



Women and Labour

A Celebration of Struggle and Progress





The history of Alberta's working women has, until recent years, been largely ignored by historians. For millennia, Aboriginal women enjoyed social and economic equality with men in an economy centred, especially in southern Alberta, on the buffalo hunt and then the crafting of products from buffalo carcasses. When male European fur traders started arriving within Aboriginal territory in the late 1700s, they often married Aboriginal women. These Native wives of white traders farmed and tended gardens at the fur-trading posts, made pemmican (dried buffalo meat cooked with berries) for the traders, guided traders into new territories, and served as liaisons between First Nations and fur traders. Only when white women began to arrive in western Canada did the authorities in the region start to discourage marriages between Europeans and Aboriginals, including Metis, claiming white superiority as colonial conquerors often did.

As the fur trade gave way to farming, farm women performed many of the same tasks as their husbands, fathers, and brothers. Farm wives ran the farm alone when their husbands died, were ill or disabled, or when they worked off the farm to supplement meagre farm incomes. But farm women were forced to struggle for political and legal equality. The United Farm Women of Alberta campaigned in the 1920s and 1930s for equal rights for women, including joint control over farm finances with men, the legalization of birth control devices, and equal rights of women, including married women, to be hired for jobs. But the United Farmers of Alberta government (1921-1935), although it included one woman (Irene Parlby, Minister without Portfolio), made only minor concessions to women's demands.

Non-farm women's employment prospects before World War I were largely limited to domestic employment, teaching in elementary schools, nursing, and the sex trade, the latter illegal. Domestic workers were poorly paid and subject to the whims of their employers. They enjoyed few legal protections. One industrial employer that hired women was the Great Western Garment Company (GWG), which opened its doors in Edmonton in 1911. The company proved friendly to unions, and the United Garment Workers of America organized the largely female work force of GWG in 1911.

After the war, while paid employment for married women continued to be discouraged, jobs for single women increased. There were more jobs for nurses and teachers, and offices and retail establishments increasingly hired women, though at very low wages. Telephone companies also preferred women for their switchboards. Poor wages overall meant that in many households, married women were forced to seek paid work. But with few opportunities available, such employment was often limited to home sewing, doing laundry and cleaning in the homes of better off women, and to making and selling crafts.

During World War II industrial employment temporarily opened to women, only to be shut down after the war. While the domestic ideology of the inter-war period seemed rampant in the 1950s, many women continued to work after marriage or at least after their children had started school. But demands for public support for daycare operations met with stony silence from legislators. The trade union movement, though it called for equal pay for equal work, largely accepted the notion that only single women should be working for pay and the union conventions of the Alberta Federation of Labour before the 1970s rarely spent any time at all debating motions calling for greater participation of women in the workforce and in the union movement.

The growth in public services, private offices, and retail jobs in the post-war period, all areas that concentrated on hiring women at low wages, worked at odds with the domestic ideology that called for women to be locked up in their homes. But women workers increasingly were unwilling to accept the notion that their work was supplementary to men's and not worth good pay. Three strikes by nurses in Alberta in the 1980s, beginning in 1980, demonstrated the growth in militancy of women in the labour force. "Women are worth it," read nurses' picket signs calling for professional wages for nurses as opposed to the kind of pay that domestic workers had once received. "We are not Florence Nightingales," declared United Nurses of Alberta president Margaret Ethier. Teachers, like nurses, successfully increased their militancy and their pay in this period. So did many government workers. But most women remained underpaid and overworked. Day-care workers, workers in nursing homes, and other women in the "caring" industries, as well as the retail sector and in private offices faced huge obstacles in efforts to create unions. They often pinned their hopes on legislators but the legislators were usually more interested in their corporate donors than in exploited women workers working for the corporations which those donors owned or managed.

Today, in Canada, 30 percent of women workers are unionized compared to only 28.7% of men. But in Alberta, where only 21.8% of the work force is unionized, 70 percent of minimum-wage workers are women, often found in the fast-food industry. Women's wage gap with men remains huge in both Alberta and Canada as a whole. The "double work day" of paid work and home work continues to be more of a burden to women than men since society still largely sees homework and raising children as "women's work" even when a woman is fully employed outside the home. Nonetheless, the increasing role of women in unions and union leadership has changed the priorities of unions in significant ways. Trade unions are increasingly involved in fighting sexual harassment on the job and violence against women in society, and the trade union movement plays a significant role in pressing for universal daycare and for improved social benefits that take into account the lower incomes of women.



