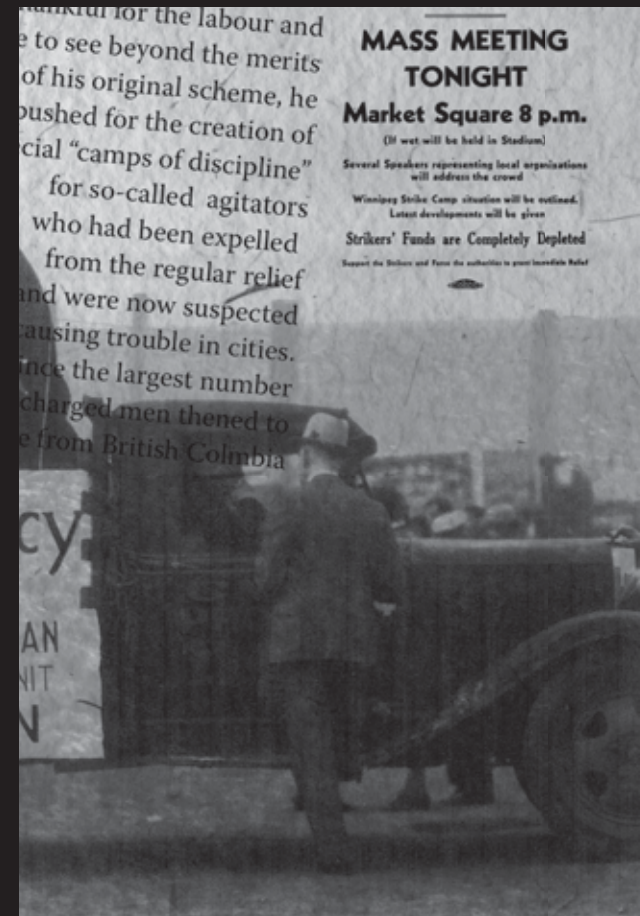


ALBERTA LABOUR HISTORY INSTITUTE



ALBERTA LABOUR HISTORY

"Bell Boys at Chateau Lake, Alberta"



Chinese-origin workers had been brought into Canada to do some of the most dangerous work involved in bringing the CPR across the mountain ranges. Of 18,000 Chinese workers involved in building the railroad, 1500 died in the course of their work.

But when the railway was completed, these workers faced racist restrictions on every front. Shut out of most jobs in the resource and manufacturing industries, they mainly concentrated in the service sector, where employers played up a stereotype of servility of Oriental workers.

“When I had my daughter, and she’s 42, there was no maternity leave. You had to quit. When I first started working for the city, and up until about 1970 and both the city of Edmonton and the city of Calgary, you had to quit if you got married, because they assumed that your husband would look after you...How hard we fought to get things!”

—Jean Ross, long-time
CUPE activist

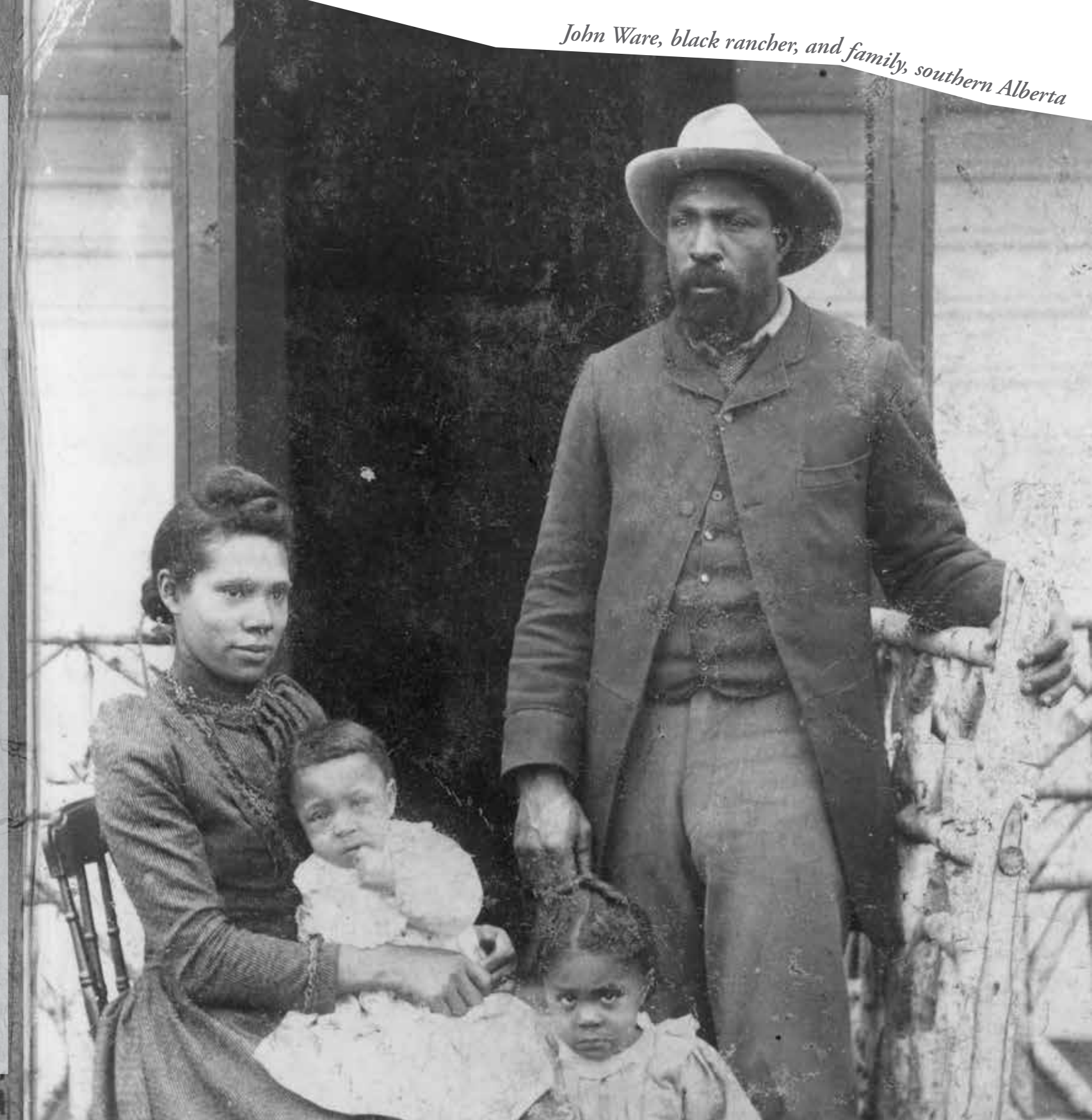
<i>sun</i>	<i>mon</i>	<i>tue</i>	<i>wed</i>	<i>thu</i>	<i>fri</i>	<i>sat</i>
<i>New Year's Day</i> 1	2 1905 Conference of industrial unionists in Chicago leads to the formation of the Industrial Workers of the World	3	4	5	6 1963 The 1,000,000th claim for compensation by an injured worker is filed with the Alberta Workmen's Compensation Board in its 45th year of operation	7
<i>Mother's Day</i> 8	9	10	11	12 1973 Negotiations for a first contract at Wardair fail. A two-month strike starts	13	14
15 1929 Martin Luther King born in Atlanta, Georgia	16	17 1915 Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) poet Ralph Chaplin writes <i>Solidarity Forever</i>	18	19	20	21 1962 Alberta New Democrats founding provincial convention
22	<i>Victoria Day</i> 23	24 1975 Canadian Air Line Flight Attendants (CALFAA) lobbying campaign defeats proposal by Transport Canada prohibiting female flight attendants from working beyond 13th week of pregnancy	25	26 1850 Samuel Gompers, first president of American Federation of Labor, born in London, England	27 1954 Workers at Fort Saskatchewan's first chemical refinery are chartered as ICWU Local 530. Now known as Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Local 530A	28
29 1946 Supreme Court Justice Ivan Rand, dealing with an autoworkers' dispute in Ontario, rules that unions have the legal right to collect dues from all members of a recognized bargaining unit, when the majority votes to create a union local.	30	31				

