

LABOUR AND WAR

LABOUR & 100 YEARS OF CONFLICT



www.LabourHistory.ca

2015

January

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Alberta Labour and War

Two thousand and fourteen marks the 100th anniversary of the first full year of World War I. Canada, as a British colony, entered that war on August 4, 1914. It remained at war with Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire until an armistice was declared on November 11, 1918. This year's calendar explores the issue of Alberta labour's responses to war and the threat of war.

Working-class organizations, for years before the outbreak of WWI, warned governments that they would not support them if they went to war. They regarded war as simply a competition among imperialist countries for control over territory. Workers, they said, had no interest in joining such competition. But, in practice, once war was declared, most socialist parties and trade unions fell in line behind their national governments.

The Trades and Labour Congress of Canada followed that route. But Alberta trade unions, like trade unions in western Canada generally, opposed the war. That did not stop many of their members from signing up to fight in a war which began during a time of high unemployment in Alberta. The Alberta Federation of Labour opposed conscription, that is the draft, and insisted that there should be no conscription of workers until there was conscription of capital. That meant that corporations would have to surrender their wartime profits to the state so as to prove that profiteering

was not their motive for encouraging war.

While many Alberta workers died at the front, the war proved beneficial for trade union organizing. At the time there were no protections for trade unionists from employer reprisals, and the fear of being sacked prevented workers from joining unions. As unemployment disappeared during the war, workers were emboldened to unionize.



World War 2, which most unions and workers supported because it was fought against the vicious Nazis of Adolf Hitler's Germany, also provided support for organizing efforts and for the same reason. This time, unionists were able to pressure the federal government to legislate rights for collective bargaining that most provinces copied at war's end.

After the end of WW2 came the Cold War in which the Soviet Union was treated as the enemy of Western democracies and the capitalist system. The trade union movement, though deeply divided, became a Cold War partner, particularly during the Korean War. That was also true during the early stages of the Vietnam War but later gave way to support for opponents of the war. Since that time, Alberta labour has been more likely to support the causes of workers struggling to oppose colonial oppression than to support American-inspired foreign policies supported by the Canadian government.

Profiteer: THE WAR IS OVER, MY BOY. FORGET IT!



Unknown Artist -1919

Cartoon reflects widespread resentment against war profiteers during WW1

World War 1 and Conscription

When Canada entered World War 1 to fight for the British Empire against two other empires, many Alberta workers and most trade union leaders regarded the fight as a war between colonial plunderers. Why, they asked, should workers die, fighting other country's workers, to defend capitalists of their own nation who oppressed them? The deaths of 189 workers in the Hillcrest mining disaster on June 19, 1914 were fresh in everyone's memory. The coroner's jury supported the union's contention that the employer had failed to follow provincial mine safety standards. But no one was brought to trial for their deaths.

Wartime profiteering resulted in inflation that pushed up the cost of living beyond the wage increases workers received. The government's decision to impose the draft gave unions the opportunity to pose the question of unequal sacrifice starkly. They insisted there should be no conscription of workers into the armed forces until capital was conscripted into the war effort through a law forbidding the making of profits in wartime. Labour candidates in the 1917 federal election campaigned for "no conscription of manpower without conscription of wealth." They won over a third of the vote in the seats they contested and might have won seats if the federal government had not imposed a variety of anti-democratic voting measures for the 1917 election.

A stylized calendar for January 2015. The word "JANUARY" is written at the top in large, light blue, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, the days of the week are listed in bold black capital letters: SUN, MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT. The calendar grid shows dates from December 2014 to January 31, 2015. The numbers are in a bold, dark grey font. A light blue silhouette of a bird, possibly a phoenix or a similar mythical creature, is superimposed over the calendar grid. The bird's head is at the bottom left, facing right, and its tail feathers extend towards the top right. The background is white.