This woman is working the loom at the Golden Fleece Woolen Mill in Magrath Alberta in 1940. Industrial employment at the time was largely restricted to men. But the textiles and clothing industries were significant exceptions to the rule. Since women had traditionally woven cloth and made clothing for their families, industrialists preferred women workers for most of the tasks involved in producing textiles and clothing. Employers in both industries often chose to establish their plants in rural settings where they could attract the labour of young farm women who had no experience with trade unions and accepted low wages and often brutal working conditions.

January 2009

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New Year's Day 1

1966 The Canadian Pension Plan went into force on this date

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

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

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

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1929 Martin Luther King born in Atlanta, Georgia

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1906 Founding meeting of the Edmonton Trades and Labour Council

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

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1962 Alberta New Democrats founding provincial convention

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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

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1850 Samuel Gompers, first president of American Federation of Labor, born in London, England

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Chinese New Year Year

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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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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

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These women working the Alberta Government Telephones switchboard in 1976 worked exhausting jobs for modest pay, the result of systematic pay discrimination at the time against jobs typecast as women's work. Employers across North America had decided by 1900 that women were preferable to men as switchboard operators because they were allegedly more patient with callers and more agile and conscientious with the machines that needed to be operated. But not any woman would do. Operators had to be tall enough to reach the top wires, had to have good hearing and eyesight, and could not have an accent or a cough. The pace of work was breakneck and operators suffered repetitive strain injuries and sometimes nervous breakdowns. Employer failures to maintain machines increased the danger as well of electric shocks for operators.

February 2009

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1989 African National Congress allowed to operate legally in South Africa after 29-year ban

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1965 The closing of the Standard Mine at Shaughnessy, Alberta ends the coal-mining era in southern Alberta
2002 Alberta's largest teachers' strike begins; receives strong public support

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1906 Lethbridge Trades and Labour Council granted charter
1974 General strike in Grenada leads to independence; US invades 10 years later

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Valentine's Day 14

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

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Family Day 16

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1944 PC 1003, a federal order-in-council, provides federal government recognition of collective bargaining rights for Canadian workers

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2001 Calgary's longest transit strike begins, ending 49 days later

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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
1942 Canada forcibly removes all Japanese from the West Coast

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This march in Edmonton on International Women's Day, March 8, 1980, put forth a variety of demands for social and economic equality. The origins of International Women's Day (IWD) had a left-wing and labour focus. The Socialist Party in the United States began the tradition of marching for equality of the sexes in 1909 and, after 1911, the year of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire in New York City, when 146 women, locked in by their employer, could not escape a fire, the IWD focus for many years became the rights of women to safe workplaces, decent wages, and union representation. Trade union women play a key role in organizing IWD events in Alberta.

March 2009

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1978 Canadian Human Rights Act takes effect, outlawing discrimination on the grounds of age or marital status
1908 First International Women's Day started in New York City by garment workers

International Women's Day Daylight Savings 8

1917 Calgary establishes Labour Representation League to nominate candidates in elections to all levels of government

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1951 Local 630 of Oil Workers International Union certified in Edmonton, the first local in the oil industry to last for some time
1918 Government of Alberta passes province's first worker's compensation legislation

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1927 Cesar Chavez born near Yuma, Arizona

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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

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St. Patrick's Day
1977 Members of CUPE begin lengthy strike at Parkland nursing home

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1918 Women win vote in Canadian federal elections

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1949 Last major strike of Canadian Seamen's Union

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1911 New York Triangle Shirtwaist Fire
147 workers, the vast majority women, perish after being locked in the factory by the employer

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

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1919 Delegates from most union locals in western Canada meet at the Western Labour Conference in Calgary and form One Big Union

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1st Day of Spring
1980 United Nurses of Alberta organize program of action to publicize nurses' low wages

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1912 IWW launches strike on Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific lines

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1913 First convention of the Provincial Council of Carpenters