JANUARY

John Ware, black rancher, and family, southern Alberta

Spending his entire childhood as a slave in Texas, John Ware took advantage of the freeing of the slaves in the American Civil War (which ended in 1865) to become a working cowboy, that is, a worker on cattle ranches.

Contrary to Hollywood images, about a third of the cowboys of the emerging American cattle frontier in the western U.S.A. were African-Americans like Ware, welcomed for their horsemanship and physical strength but largely kept from becoming ranch owners themselves. Ware made his way to southern Alberta in the 1880s where he was able to purchase his own ranch. His ranching skills became legendary, though his success did not prevent the federal government from closing the door to most of the African-Americans after him who sought to become ranchers or farmers in Alberta.





Black History Month begins

1965 The closing of the Standard Mine at Shaughnessy, Alberta ends the coal-mining era in southern Alberta

1974 General strike in Grenada leads to independence —US invades 10 years later

1947 The gush of Leduc #1 oil well marks the beginning of a new stage of petroleum development for Alberta

1949 5,000 workers begin a four-month, illegal strike in Asbestos, Québec, a strike that marked the beginnings of militancy and secularism for the "Catholic" union federation in Quebec

1848 Revolution begins in France, inspiring revolts across Europe
1965 District 1199 Health Care Workers becomes first U.S. labour union to oppose Vietnam War

"They had quite a system worked out. There were certain legal firms in this province that were well connected with the Social Credit government, who were very instrumental in helping form company unions and setting up constitutions... What the company did was plant people right in the plant. They hired people who were... traveling around from one plant to another, forming company unions."

—Gene Mitchell,
long-time Alberta
trade union official

FEBRUARY

ITALIENNES tomates étuvées épices italiennes

TODAY'S RECOMMENDATIONS



Striking waitstaff outside Edmonton Club, 1961. Edmonton Club locked workers out when they asked for a 5 cent raise (to 80 cents/hour).

NACHOS

Crispy tortilla chips topped with tomato, green onion and green blend of melted cheese. Serve and enjoy.

8.95

7.25

—Gunter Bruckner,
Amalgamated Transit
Union, Calgary

1919 Civil Service Association of Alberta (CSA), precursor to AUPE, formed

1980 United Nurses of Alberta
organize program of action to
publicize nurses' low wages

Easter Monday

1927 Cesar Chavez born near
Yuma, Arizona

i'm
lovin'

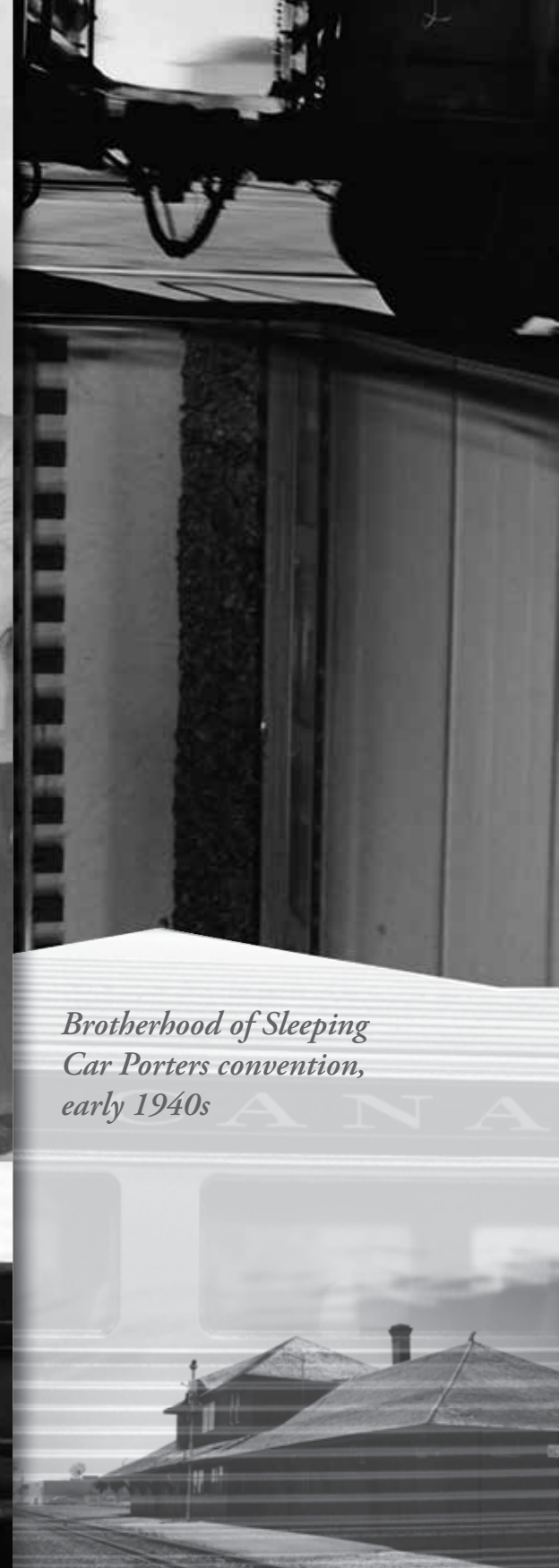
ARCH



*Brotherhood of Sleeping
Car Porters convention,
early 1940s*



APRIL



sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat

"I didn't know anything. They gave you a rag and a sewing machine and tell you, here, sew. I never sewed in my life before. Those power machines are a little different than you'd be sewing at home. They go like crazy. So you sit down and you have to control it so you don't sew your fingers... It was piece work, everything was piece work. It depended how many pieces you made, and you got paid so much per bundle... If you didn't make the minimum wage, that was too bad."