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Jan 29, 1946 Supreme Court Justice Ivan Rand, dealing with an auto-workers 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



Glenbow Archives-na-644-18

Workers from Calgary's Ogden Yards walk off job during general strike of 1919

World War 1 and Solidarity

During World War 1, many workers not only unionized for the first time but demonstrated considerable class solidarity. Threats of general strikes, as well as the real thing when employers proved intransigent, became common. In September 1918, the federal government announced plans to legislate striking Calgary freight handlers back to work. The Trades and Labour Council called a general strike and half of the city's unionized workers walked off the job. The federal government responded with concessions to the freight handlers. In October, Edmonton's Trades and Labour Council called for a sympathy strike with striking railway workers. That caused other employers to press the railways to accept the strikers' demands. The year before, miners in the Crowsnest Pass joined in region-wide strikes that forced the federal government to take over the mines from the mine owners for the duration of the war and make wage concessions.

Fear of this new worker solidarity caused the federal government to mount a campaign of repression of radicalism in 1918 that included shutting down much of the radical press in Canada, the banning of most socialist organizations, and placing limits on the right to hold meetings and protests.

FEBRUARY

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Valentine's Day

Family Day

JANUARY 2015

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MARCH 2015

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Feb 2, 1989 African National Congress allowed to operate legally in South Africa after 29-year ban

Feb 4, 1965 The closing of the Standard Mine at Shaughnessy, Alberta ends the coal-mining era in southern Alberta

Feb 4, 2002 Alberta's largest teachers' strike begins; receives strong public support

Feb 6, 1906 Lethbridge Trades and Labour Council granted charter

Feb 6, 1974 General strike in Grenada leads to independence; US invades 10 years later

Feb 13, 1947 The gush of Leduc #1 oil well marks the beginning of a new stage of petroleum development for Alberta

Feb 14, 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

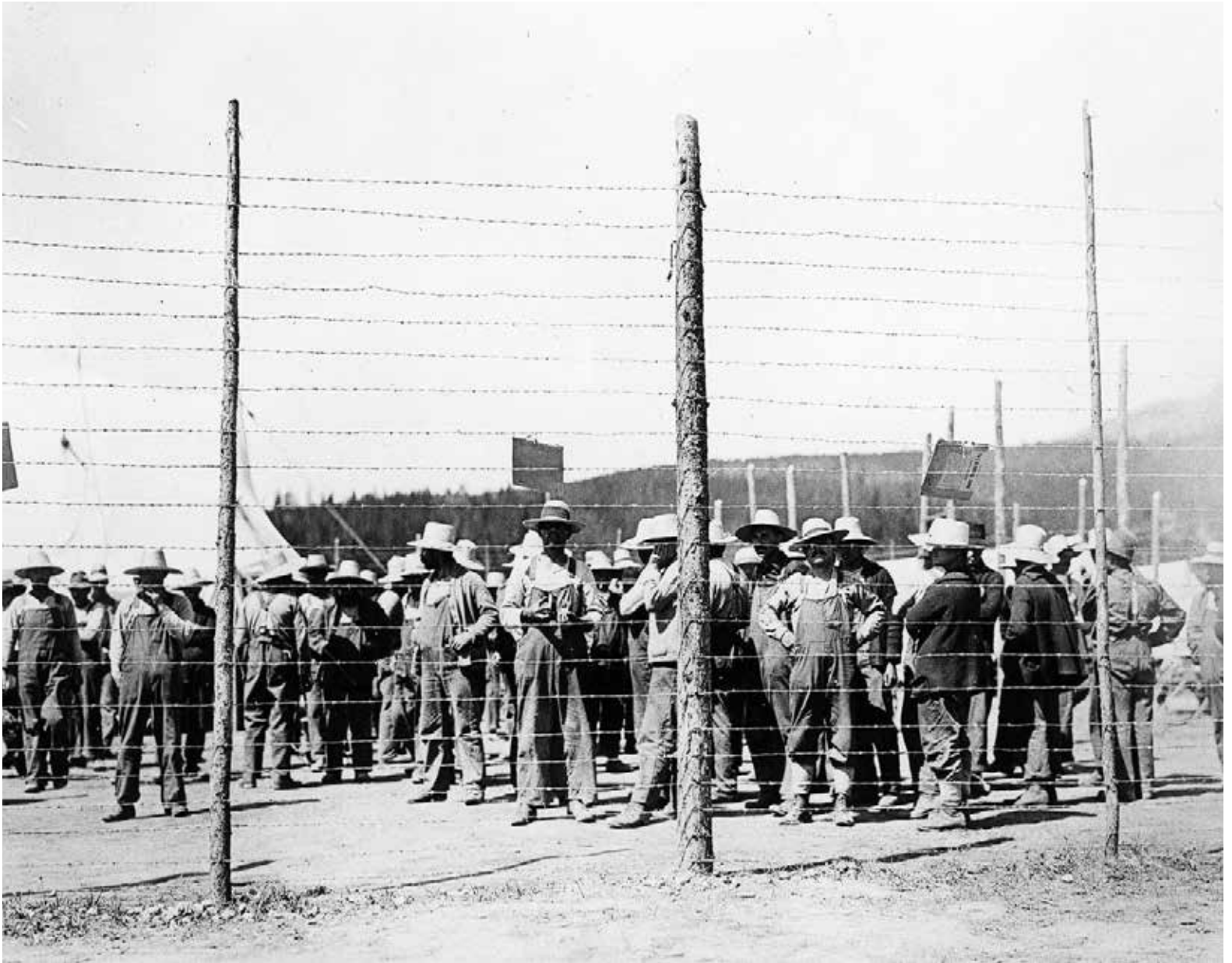
Feb 17, 1944 PC 1003, a federal order-in-council, provides federal government recognition of collective bargaining rights for Canadian workers

