

CCU CONNECTIONS

Connecting Independent Unions Across Canada!

JUNE 2019

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

Winnipeg General Strike: A Century of Solidarity



Photos by L.B. Foote <https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/multimedia/pov/The-1919-Winnipeg-General-Strike-159115755>.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Historians and labour activists have recognized the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike was one of the most famous and influential strikes in Canadian history. Not only was the strike a major turning point for many underprivileged workers, it also became the platform for future labour reforms.

When negotiations broke down between management and labour in the building and metal trades in May 1919, a general strike was called. For six weeks, May 15 to June 26, more than 30,000 strikers brought economic activity to a standstill in Winnipeg, MB

Even essential public employees such as firefighters went on strike. In the short term, the strike ended in arrests, bloodshed and defeat, but in the long run it contributed to the development of a stronger labour movement and the tradition of social democratic politics in Canada. (see more on page 4)

President's Point of View



CCC President,
Kelly Johnson

"The only thing that can stop the wave of anti-union government policies is a labour movement that is united and prepared to fight back at all costs."

A blue wave of anti-labour governments has advanced in provinces throughout the country during the past year. It started with the election of Doug Ford's Conservatives in Ontario, then travelled north-east along the St. Lawrence River to Quebec, where Francois Legault of the Coalition Avenir Quebec was elected.

This trend continued with the election of the Conservatives in New Brunswick, and more recently the Conservatives in PEI, and Jason Kenney's United Conservative Party in Alberta. Presently, seven of ten provincial governments are led by right-wing political parties supported heavily by Big Business, and two others led by Liberals continue their own versions of economic austerity against working people. The provincial governments of Manitoba and Saskatchewan were already engaged in their own attacks against unions within their jurisdictions.

The NDP government of British Columbia is the only one in the country that is implicitly pro-labour. Things are not looking good for working people in Canada today – and for more than just a few reasons. These right-wing governments believe in the standard free market fallacies of the business community that one would expect: that tax cuts, especially for the wealthy and corporations, create jobs, that wealth "trickles down," that free trade (read: corporate-managed trade) helps everyone, that unions are counter-productive, and that the private sector is always more efficient than the public sector.

Canadians know better! They understand full well that unions, along with the welfare state and policies like progressive taxation, were largely responsible for building the middle class. They also know that vitally important services like health care, education, child care, urban transportation, and environmental protection are far better managed in the public sector by workers who have decent incomes, safe working conditions, pensions and benefits.

The environment should be foremost on the minds of conservative leaders. It is unknown whether or not they truly believe in the overwhelming science of climate change, yet they make a common fallacy regarding the environment: that we have to either choose between the protection of our ecosystems on one hand, and jobs and economic growth on the other.

Progressive policies in countries like Sweden, Denmark and Germany, heavily supported by labour unions, have shown during the last two decades that you can accomplish both: governments can create good paying jobs and promote wealth-creation while protecting the environment at the same time.

Yet the right-wing leaders of our provinces back here in Canada, continue their unprecedented attack on the rights of workers.

The Conservatives in Ontario have already cancelled a scheduled minimum wage increase, reduced emergency work leave, eliminated equal pay for equal work regulations for part-time employees, removed measures that would have made it easier for vulnerable workers to unionize, removed protections for workers who work on tight schedules or in several locations, and a host of other policies violating workers' rights.

In Manitoba, Premier Pallister is launching an assault on public sector workers, including CCU affiliate AESES (Assoc. of Employees Supporting Education Services), who joined a coalition with other unions in the province to fight back, and taking the Pallister government to court last year to oppose its wage freeze.

This leads us to the upcoming federal election, where Andrew Scheer's Conservatives are currently leading in opinion polls. This blue wave at the provincial level could end up on the shores of the Ottawa River near the House of Commons.

The CCU is planning to continue its political education campaign "**Raise Your Voice, Cast Your Vote,**" by sending questionnaires to all five major political parties and sharing the responses with our membership. (In the past, the PC's were the only group to respond, even after repeated emails and phone calls).