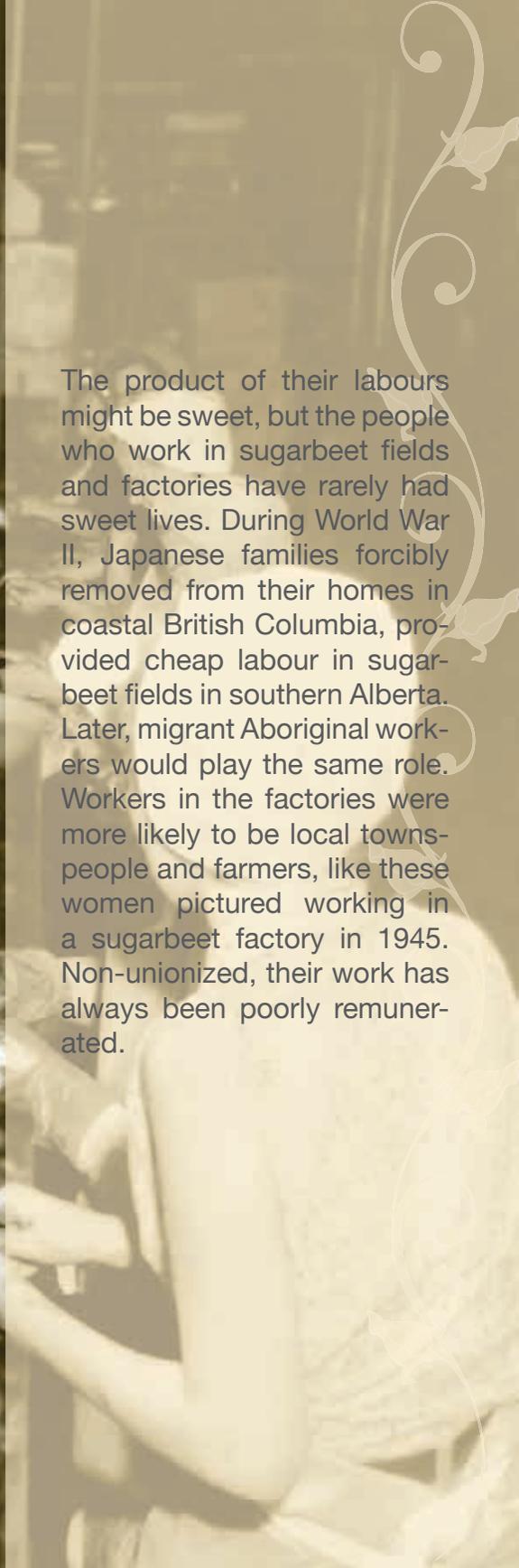
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The product of their labours might be sweet, but the people who work in sugarbeet fields and factories have rarely had sweet lives. During World War II, Japanese families forcibly removed from their homes in coastal British Columbia, provided cheap labour in sugarbeet fields in southern Alberta. Later, migrant Aboriginal workers would play the same role. Workers in the factories were more likely to be local townspeople and farmers, like these women pictured working in a sugarbeet factory in 1945. Non-unionized, their work has always been poorly remunerated.



April 2009

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Passover

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Good Friday

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

Easter Sunday

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1919 The Edmonton Free Press, journal of the Edmonton Trades and Labour Council, begins publication
2001 Amalgamated Transit Union Local 583 ends Calgary transit strike

Easter Monday

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1907 Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers International Alliance Local 371 formed in Edmonton
1982 The Constitution Act is proclaimed, along with the Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms
1984 The Canada Health Act penalizes provinces that violate the provisions of the Medical Care Act

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1980 United Nurses of Alberta begin legal strike at 79 hospitals

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1914–Ludlow, Colorado massacre of U.S. miners

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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

Earth Day

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

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1933 Fourteen leaders of a Calgary relief strike are arrested

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1903 76 people are killed in Frank, Alberta when Turtle Mountain, weakened by mining, collapses

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1900 First Alberta local of the International Association of Machinists (IAM 357) formed in Calgary



The woman and children in this picture were left homeless by a fire in 1930 during the Great Depression. Homelessness and poverty were the lot of many working families during the Depression. There were almost no social programs at the time to help the destitute except for meagre municipal relief. Those without income were forced to depend on extended families, on neighbours and the broader community for charity when disaster struck. But the widespread economic devastation of the Depression often meant that these networks could provide little aid. So, workers organized to demand that governments take responsibility for employment creation and initiate social programs that would provide help for the needy as a right of citizenship rather than forcing them to beg or starve.