Feb 22, 2001 Calgary's longest transit strike begins, ending 49 days later

Feb 24, 1848 Revolution begins in France, inspiring revolts across Europe

Feb 24, 1965 District 1199 Health Care Workers becomes first U.S. labour union to oppose the Vietnam War

Feb 24, 1942 Canada forcibly removes all Japanese from the West Coast



Glenbow Archives-na-1870-6
Ukrainian internees at Castle Mountain, Alberta 1915

Internment World War I

The year 2014 marked the 100th anniversary of the incarceration of thousands of Ukrainians of Austro-Hungarian citizenship. These “enemy aliens” were jailed in 24 different work camps under the War Measures Act between 1914 and 1920. Some of the harshest conditions existed at camps like Castle Mountain where internees’ forced labour helped create infrastructure for Banff National Park.

The Canadian government also used the opportunity to deport “labour radicals” to Europe after the war. Many internees succumbed to disease and work injuries. The Canadian government finally acknowledged the internment in Parliament in 2005. On August 22, 2014 the Ukrainian community unveiled one hundred plaques to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the War Measures Act which led to the internment.

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Daylight Savings
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Women's Day

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St. Patrick's Day

Spring Equinox

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FEBRUARY 2015

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March 1, 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

March 1, 1978 Canadian Human Rights Act takes effect, outlawing discrimination on the grounds of age or marital status

March 8, 1908 First International Women's Day started in New York City by garment workers

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

March 13, 1919 Delegates from most union locals in western Canada meet at the Western Labour Conference in Calgary and form One Big Union

March 14, 1913 First convention of the Provincial Council of Carpenters

March 15, 1951 Local 630 of Oil Workers International Union certified in Edmonton, the first local in the oil industry to last for some time

March 17, 1977 Members of CUPE begin lengthy strike at Parkland nursing home

March 18, 1918 Government of Alberta passes province's first workers compensation legislation

March 18, 1911 New York Triangle Shirtwaist Fire 147 workers, the vast majority women, perish after being locked in the factory by the employer

March 19, 1919 Civil Service Association of Alberta (CSA), precursor to AUPE, formed

March 20, 1980 United Nurses of Alberta organize program of action to publicize nurses' low wages

March 24, 1918 Women win vote in Canadian federal elections

March 27, 1912 IWW launches strike on Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific lines

March 30, 1927 Cesar Chavez born near Yuma, Arizona

March 31, 1949 Last major strike of Canadian Seamen's Union



Archives of Manitoba - N2762
Crowd tries to overturn streetcar during Winnipeg General Strike, June 21, 1919

Post-War Radicalism

The momentum of wartime radicalism and continuing social inequalities created a strike wave in 1919 that had revolutionary overtones. A conference of western trade unionists in Calgary in March 1919 decided to create One Big Union (OBU) to make sympathy strikes a fundamental union practice. Referenda were held in many unions to determine workers' opinions; an overwhelming majority favoured the OBU idea.