-Anne Ozipko,
describing her early years at GWG in the 1940s.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

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

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

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

16

Spring Equinox

17

18

19

20

21

Good Friday

22

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

23

24

25

26

27

International Day of Mourning for Workers Killed or Injured on the Job

29

1956 Canadian Labour Congress is formed as a merger of two competing trade union federations

1933 Fourteen leaders of a Calgary relief strike are arrested

1903 At least 70 people are killed in the "Frank Slide"—when Turtle Mountain, weakened by mining excavations, collapses

30

"I believe our pensions and our health and welfare are probably the thing I would be most proud of. We now have a pension plan. The younger people are going to be fairly well looked after and live decently, compared to the older ones. Our older members had to retire with \$300 or \$400 pensions. Our younger people are going to be much better off. Our health and welfare helps families that need to be helped. Not as much as we would like maybe, but we're helping them."

--Wally Shaw, retired member of Bricklayer and Allied Crafts Workers, Edmonton



"We wanted relief, we wanted work, we wanted food...I knew that in the 1930s in California they were throwing oranges into the ocean. In Brazil they were burning coffee. In the Okanagan they poured gasoline on apples."

—Ben Swankey, trade unionist and Communist, describing the radicalizing influences during the Great Depression

Relief strikers, Edmonton Alberta, May 1934. Relief recipients were required to do work for the city in return for their vouchers. Relief strikers refused to perform that labour until conditions improved.

March of Unemployed Married Men's Association (UMMA) during the Depression.

sun		mon		tue		wed		thu		fri		sat	
1830 Mary Harris Jones (Mother Jones) born 1917 Civic Employees Federal Union No. 30 granted charter		Internaional Labour Day 1923 Edmonton workers rally to support striking Edmonton coal miners		1919 Western Labour Conference in Calgary votes to dissociate Western labour from Trades and Labour Congress of Canada and form One Big Union 2002 Edmonton United Food and Commercial Workers Local 401 strike begins		1886 Workers demonstrating in Chicago for the eight-hour day are attacked by police on Haymarket Square		1818 Karl Marx born in Trier, Germany 1903 First issue of Alberta's labour newspaper, <i>Bond of Brotherhood</i> , appears in Calgary					
Mother's Day 1968 French students and workers revolt in Paris													
1771 Labour reformer Robert Owen born in Newton, Wales		1903 International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen grants charter to Local 1 in Edmonton 1919 Winnipeg General Strike begins											
Victoria Day						1921 Trial of Italian-American anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti begins		1905 Calgary Trades and Labour Council granted charter		1919 Edmonton and Calgary general strikes in solidarity with Winnipeg General Strike begin			
1871 Paris Commune crushed with 25,000 killed 1919 Eight thousand miners in District 18 join sympathy strike with Winnipeg workers													

WAY

"Postal workers, Edmonton"--In the first decade of the twentieth century, both Edmonton and Calgary grew by leaps and bounds, and without government controls or planning. For many years, neither housing nor government services were adequate to meet the needs of the new arrivals. Many working-class families and individuals lived in tents. Postal workers worked out of tents that housed the mail service until a post office building could be built.



sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

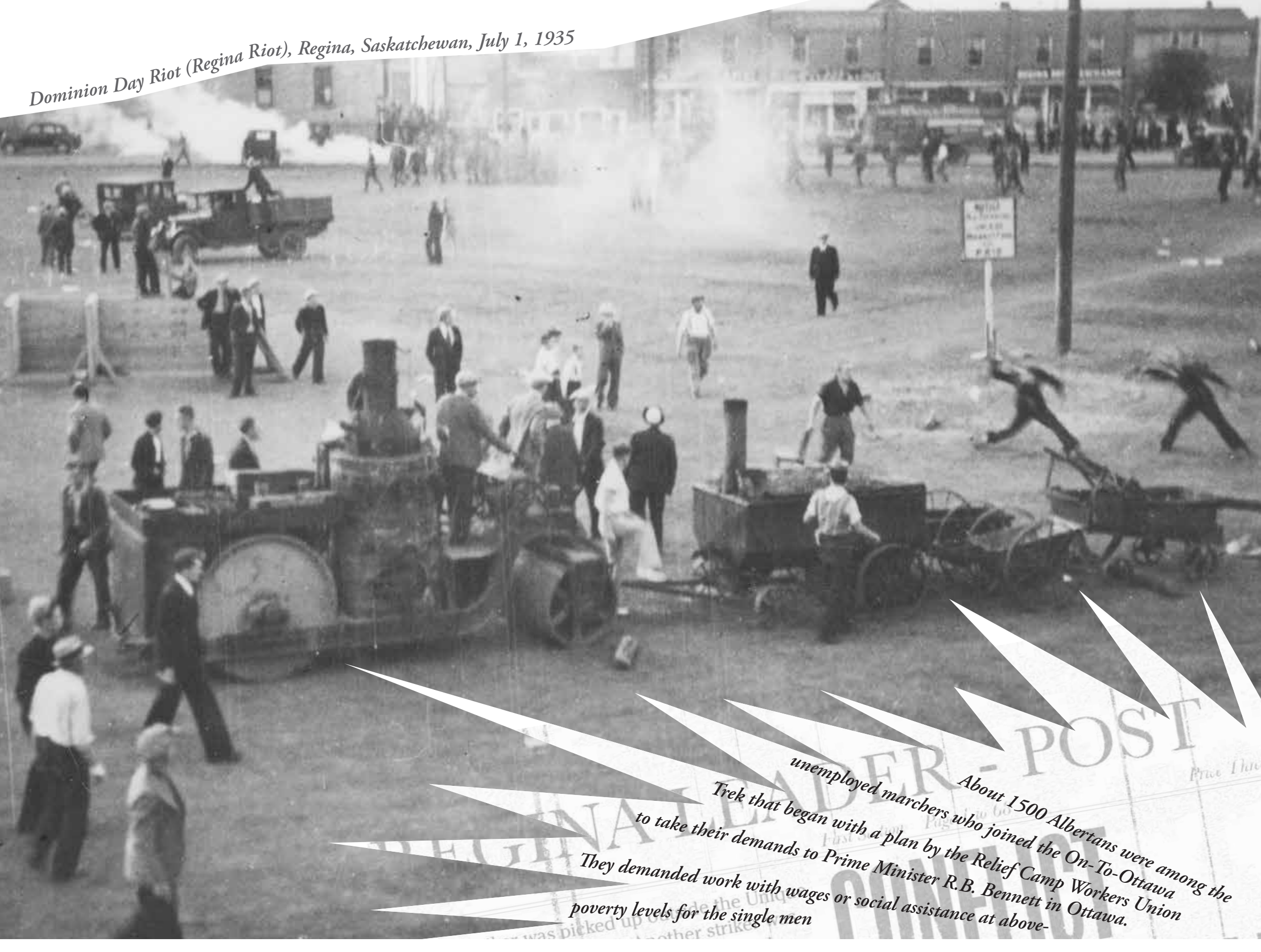
sat

				1 1986 (to 14 December) "The Battle of 66th Street." United Food and Commercial Workers Local 280P begin six-month strike at Gainers Meatpacking Plant. UFCW workers at Fletchers in Red Deer begin strike	2	3
4 1912 Alberta Federation of Labour founded in Lethbridge	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 National Public Service Week 1872 Trade unions provided first recognition in Canadian law but with severe restrictions that force most of them to forego registering	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Father's Day 1914 Hillcrest mining disaster leaves 189 dead, the worst mining disaster in Alberta history 2002 Alberta Teachers Association reaches deal that ends the dispute with the Conservative government	19	20	21 Summer Solstice 1919 "Bloody Saturday" — police repression of workers in Winnipeg General Strike results in two deaths	22	23	24
25	26 1869 Emma Goldman, famous anarchist-feminist, born in Kovno (now Kaunas), Lithuania	27	28 1926 Six Labour members win seats in Alberta provincial election	29	30 1919 Government raids unions across Canada, enforcing new "sedition" legislation meant to restrict unionism and fend off socialism	

"...it was the coalminers in Drumheller who got together and had a huge shower in the Newcastle Hall and supplied us with absolutely everything we needed for that house, except the big pieces of furniture....Nobody had insurance. Couldn't afford it, for one thing. The community was there for everybody. That was part of my dad's philosophy and most of the people who were active in the union there, who were just active in the community."

—Jan Tarasoff,
a coal miner's
daughter from the
Drumheller area,
describes the
community effort
for her family after
their home burned
down in the 1940s.

JUNE



Dominion Day Riot (Regina Riot), Regina, Saskatchewan, July 1, 1935

About 1500 Albertans were among the unemployed marchers who joined the On-To-Ottawa Trek that began with a plan by the Relief Camp Workers Union to take their demands to Prime Minister R.B. Bennett in Ottawa. They demanded work with wages or social assistance at above-poverty levels for the single men

who had been forced to live and work in remote relief camps under the control of the Department of Defence. As the trekkers' ranks increased, Bennett became determined to crush this demonstration of the unemployed. He ordered the RCMP to suppress the trek at Regina

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

and force the trekkers to return to their homes or relief camps.

Canada Day

1

1968 Federal monies become available to provinces that establish universal, comprehensive, public medical health insurance

Mother's Day

2

1968 Canadian Union of Public Employees 474 Edmonton is granted a charter
1980 AUPE "wildcat strike" at Alberta Liquor Control Board

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

5

1919 A mass arrest of One Big Union members is coordinated by federal government

6

1935 On to Ottawa Trek is violently repressed by RCMP in Regina

7

8

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 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

12

13

14

15

1912 Woody Guthrie born in Okemah, Oklahoma

16

Victoria Day

17

1936 Spanish Civil War begins

18

1921 United Farmers of Alberta government is elected; four Labour members are also elected

19

1933 The first national convention of the CCF adopts the Regina Manifesto, pledging a socialist transformation of Canada

20

1966 Canada Packers strike by United Packinghouse Workers of America

21

22

23

24

25

26

1948 Canadian Air Line Flight Attendants Association (CALFAA) is certified

27

1997 Canadian Auto Workers Local 4050 go on strike against Marriott Food Services, Michener Center, Red Deer

28

29

30

31

"I'll never forget that day when the police attacked our demonstration. We were all standing in the square in Regina. I was near a curb sidewalk, and a big truck pulled up. I'll never forget the name, Peacock Pounder. The tarp went up and it was full of Mounties. They rushed out, hitting left and right with their crops, heavy loaded crops. They didn't get any order to cease and desist. There was no such order. From the other side of the square, the city police moved in. I was one of those who was picked up."

—Jack Phillips, a relief camp inmate and unemployed organizer describing the police attack on On-to-Ottawa demonstrators in Regina on July 1, 1935.

A 14-year old boy fixes farm equipment on a farm near Fort McMurray. Farmworkers are presently excluded from the province's labour code, making it technically illegal for them to organize for their rights.



August 20 has been declared by the Alberta Federation of Labour as Farmworker Day in memory of Terry Rash and in solidarity with the struggle of farmworkers to achieve dignity and respect.

—Neil Reimer, long-time leader of the forerunner unions to today's CEP, and first provincial leader of the Alberta New Democrats.

AUGUST



"Coal miners' children during strike, Blairmore, Alberta"

In 1932 the Crow's Nest Pass was the site of many strikes by coal miners during the Great Depression as the coal operators tried to maintain their profits by cutting workers' wages. Community members rallied together to pressure the mineowners to maintain wages and preserve the communities. Blairmore was the most radical town, electing a Communist-led town council in 1934.



sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat

“...it was very common to see women walking around with blackened eyes and bruises. You knew what had happened, but people just took it as part of what life was. It wasn’t all men like that, but some men were very cruel to their wife and children...People would give the women support, we feel sorry for you, or try to help doctor her up. But no one really stepped in and stopped it. In that day and age, every man’s home was his own, and you didn’t enter it or change things.”