May 2009

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2002 Edmonton United Food and Commercial Workers Local 401 strike begins

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1886 Workers demonstrating in Chicago for the eight-hour day are attacked by police on Haymarket Square

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Cinco de Mayo
1818 Karl Marx born in Trier, Germany
1903 First issue of Alberta's labour newspaper, Bond of Brotherhood, appears in Calgary

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1968 French students and workers revolt in Paris

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1830 Mary Harris Jones (Mother Jones) born
1917 Civic Employees Federal Union No. 30 granted charter

1923 Edmonton workers rally to support striking Edmonton coal miners
1957 Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act proclaimed by fed gov't (federal matching grants for provincial hospitalization programs without user fees)

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International Workers Day

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Mother's Day

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1771 Labour reformer Robert Owen born in Newton, Wales

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1903 International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen grants charter to Local 1 in Edmonton
1919 Winnipeg General Strike begins

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Victoria Day

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2007 Greyhound workers strike across western Canada

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1919 Drumheller coalminers begin strike, demanding recognition of the One Big Union as their bargaining agent
1921 Trial of Italian-American anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti begins

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1905 Calgary Trades and Labour Council granted charter

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1919 Workers in Edmonton and Calgary begin general strikes in show of solidarity with Winnipeg General Strike

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1871 Paris Commune crushed with 25,000 killed
1919 Eight thousand miners in District 18 join sympathy strike with Winnipeg workers

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The nurse in this picture is caring for children in the tuberculosis ward of an Alberta hospital in 1953. Nursing has traditionally been seen as “women’s work” and, as with most women-dominated occupations, was historically low paid. However, as nurses organized, they improved both their pay and working conditions. The United Nurses of Alberta (UNA) was formed in 1977 and staged their first strike that same year. They were ordered back to work by the government. They staged another major strike in 1980 and were again ordered back to work, but this time stayed out and succeeded in achieving a negotiated settlement two weeks later. Two more strikes by UNA in the 1980s demonstrated growth in militancy of women workers. In addition to fighting to improve the wages and working conditions of their members, UNA has been at the forefront of the struggle to keep Medicare public.



June 2009

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1986 "The Battle of 66th Street"
United Food and Commercial
Workers (UFCW) Local 280P
begin six-month strike at Gain-
ers meatpacking plant
1986 UFCW workers at Fletch-
ers in Red Deer begin strike

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1902 United Brotherhood
of Carpenters and Joiners
granted charter for Local
1055 in Calgary

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1935 The On-to-Ottawa
Trek reaches Calgary from
Vancouver

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1381 Wat Tyler leads march of
English peasants to London

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1872 Trade unions provided first
recognition in Canadian law but
severe restrictions force most of
them to forego registering
1912 First convention of
newly-formed Alberta Fed-
eration of Labour begins in
Lethbridge

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1914 Hillcrest mining disaster
leaves 189 dead, the worst
mining disaster in Alberta's
history

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2002 Alberta Teachers
Association reaches deal that
ends dispute with the
Conservative government

Father's Day
1st Day of Summer 21

1919 "Bloody Saturday"
police repression of workers
in Winnipeg General Strike
results in two deaths

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St. Jean
Baptiste Day 24

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1869 Emma Goldman,
famous anarchist-feminist,
born in Kovno (now Kaunas),
Lithuania

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1926 Six Labour members
win seats in Alberta provincial
election

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1919 Government raids unions
across Canada, enforcing new
"sedition" legislation meant to
restrict unionism and
fend off socialism



These skilled women mechanics at #2 Air Observer School in Edmonton in 1943 received a chance to perform jobs that were traditionally typecast as men's jobs because of the shortage of male labour occasioned by World War II. While their employers often praised their excellent performance, after the war they were forced to give up their jobs. A government-led post-war advertising campaign denounced married women who worked as enemies of Canadian democracy. Government subsidies for daycare disappeared, and tax consideration for double-income families disappeared. Job counsellors streamed single women and immigrant women into low-paying, dead-end jobs in order to emphasize the fiction that women should and could rely on husbands or fathers for income.