Before the OBU could even have a founding convention, workers in Winnipeg, both unionized and non-unionized, voted overwhelmingly to begin a sympathy strike on May 15 for that city's metal trades and construction workers whose employers refused to bargain with all trades together as opposed to one by one. Solidarity with the Winnipeg workers and local grievances combined to produce general strikes across western Canada. Calgary and Edmonton had month-long strikes (May 26 to June 25) with about half of all unionized workers participating. The mining districts in the province were also on strike.

APRIL

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April 1, 1902 United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners granted charter for Local 1055 in Calgary

April 1, 1917 Strike by 7,500 Crowsnest Pass miners belonging to the United Mine Workers of America

April 1, 1966 The Canada Assistance Plan provides federal cost-sharing to provinces for social services

April 11, 1983 Bill 44 introduced: removes the legal right to strike for all hospital workers

April 12, 1919 The Edmonton Free Press, journal of the Edmonton Trades and Labour Council, begins publication

April 12, 2001 Amalgamated Transit Union Local 583 ends Calgary transit strike

April 17, 1907 Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers International Alliance Local 371 formed in Edmonton

April 17, 1982 The Constitution Act is proclaimed, along with the Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms

April 17, 1984 The Canada Health Act penalizes provinces that violate provisions of the Medical Care Act

April 18, 1980 United Nurses of Alberta begin legal strike at 79 hospitals

April 20, 1914 Ludlow, Colorado massacre of U.S. miners

April 22, 1951 Civic, school board, and healthcare employees form the Federation of Public Employees, forerunner of the National Union of Public Employees

April 22, 1980 Nurses defy back-to-work order, winning a negotiated settlement six days later

April 23, 1956 Canadian Labour Congress is formed as a merger of two competing trade union federations

April 27, 1933 Fourteen leaders of a Calgary relief strike are arrested

April 29, 1903 76 people are killed in Frank, Alberta when Turtle Mountain, weakened by mining, collapses

April 30, 1900 First Alberta local of the International Association of Machinists (IAM 357) formed in Calgary



City of Edmonton Archives -EA.160.1233
May Day parade vehicle advertises support for Dr. Bethune during Spanish Civil War, Edmonton 1937

The Spanish Civil War

On July 18, 1936, a group of Spanish military officers led by General Francisco Franco attempted to overthrow by force the recently elected left-wing Popular Front government of Spain. The working people who had elected the new government rallied behind the Republican government against the forces of reaction led by Franco. Franco received military aid from Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy while the Spanish government, spurned by other democratically elected governments, could count only on the Soviet Union for military support.

An international movement arose, led by Communist parties, to recruit workers with military experience to come to Spain to reinforce the republican forces. At least 1546 Canadians joined the cause, of whom 721 died during the warfare. Most joined the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion, named for the heroes of the 1837 rebellions for democracy in Canada. They saw themselves as on the front line in a fight for democracy and against fascism.

The Canadian government reacted by passing legislation that made it illegal for Canadians to fight in wars in which Canada was not a belligerent. So, anti-fascist fighters were reviled by their own government and were not honoured upon their return to Canada. In 2001, a monument was finally unveiled in Ottawa in a tribute to these early combatants against fascism.

MAY

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17 Victoria Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
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May 1, 1917 Civic Employees Federal Union No. 30 granted charter

May 1, 1923 Edmonton workers rally to support striking Edmonton coal miners

May 1, 1957 Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act proclaimed; provides federal matching grants for provincial hospitalization programs without user fees

May 4, 1886 Workers demonstrating in Chicago for the eight-hour day are attacked by police on Haymarket Square

May 5, 1818 Karl Marx born in Trier, Germany

May 5, 1903 First issue of Alberta's labour newspaper, Bond of Brotherhood, appears in Calgary

May 7, 1968 French students and workers revolt in Paris

May 14, 1771 Labour reformer Robert Owen born in Newton, Wales

May 15, 1903 International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen grants charter to Local 1 in Edmonton

May 15, 1919 Winnipeg General Strike begins

May 18, 2007 Greyhound workers strike across western Canada

May 24, 1921 Trial of Italian-American anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti begins