—Joyce Avramenko, coal miner’s wife, describing the dark side of working-class life in East Coulee in the 1940s and 1950s.

1905 Alberta becomes a province

1907 More than half of Calgary’s population attends Labour Day parade organized by the Trades and Labour Council

listen

3

Labour Day

4

5

6

7

8

9

2004 First Industrial Workers of the World North American General Assembly in Alberta held in Edmonton September 03 to 06

1920 *Edmonton Free Press* becomes *Alberta Labour News*; serves as official paper for AFL

1946 Alberta Farmers Union begins 30-day strike demanding minimum fixed price for wheat

10

1904 Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 488 receives first charter: largest plumbers and pipefitters local in Canada and one of the largest in North America

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

2003 Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Local 1900 walk out in Edmonton in effort to ratify contract with A-Channel

18

19

20

21

Fall Equinox

22

23

24

1963 Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) is formed by a merger of National Union of Public Employees and National Union of Public Service Employees

25

1918 Borden government outlaws publications and meetings in 14 languages. Canada’s radical and labour press are key targets

2003 Levi Strauss announces closure of GWS plant in Edmonton

26

27

1912 IWW organizes a strike of 250 sewer construction workers
1918 Borden government bans 14 organizations, including IWW, Social Democratic Party, Chinese Labour Association, and Ukrainian Social Democratic Party

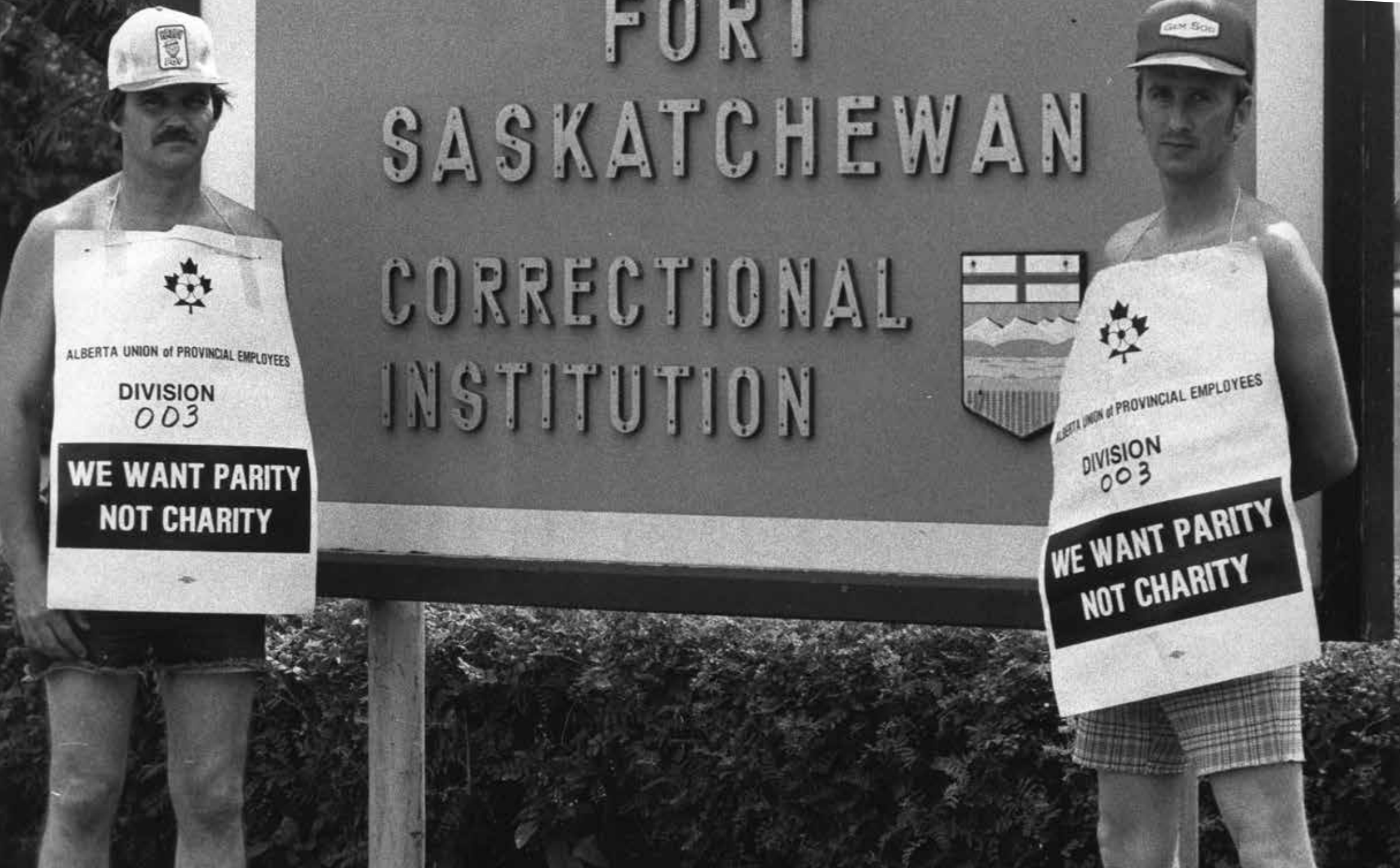
28

29

30

SEPTEMBER

Provincial government workers, members of the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees, went on strike for better wages and working conditions in 1980 despite Conservative Premier Peter Lougheed's legislation forbidding public service strikes. This was the first major challenge of the legislation.





sun
1

1920 One Big Union miners begin province-wide strike. Government passes Order-in-Council for miners to accept UMWA as their official representative
1948 International Union of Operating Engineers Local 955 granted charter

mon
2

tue
3

wed
4

1918 Amalgamated Meatcutters Union formed in Edmonton

thu
5

fri
6

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

sat
7

8

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

Thanksgiving

9

10

11

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

12

13

14

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

15

1919 Alberta Teachers Alliance strike resolved

16

17

1865 Delegates meet and form the National Bricklayers Union

18

19

20

21

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

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

1737 Thomas Paine, Anglo-American revolutionary writer, born in Thetford in Norfolk, England

30

Hallowe'en

31

OCTOBER

In May 1982, eight Alberta Health Unit Associations locked out their nurses, members of the United Nurses of Alberta, who were joined on the picket line by plumbers and pipefitters. When the nurses emerged victorious from this struggle, the government responded with **Bill 11** (the Medical Health Services Continuation Act), which banned all job action by workers in the health sector. Construction workers suffered drastic cuts in pay and benefits as their legal union contracts fell victim first to provincial legislation that ended the practice of maintaining an existing contract until a new one was negotiated, and then to employer practices, supported by the government, of creating "spin-off companies" that were not bound by union contracts still in force.



