to continue our activities. Please consider some of the following ways in which you can become part of this effort:

- Make a financial donation to support the work of ALHI.
- Submit a bulk order for our next Labour History Calendar, either for resale or distribution to your officers and members.
- Invite a representative of ALHI to make a presentation at your next meeting or educational event (PowerPoint and video available).
- Provide names and contact information of individuals who should be interviewed.
- Form a Labour History Committee to spearhead union history work in your organization. ALHI can provide technical assistance in this regard.

## For further information

Contact our President Dave Werlin at 780-483-8999 or [dwerlin@telus.net](mailto:dwerlin@telus.net).

## To donate, send a cheque to:

Joanne Janzen, Administrator  
Alberta Labour History Institute  
#206, 10132 – 105 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1C9  
Phone: 780-420-1400

## ALHI Calendar 2005

This is the fourth edition of the Alberta Labour History Institute calendar. The purpose of the calendar is to create an awareness of the Institute and the work with which we are involved.

The cover photograph is from the Glenbow Museum collection. The photograph is of the 1929 installation of gas transmission lines from Viking to Edmonton, Alberta.

Photos courtesy of Glenbow Museum, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners Local 1325, United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Edmonton Archives, and Donalda Cassel.

Calendar Committee: Donalda Cassel, Alvin Finkel, Jack Hubler, Ron Patterson, Gordie Thomas, Eugene Plawiuk, and Dave Werlin.

Calendar designed by Sheila P. Morrison.

# ALBERTA LABOUR HISTORY INSTITUTE