July 2009

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1949 International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers Local 720 charter issued

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

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

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1919 A mass arrest of One Big Union members is coordinated by federal government
1935 On to Ottawa Trek violently repressed by RCMP in Regina
1958 Alberta proclaims its Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act

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1912 Woody Guthrie born in Okemah, Oklahoma

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1966 Canada Packers strike by United Packinghouse Workers of America

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

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1968 Federal Medical Care Act comes into force but Alberta does not yet participate
1969 Alberta agrees to provide a provincial program that meets requirements of the federal Medical Care Act

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1918 Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union organizes two hotels and six restaurants after Calgary Trades and Labour Council threatens strike
1953 Sheet Metal Workers Local 558 formed in Lethbridge

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Canada Day 1

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

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1977 2,500 Alberta nurses begin legal strike at seven hospitals
2000 After eight months of a bitter first contract fight, Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Local 115A strikers lose fight for union contract at the Calgary Herald

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1997 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1118, meatpackers at the High River, Alberta plant go on strike

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1961 Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees of America Local 583 strike Calgary Transit July 11 to August 22

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1936 Spanish Civil War begins
1921 United Farmers of Alberta government is elected; four Labour members are also elected

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In 1981, Wardair, an airline company that would disappear 8 years later when Canadian Airlines was formed as a merger of 6 carriers, locked out its 700 flight attendants. The company tried to break the union, using scabs to replace the flight attendants. The locked-out flight attendants, who had been seeking major improvements in working conditions, picketed Wardair offices throughout the country, and significantly dented the company's business before management agreed to sit down with their union, the Canadian Air Lines Flight Attendants (CALFAA), to settle the workers' grievances.



August 2009

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1906 Edmonton Trades and Labour Council granted charter
1918 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

1932 The CCF is founded in Calgary by labour, farmer and socialist parties, along with one union, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees
1944 A federal bill establishing family allowances passes in the House of Commons

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1997 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1118 settles strike

Heritage Day 3

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1908 Two-month national rail strike of CPR shop and yard workers begins

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1981 Wardair locks out its 700 flight attendants for 13 weeks, with the company using scabs and a strikebreaking security firm
1945 U.S. drops nuclear bomb on Hiroshima.

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1940 The Unemployment Insurance Act receives royal assent. Labour had fought a long battle for a federal program of UI

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1905 Formation of the first Medicine Hat Trades and Labour Council

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2005 Alberta Federation of Labour declares August 20 Farmworker Day in memory of Terry Rash and in solidarity with the struggle of farmworkers to achieve dignity and respect

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1911 Amalgamated Transit Union 569 granted charter
1961 Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway & Motor Coach Employees of America Local 583 Calgary Transit strike ends
1980 Solidarnosc founded in Poland

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1927 Execution of Sacco and Vanzetti by state of Massachusetts

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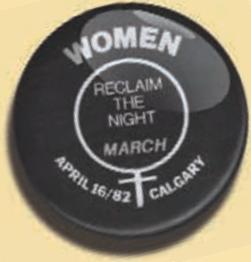
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After the Popular Unity government of Salvador Allende was brutally overthrown in 1973 by a military dictatorship backed by the Americans, thousands of Chileans fled their country. Many settled in Alberta and they brought their sense of social justice to the trade union movement and other social movements in their new homeland. But they also campaigned to force Canadian governments to pressure the military dictatorship in their home country to step down and allow the re-establishment of democracy. The demonstration pictured here was one of many in which Chileans in Canada brought to the attention of all Canadians the need for the dictatorship in their home country to be brought to its knees



September 2009

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1905 Alberta becomes a province

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

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2004 First IWW World North American General Assembly in Alberta begins in Edmonton

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

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

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Labour Day

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1886 Alberta's first union, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, is founded in Medicine Hat

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1991 Canadian government workers stage 9-day strike

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

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1973 Democratically elected government of Salvador Allende overthrown by CIA backed Coup.

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1956 Convention begins in Edmonton leading to the merger of the Alberta Federation of Labour and the Industrial Federation of Labour of Alberta

2003 CEP Local 1900 walk out in Edmonton in effort to ratify first contract with A-Channel

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1st. Day of Autumn

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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
1918 IWW declared illegal in Canada

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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 Edmonton's GWG plant founded in 1911

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1912 IWW organizes a strike of 250 Edmonton sewer construction workers

1918 Borden government bans 14 organizations, including IWW, Social Democratic Party, Chinese Labour Association and Ukrainian Social Democratic Party

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1931 RCMP murder 3 coal miners in Bienfait, Saskatchewan during peaceful strike demonstration