NOVEMBER

sun

mon

tue

wed
1

thu
2

fri
3

sat
4

"But what really got their back up was when the Labour Relations Board had ordered that they couldn't even take this vote. This isn't Nazi Germany. We'll do what we want."

*Margaret Ethier,
president of the United
Nurses of Alberta for
much of the 1980s,
describing why nurses
struck in 1988
"illegally."*



1934 Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers International Alliance Local 371 re-chartered to become Local 271, Edmonton

5

6

7

8

9

10

Remembrance Day 11

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

1912 Alberta Federation of Labour founded in Lethbridge

1999 Members of the Communications, Electrical 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

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

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 Public Employees, walk out

1997 Maple Leaf pork plant (formerly Gainers) workers strike despite company threat to close plant if workers strike

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

2002 Edmonton Shaw Conference Centre workers UFCW Local 401 strike ends with workers winning first contract

1995 CUPE Local 8 and Local 12 hospital laundry workers' illegal strike in Calgary ends with a moratorium on contracting out

26

27

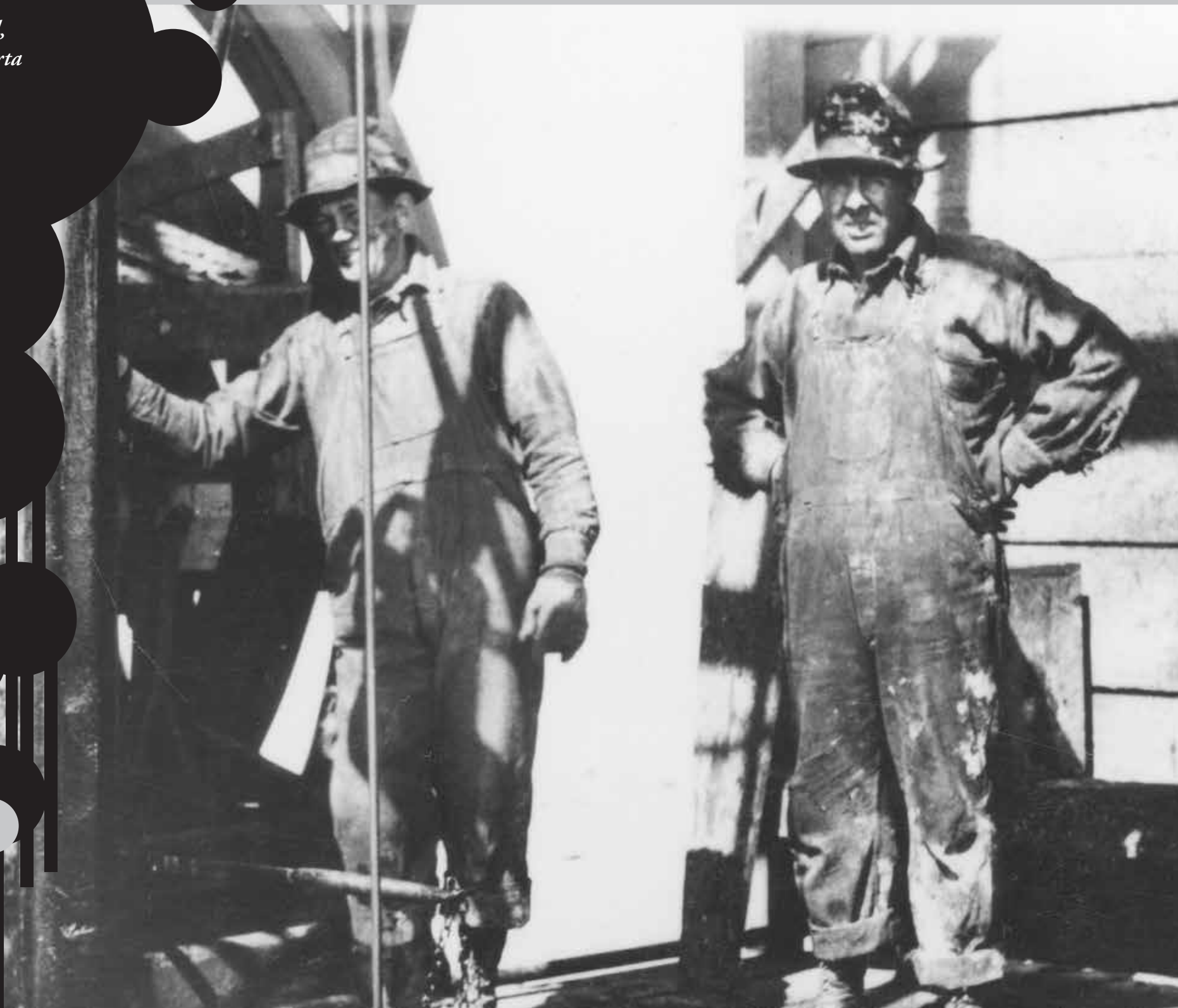
28

29

30

1992 Canadian Paperworkers Union, Communications Workers of Canada, and the Energy and Chemical Workers Union merge to create Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP)

*Workers at Oil Well,
Turner Valley, Alberta*



“You never forget the sound of heads being clubbed...There were people gathered...None of us could understand why people were starving in a big beautiful half empty country...Then the police got off their horses... People ran for shelter in the pyramids of Christmas trees that were on sale. The clubbing went on. The heads were being clubbed inside the shelter of those trees...a lot of people were injured.”