May 24, 1919 Drumheller coalminers begin strike, demanding recognition of the One Big Union as their bargaining agent

May 25, 1905 Calgary Trades and Labour Council granted charter

May 26, 1919 Workers in Edmonton and Calgary begin general strikes in show of solidarity with Winnipeg General Strike

May 28, 1871 Paris Commune crushed with 25,000 killed

May 28, 1919 Eight thousand miners in District 18 join sympathy strike with Winnipeg workers



Anonymous, 1943
Posters promoting labour support of increased war production during WW2

World War 2 and Labour's Cause

Most Canadian workers regarded World War 2 as a just war, a war to overthrow Nazism and fascism. But they were determined not to let their sacrifices be ignored as they were after World War I when the government allowed employers to smash many of the unions that they had formed during the war. They struck repeatedly to force the government and employers to recognize the new industrial unions that they were forming. Alberta coal miners struck frequently despite wartime legislation that forbid them to strike. Public opinion polls suggested that the most popular political party in the country by the end of 1942 was the socialist Canadian Commonwealth Federation.

Prime Minister Mackenzie King responded by proclaiming an order-in-council, PC 1003, on February 17, 1944, that gave legal protection to collective bargaining rights to workers within the federal government's jurisdiction, though demanding in return that unions police their members to prevent any form of labour action during the course of an agreement. PC 1003 became the template for provincial labour law, including Alberta's, though the province made it more difficult for unions to organize workers and recognized company unions along with unions controlled by the workers themselves.

JUNE

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MAY 2015						
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June 1, 1986 "The Battle of 66th Street" United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 280P begin six-month strike at Gainers meat-packing plant

June 1, 1986 UFCW workers at Fletchers in Red Deer begin strike

June 6, 1902 United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners granted charter for Local 1055 in Calgary

June 7, 1935 The On-to-Ottawa Trek reaches Calgary from Vancouver

June 13, 1381 Wat Tyler leads march of English peasants to London

June 14, 1872 Trade unions provided first recognition in Canadian law but severe restrictions force most of them to forego registering

June 14, 1912 First convention of newly-formed Alberta Federation of Labour begins in Lethbridge

June 19, 1914 Hillcrest mining disaster leaves 189 dead, the worst mining disaster in Alberta's history

June 19, 2002 Alberta Teachers Association reaches deal that ends dispute with the Conservative government

June 21, 1919 "Bloody Saturday" police repression of workers in Winnipeg General Strike results in two deaths

June 27, 1869 Emma Goldman, famous anarchist-feminist, born in Kovno (now Kaunas), Lithuania

June 28, 1926 Six Labour members win seats in Alberta provincial election

June 30, 1919 Government raids unions across Canada, enforcing new "sedition" legislation meant to restrict unionism and fend off socialism



Alberta Provincial Archives -BL529/1
Female mechanics at the Commonwealth Air Training Program, Edmonton 1943

World War 2 and Women Workers

During both world wars, women were called upon to perform jobs that they had been excluded from performing during peacetime, including the manufacturing of munitions and related parts. Throughout World War I, that invitation extended only to single women. But labour shortages during World War 2 led to married women with children being hired as well. The federal government offered to cooperate with provinces to open up daycares for the children of working mothers. The Alberta government declined, decrying the idea of working mothers. At war's end, women were fired from most non-traditional women's jobs. A federal government campaign urged married women to return to the home rather than seek any form of paid work, suggesting that it was unwomanly and unfair to children for married women to work outside the home. But the memory of having their own money and participating in interesting jobs caused many women to defy such campaigns and to demand that unions join them in defending equal pay for equal work and an end to gender discrimination in hiring and promotions.