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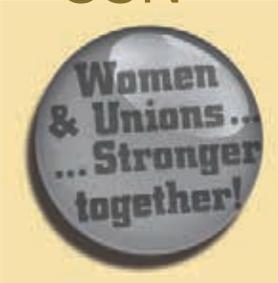


The Doukhobour women in Swan River in 1900 in this picture are pulling a plough. Long before governments, companies, and society generally regarded urban women as capable of doing all forms of work, farm women demonstrated the ability to do all the work on the farm. While work tasks on the farm were often sex-segregated, the need for men to leave farms to make enough income for the farm household to survive often made such segregation of farm tasks impossible. When the man of the farm worked in town or in the mines or forests, the farm wife ran the farm. Even if her husband did not work off the farm, a farm woman's duties extended to the farm and were not limited to the home. But farm women faced legal obstacles to equality. Single women in Canada were denied the right to a homestead, and married farm women, despite their equal contribution to the economics of the farm, had limited ability to prevent their husbands from squandering farm finances.



October 2009

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1918 Amalgamated Meatcutters Union formed in Edmonton

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

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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

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

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Thanksgiving Day 12
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

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

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1919 Alberta Teachers Alliance strike resolved

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1865 Delegates meet and form the National Bricklayers Union

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

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1995 Federal Government workers win major pay equity claim after 16 years of struggle

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

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Halloween 31



This woman is working the Jigger at Medalta Potteries in Medicine Hat in 1948. On August 12, 1947, the Medalta workers went on a 72 day strike for better wages and working conditions. The women working at Medalta earned 41 cents per hour on average versus 63 cents an hour for the men, though even that was a low industrial wage for the times. Medalta, which was Canada's leading producer of dinnerware for many years, hired young women from local farms for the labour-intensive decorative work of the art department. When their labour force went on strike, the company blamed their new union, the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers for "agitating" their formerly compliant workforce. But worker complaints about company exploitation were not new and simply boiled over in a year when hundreds of thousands of industrial workers were striking for better treatment.

November 2009

SUN

Daylight Saving's Ends

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

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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

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

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

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1170 BC First recorded strike of workers occurs in Egypt

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1995 CUPE Local 8 and AUPE Local 55 hospital laundry workers' illegal strike in Calgary ends with moratorium on contracting out

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Remembrance Day

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

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1983 Canadian postal workers reduce postal rates to 2 cents as part of negotiating tactics with Post Office

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

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1995 CUPE Local 8 laundry workers in Calgary engage in illegal strike to stop contracting out. Strike spreads to all major hospitals; members from other unions, including Alberta Union of Public Employees, walk out

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This woman driving an earth-mover in 1974 represents the gradual return of women to occupations that they held during World War II but from which government and corporate policies then removed their access for three decades. Trade unions, before the 1970s, were largely populated with male members and male leaders and rarely spoke out against job discrimination against women, though the unions always defended equal pay for equal work and the right of married women who lost jobs to collect unemployment insurance. Increasing women's labour force participation by the 1970s and the emergence of strong feminist movements led the unions gradually to join campaigns for an end to all discrimination based on gender.



December 2009

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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

1886 American Federation of Labor founded

Hanukkah
1883 Railway engineers and firemen in Calgary strike against wage cuts

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1944 Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1374 at Greyhound chartered in Calgary

1966 Proclamation of federal Medical Care Act

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23

Christmas Eve 24

Christmas Day 25

Boxing Day 26

1st. Day of Winter
1932 Edmonton Hunger March is ended by police violence with over 100 arrested

1904 United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 496, Calgary granted charter

27

28

29

30

New Year's Eve 31

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





**HELP US
CELEBRATE
100 YEARS OF
ALBERTA LABOUR!**



Project 2012 Celebrating 100 Years of Alberta Labour History

The latest project of the Alberta Labour History Institute is a collaboration with the Alberta Federation of Labour in the celebration of its 100th Anniversary in 2012.

Over the next four years, we will produce materials and promote activities to highlight this important centennial. We will visit communities across the province, gathering archival material and stories of working people, their unions and their communities. We will publish a series of posters and booklets, a comprehensive book and a DVD based on the rich history of the people who built this province.

The project will culminate in a special Alberta Federation of Labour celebration in 2012.

Join Project 2012 – Volunteer to help make history!

For further information visit our Project 2012 website at www.Project2012.ca. or phone 780-483-8999.



Or should we say - We couldn't do it with out you!

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