—Clare Botsford, who was 8 years old at the time of the Edmonton Hunger March on December 21, 1932.

sun

mon

tue

wed

thu

fri

sat

1

2

1905 J.A. Kinney, president of Carpenters Local 1325, becomes first president of the American Federation of Labour (Alberta)

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

1912 Alberta Federation of Labour founded in Lethbridge

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, resulting from poor maintenance of the mine, claims lives of 31 miners in explosion

National Public Service Week

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

1886 American Federation of Labor founded

1883 Railway engineers and firemen in Calgary strike against wage cuts

Father's Day

17

18

19

20

Winter Solstice

21

22

23

1932 Edmonton Hunger March is ended by police violence with over 100 arrested

1944 Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1374 chartered in Calgary

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

1904 United Association Pipe Trades Local Union 496, Calgary granted a charter by the United Association

1886 Knights of Labor establish first Alberta base with an assembly in Calgary

31

DECEMBER

Edmonton and District Labour Council

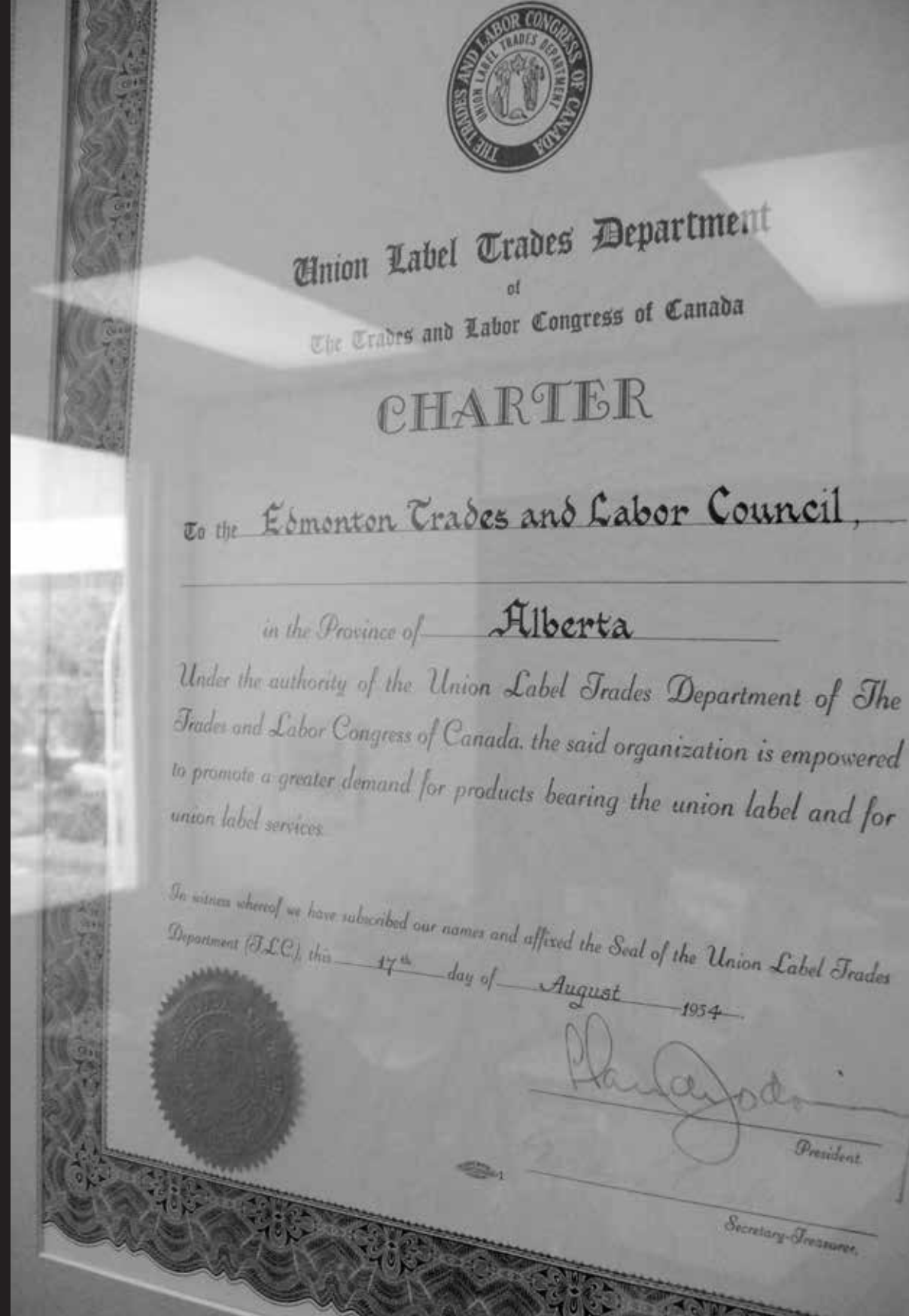
The Edmonton Trades and Labour Council (ETLC), which began operation in 1905, received a charter from the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada (TLC) on August 6, 1906, to represent the interests of workers at the municipal level. Construction unions, the railway trades, and printers provided the bulk of the members before World War One, but unions of barbers, musicians, retail clerks, journeyworker tailors, garment workers, and hotel and restaurant employees figured among the membership.