JULY

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July 1, 1919 A mass arrest of One Big Union members is coordinated by federal government

July 1, 1935 On to Ottawa Trek violently repressed by RCMP in Regina

July 1, 1958 Alberta proclaims its Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act

July 1, 1968 Federal Medical Care Act comes into force but Alberta does not yet participate

July 1, 1968 Canadian Union of Public Employees 474 in Edmonton is granted a charter

July 1, 1969 Alberta agrees to provide a provincial program that meets requirements of the federal Medical Care Act

July 1, 1980 AUPE "wildcat strike" at Alberta Liquor Control Board

July 6, 1949 International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers Local 720 charter issued

July 7, 1977 2,500 Alberta nurses begin legal strike at seven hospitals

July 7, 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

July 8, 1918 Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union organizes two hotels and six restaurants after Calgary Labour Council threatens strike

July 8, 1953 Sheet Metal Workers Local 558 formed in Lethbridge

July 10, 1997 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1118, meatpackers at the High River, Alberta plant go on strike

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

July 14, 1912 Woody Guthrie born in Okemah, Oklahoma

July 17, 1936 Spanish Civil War begins

July 18, 1921 United Farmers of Alberta government is elected; four Labour members are also elected

July 19, 1933 The first national convention of the CCF adopts the Regina Manifesto, pledging a socialist transformation of Canada

July 20, 1966 Canada Packers strike by United Packinghouse Workers of America

July 26, 1948 Canadian Air Line Flight Attendants Association (CAL-FAA) is certified

July 27, 1997 Canadian Auto Workers Local 4050 goes on strike against Marriott Food Services, Red Deer



Glenbow Archives -p-4455-8
Medalta potteries strikers block railway track, Medicine Hat 1947

The End of War and Strikes

As the war ended, the federal government gradually lifted price controls, fuelling inflation that ate away workers' wartime wage gains. This led to a strike wave in 1945-1946, centred in Ontario, that won the "Rand formula" for many unions; that is the requirement that all workers in a unionized shop pay dues. This put unions on a better financial footing. In Alberta, the biggest strike in the postwar years was a strike at all the packing plants in 1947, part of a national strike in that industry. The workers at Medalta Potteries, mainly women, also struck that year. The two strikes caused the right-wing Social Credit government to change the province's labour laws to make union organizing more difficult. As a result, organizing drives in the oilfields yielded few successes, but gradually petrochemical plants and refineries were organized.

AUGUST

JULY 2015							SEPTEMBER 2015						
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August 1, 1906 Edmonton Trades and Labour Council granted charter

August 1, 1918 With trade union pressure the Workmen's Compensation Act becomes effective for the coal mining industry.

August 1, 1932 The CCF is founded in Calgary by labour, farmer and socialist parties and the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees

August 2, 1997 United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1118 settles strike

August 4, 1908 Two-month national rail strike of CPR shop and yard workers begins

August 6, 1945 U.S. drops nuclear bomb on Hiroshima.

August 6, 1981 Wardair locks out its 700 flight attendants for 13 weeks, with the company using scabs and a strikebreaking security firm

August 7, 1940 The Unemployment Insurance Act receives royal assent. Labour had fought a long battle for a federal program of UI

August 19, 1905 Formation of the first Medicine Hat Trades and Labour Council

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

August 22, 1911 Amalgamated Transit Union 569 granted charter

August 22, 1961 Amalgamated Association of Street Electric Railway & Motor Coach Employees of America Local 583 Calgary Transit strike ends

August 22 1980 Solidarnos, founded in Poland

August 23, 1927 Execution of Sacco and Vanzetti by state of Massachusetts

August 31, 2013 Canadian Auto Workers and the Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada merge to form Unifor; hold founding convention in Toronto

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER 2015						
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September 1, 1905 Alberta becomes a province

September 3, 2004 First IWW World North American General Assembly in Alberta begins in Edmonton

September 4, 1920 Edmonton Free Press becomes Alberta Labour News; serves as official paper for AFL

September 6, 1946 Alberta Farmers Union begins 30-day strike demanding minimum fixed price for wheat

September 8, 1886 Alberta's first union, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, is founded in Medicine Hat

September 9, 1991 Canadian government workers stage 9-day strike

September 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

September 11, 1973 Democratically elected government of Salvador Allende overthrown by CIA backed Coup.