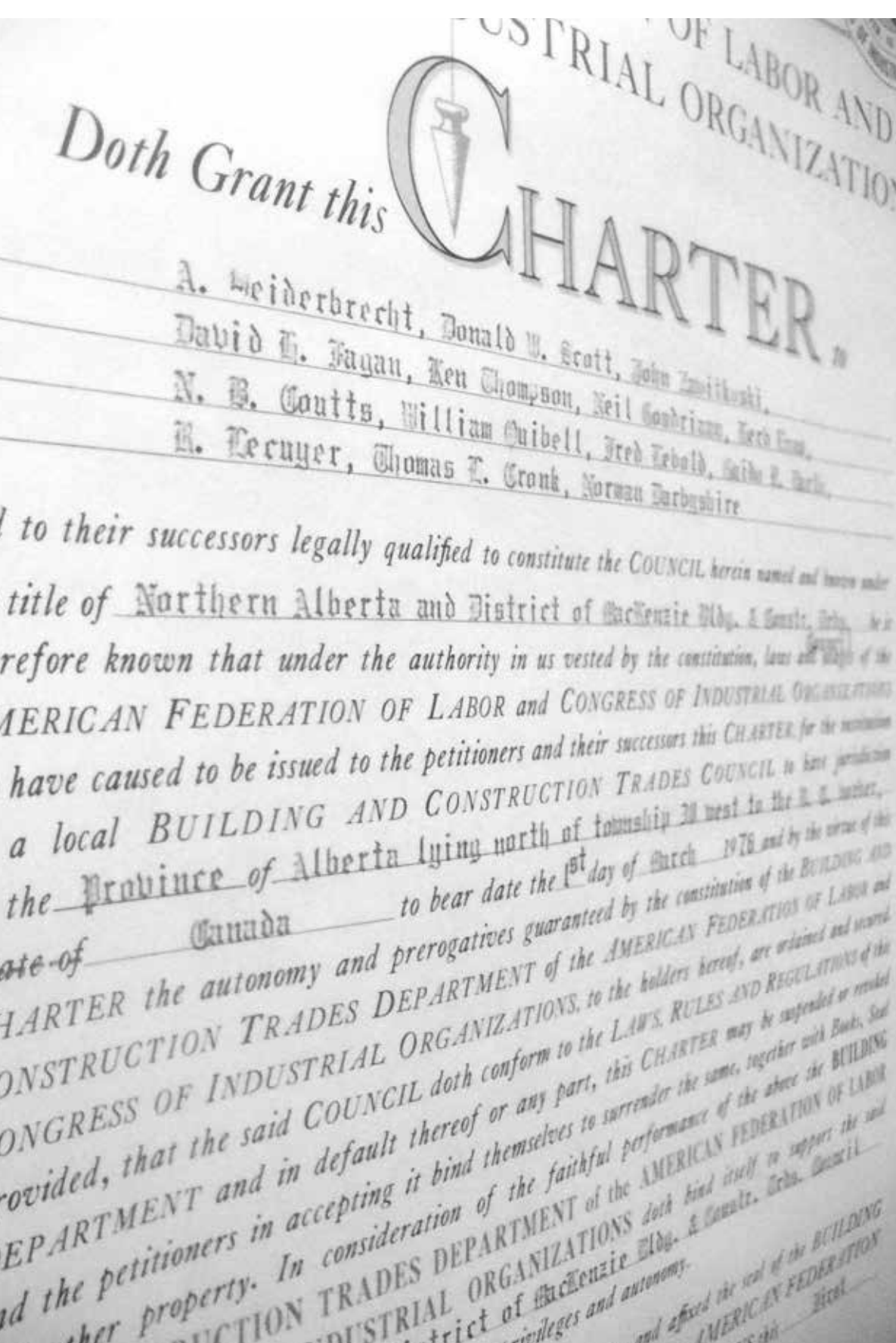
The ETLC lobbied governments, especially the city council of Edmonton, for legislation favourable to workers' interests, and made unionization of city workers and companies receiving city contracts a priority, along with public ownership of utilities. By World War 1, the ETLC was endorsing candidates for city council. In 1917, the ETLC sponsored the formation of the Labour Representation League, a political arm of the Council which established a formal platform for candidates endorsed by labour. Edmonton's League, along with Calgary's, also the creation of the local Trades Council, fought conscription during World War One, demanding that wartime corporate profits be disallowed before young men were forced to risk their lives.

After the war, the ETLC leaders played a large role in sponsoring the creation of a province-wide Labour Party, which had representation from Edmonton in the provincial legislature from 1921 to 1935 when the Social Credit tide destroyed the party. In the early 1930s, a majority of Edmonton's city councilors, including the mayor, had won election as Labour candidates pledged to a platform devised by the ETLC.

As urban and industrial development occurred beyond the formal borders of Edmonton, the ETLC invited participation from union locals within the Edmonton-based region, eventually renaming the organization as the Edmonton and District Trades and Labour Council. When the building trades left to form their own council, the name was changed to Edmonton and District Labour Council (EDLC). Today that district includes the City of Edmonton, Sherwood Park, Fort Saskatchewan, St. Albert, Leduc, Vegreville, Spruce Grove, Stony Plain, and the counties of Sturgeon, Strathcona, and Parkland.

The EDLC is now chartered by the Canadian Labour Congress, which was formed in 1956 when the TLC merged with the Congress of Canadian Labour. It is run by its 80 affiliated union locals via their elected delegates. It still lobbies municipal governments in the Edmonton region on behalf of workers. But it also participates in a variety of community events. It organizes the annual Labour Day barbecue for the the unemployed, runs an annual labour school, and participates actively in the Edmonton May Week Festival, the United Way, the Alberta Labour History Institute, and other community organizations.





Alberta Building Trades Council

Until 1958, the building trades played a key role in the deliberations of the Edmonton and District Trades and Labour Council. That year, the building trades decided to create their own organization to represent the interests of construction workers. Though the Alberta Building Trades Council, like the urban labour councils, saw its role as one of lobbying governments, it also made the training of tradespeople one of its key roles.

The Building Trades Council has fought an uphill struggle since the 1980s to prevent developers from using sweated, non-union labour in construction projects. The downturn of the provincial economy throughout that decade and into the 1990s favoured employers, who, in turn, had provincial government support in their anti-union efforts. The gradual recovery of the economy from the late 1990s benefited unions and their members, but the state and employer offensive in favour of "open shops" and the management-friendly Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC) continued unabated. The Council organized labour's effort to oppose bringing temporary foreign workers to Alberta on the grounds that Canada has enough construction workers to meet the demands of construction employers in Alberta, and that immigrants to Canada should be free to choose their jobs and unions, as temporary workers most pointedly are not.

The Alberta Building Trades Council includes unions of boilermakers, bricklayers, operative plasterers and cement mixers, elevator constructors, heat and frost insulators, iron workers, operating engineers, painters, plumbers and pipefitters, sheet metal workers, teamsters, tile and terrazzo workers, electrical workers, carpenters and joiners, and millwrights.

ALBERTA LABOUR HISTORY INSTITUTE

ALHI Calendar 2006

This is the sixth 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.

Photos courtesy of the Glenbow Museum.

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

Calendar designed by Rob Butz / Oxygen Smith. (www.oxygensmith.com)

printed by  UNION LABEL GRAPHICAL 38-C

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 ongoing 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 Productions, 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 the 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.

To donate, send a cheque to:

Joanne Janzen, Administrator
Alberta Labour History Institute
#206, 1012 - 105 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1C9
Phone: 780-420-1400

visit ALHI online: alhi.apirg.org

*Cover—"Spain Defends World Democracy"
In 1936, the Spanish people elected a Popular Front of left-wing and centrist parties, causing the aristocrats and bourgeoisie of the country to support a military coup to protect the privileges of the rich. The opponents of democracy were led by General Franco, who was, in turn, supported financially and militarily by Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini, the leading fascist leaders of Europe. International brigades of volunteers from a variety of countries, including Canada, came to Spain to defend Spanish democracy and workers' rights. Doctor Norman Bethune of Montréal became famous for his organization of battlefield medical teams. But the right-wing governments in most of the democracies, including Canada, refused to back democracy in Spain, and the fascists established a brutal dictatorship that lasted from 1939 to 1975.*