September 17, 1956 Convention begins in Edmonton leading to the merger of the Alberta Federation of Labour and the Industrial Federation of Labour of Alberta

September 17, 2003 CEP Local 1900
walk out in Edmonton in effort to
ratify first contract with A-Channel

September 19, 1909 Civic Service Union 52, representing City of Edmonton inside workers is founded

September 24, 1918 IWW declared illegal in Canada

September 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

September 25, 1918 Borden government outlaws publications and meetings in 14 languages. Canada's radical and labour press are targets

September 25, 2003 Levi Strauss announces closure of Edmonton's GWG plant founded in 1911

September 26, 1918 Borden government bans 14 organizations, including IWW, Social Democratic Party, Chinese Labour Association and Ukrainian Social Democratic Party

September 29, 1931 RCMP murder
3 coal miners in Bienfait, Saskatche-
wan during peaceful strike demon-
stration



Artist unknown - public domain
Anit-Vietnam protest poster, Toronto 1968

The Vietnam War

After the nationalist forces in Vietnam defeated the French in the northern half of the country in 1954, the United States intervened in an effort to prevent that country from straying outside the capitalist orbit. The Americans, with Canadian support, refused to allow a nation-wide election in 1956 that the Americans were convinced the Communists would win. Instead the Americans tried to create a puppet state in South Vietnam that would stay in power with American military support. As full-scale war in Vietnam developed, Canadian unions initially supported the American government for Cold War reasons. But as it became clear that working people in Vietnam wanted the Americans gone and largely supported the Communist regime in the North, Canadian unionists turned away from support for the United States, though they tended to be careful not to condone a Communist government for a united Vietnam.

OCTOBER

SEPTEMBER 2015							NOVEMBER 2015						
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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT							
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11	12 Thanksgiving Day	13	14	15	16	17							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24							
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween							

October 1, 1920 One Big Union miners begin province-wide strike. Government passes Order-in-Council for miners to accept UMWA as their official representative

October 1, 1948 International Union of Operating Engineers Local 955 granted charter

October 4, 1918 Amalgamated Meatcutters Union formed in Edmonton

October 6, 1958 Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 379 chartered in Calgary

October 8, 1919 Alberta Teachers Alliance holds province's first teachers' strike

October 12, 1918 Unionists in Calgary stage sympathy strike with Calgary freight handlers

October 12, 1975 Grace Hartman becomes CUPE president, the first woman president of a major union in North America

October 14, 1976 Canadian Labour Congress holds national day of protest against the Trudeau government's wage-control policy

October 15, 1919 Alberta Teachers Alliance strike resolved

October 17, 1865 Delegates meet and form the National Bricklayers Union

October 21, 1999 Founding meeting of Alberta Labour History Institute at southside Rosie's, Edmonton

October 28, 1995 Federal Government workers win major pay equity claim after 16 years of struggle

October 29, 1737 Thomas Paine, Anglo-American revolutionary writer, born in Thetford in Norfolk, England



Glenbow Archives - na-5689-11-41

Girl holding candle at rally protesting American nuclear weapons testing in Aleutian Islands, Calgary 1971

The Anti-Nuclear Movement

Even at the height of the Cold War, much of the Alberta labour movement was concerned about the deadly race between the United States and the Soviet Union to build as many nuclear devices as possible. As the union movement moved away from Cold War alliances with the bosses towards greater solidarity with civil society movements, it also became involved in the peace movement. The Alberta Federation of Labour, particularly during the presidency of Dave Werlin from 1983 to 1989, became a strong voice against militarism. It opposed the “Star Wars” plans of Ronald Reagan, which found some favour in Ottawa, that would have poured billions into creating a nuclear shield around North America. Instead it argued for joint Soviet and American reductions in nuclear armaments. The AFL also opposed Canadian testing of Cruise missiles, missiles that could kill scores of people while leaving buildings standing. The AFL, along with many member unions, played the key role in organizing a march from Cold Lake to Edmonton in May 1983. For 13 days, workers and other peace activists marched from town to town, joined at each stop by members of local anti-Cruise committees who participated for the duration of the march.

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Remembrance Day	11	12	13	14
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OCTOBER 2015						
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DECEMBER 2015						
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November 1, 1934 Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers International Alliance Local 371 re-chartered to become Local 271, Edmonton

November 8, 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

November 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

November 14, 1995 CUPE Local 8 and AUPE Local 55 (Foothills Hospital) laundry workers in Calgary engage in illegal strike to stop contracting out. Strike spreads to all major hospitals

November 16, 1997 Maple Leaf pork plant (formerly Gainers) workers strike despite company threat to close plant if workers strike

November 22, 2002 Edmonton Shaw Conference Centre workers UFCW Local 401 strike ends with workers winning first contract

November 23, 1170 BC First recorded strike of workers occurs in Egypt

November 24, 1995 CUPE Local 8 and AUPE Local 55 hospital laundry workers' illegal strike in Calgary ends with moratorium on contracting out

November 25, 1983 Canadian postal workers reduce postal rates to 2 cents as part of negotiating tactics with Post Office

November 27, 1992 Canadian Paperworkers Union, Communications Workers of Canada, and the Energy and Chemical Workers Union merge to create Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union (CEP)



Ragesoss- Wikimedia commons

Considered the largest anti-war protest in history, millions world wide protest the US invasion of Iraq in 2003

Labour and 9/11

Terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C. on September 11, 2001 inspired a new wave of repression in the United States and eventually Canada as well. Unlike during the Cold War, the trade union movement joined with other civil society movements to defend civil liberties, including free speech and the right to peaceful assembly. Risking being branded as supportive of terrorists, unions insisted that state actions to suppress terrorism not become an excuse to repress dissent, discriminate against particular ethnic groups, or shift state funding from social programs to alleged security programs. The Canadian Labour Congress opposed the Anti-Terrorism Act which gave the Canadian government almost unlimited rights to spy on individuals and organizations, and worked with civil liberties groups to insist on the right of individuals to privacy. Labour organizations opposed the increasing integration of Canadian and American defence and foreign policies for which the alleged threat of terrorism became a perennial excuse.

DECEMBER

NOVEMBER 2015							SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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JANUARY 2016													
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December 6, 1921 William Irvine of Calgary wins first federal labour seat in Alberta for Canadian Labour Party

December 7, 1896 International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers is issued a charter by the American Federation of Labor

December 9, 1869 Knights of Labor founded

December 9, 1910 Bellevue Mine disaster, resulting from poor maintenance of the mine, claims lives of 31 miners in explosion

December 10, 1886 American Federation of Labor founded

December 12, 1883 Railway engineers and firemen in Calgary strike against wage cuts

December 18, 1944 Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1374 at Greyhound chartered in Calgary

December 19, 1966 Proclamation of federal Medical Care Act

December 21, 1932 Edmonton Hunger March is ended by police violence with over 100 arrested

December 24, 1904 United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 496, Calgary granted charter

December 30, 1886 Knights of Labor establish first Alberta base with an assembly in Calgary



Introducing the 1919 Solidarity Fund

The year 1919 was a year of labour radicalism in Canada and abroad. It was also a year of labour solidarity, as workers in a number of Alberta communities went on strike in a show of support for the Winnipeg General Strike. Show your solidarity with ALHI by donating to the 1919 Solidarity Fund. Whether through a monthly or one-time donation, your support will help us to continue our work of preserving and telling the stories of Alberta workers.

Highlights from 1919:

- The first teachers strike in the province took place in Edmonton.
- The Western Labour Conference launched the One Big Union (OBU) in Calgary.
- 6,500 coal miners staged a general strike in the coalfields in the Crowsnest Pass, Lethbridge, the Wayne Valley and Drumheller.
- The Civil Service Association of Alberta (now the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees – AUPE) was formed in Edmonton.
- Alberta's first hospital local – The City Hospital Workers Local 8 (later CUPE Local 8) – was organized in Calgary.
- General strikes in Edmonton and Calgary brought thousands of workers out in support of the strikers in Winnipeg.
- Inside and outside workers, police, firefighters, teamsters, electricians and streetcar employees formed a municipal workers federation in Calgary.
- OBU lumber workers strike in Grande Prairie and in Hylo (near Lac La Biche).

You can help preserve the stories of all of the women and men who joined the struggle for workers' rights and dignity in 1919. Make sure their voices and the voices of all the other working people who built this province are heard today and in the future.

The following supporters have been essential to the success of the production of our fundraising calendar:

- Blair Chahley, Lawyers
- Chivers Carpenter, Lawyers
- McGown Johnson, Lawyers

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