We will continue to demand answers, and will be sure to ask all parties what their specific plans are to offset the resent blue wave assaults of the on the rights of workers and unions at the provincial level. The only thing that can stop a wave of anti-union government policies is a labour movement that is united and prepared to fight back at all costs.

In Solidarity,

KJ

<http://www.ccu-csc.ca/politics/>



Labour School, February 23-24 Vancouver, BC

Chateau Granville Hotel, Vancouver, BC

Saturday's Labour School began with a presentation on labour history with Professor Mark Leier from Simon Fraser University who gave an engaging (and musical!) presentation about three key moments in labour history in Canada, including: the 1872 "Fight for the 9 Hour Day" which included workers in Toronto and Hamilton; the 1912 Free Speech fight in Vancouver; and the Ford Plant strike of the 1940s in Windsor. The single largest take away from Mark's presentation was that labour movement success and gains for workers have historically come from struggle and have required that workers unite to confront oppressive action and fight for better conditions. *It is only through collective action that gains have been made in labour.* It was a highly informative lecture that included Mark strapping on a banjo and performing some classic labour songs to break up the presentation.

The next session was facilitated by the [Broadbent Institute](#) and focused on developing strong labour-oriented campaigns, labour organizing and some media/communications training related to labour campaigns. This session focused on the CCU but included information that is useful for unions such as ours because it got participants thinking about how to bring people together to build solidarity.

NDP's Critic for Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship, as well as Critic for Multiculturalism, MP Jenny Kwan (Vancouver East) was the key-note speaker. Kwan



focused on workers' rights and federal politics, specifically Temporary Foreign Workers (TFW): Caregiver stream. According to the Parliament of Canada

website ⁽¹⁾, between 2006 and 2014 more than 500,000 temporary foreign workers were brought to Canada. Approx. 5%

were hired as caregivers. The vast majority of caregivers are marginalized women, from underdeveloped Countries- (Philippines, China, and India), brought to Canada under false pretenses to care for the elderly, the infirm, and children. Working long hours, with no Job security, benefits and little pay. Seemingly indentured servants at the mercy of their employers. TFW are forced to pay employment insurance (EI) benefits, but at no time will they ever be able to collect. The intent was a temporary, stop-gap measure developed to help support Canadians. However, according to Kwan, after conducting hundreds of interviews with caregivers, the reality has been layers of lies and deception on the part the government, and the employers that have taken little or no action to stop the abuse of workers who are being exploited as cheap labour: powerless and without a voice. If they dare speak out about conditions in the home, or complain, they are sent home or threatened with being sent home. Most have very little money, what they have is sent home to care for their own. They make huge sacrifices coming to Canada in hopes of creating a better life for themselves and their families and the promise of permanent status in Canada. The workers have very few rights and freedoms and are not permitted to even apply for permanent status until they have worked for a minimum of two years (living in the employers home). After two years, if granted, the average wait is 5-7 years.

The influx of Temporary Foreign Workers has allowed the government to exploit workers and in doing so, deny Canadians the opportunity to receive adequate training and the resources needed to preform these duties. Pressure from wealthy families keep the wages below the poverty line. Instead, creating a trail of broken marriages and familial destruction for workers, who are forced to leave behind their own children, spouses, elderly parents, etc. for as many as 10

years or more in order to care for Canadians. No doubt creating multi-generational destruction for years to come.

MP Kwan wants to see a thorough review of the TFW process—"if workers are needed, ensure training for Canadians". She also wants organized labour to advocate for ALL workers, regardless if protected by a union or not.

MP Kwan also talked about the deplorable state of housing in Canada, especially for low-income and working class Canadians living in large, urban centres, and proposed a national housing strategy to end homelessness.

The CCU commended MP Kwan for her efforts in creating a public, universal [pharmacare system](#) and fighting for the rights of foreign-born workers in Canada, many of whom face discrimination and labour rights abuses.

On Sunday, prior to the business meet-



ing, a presentation was made by the Canada Research Chair in Global Indigenous Rights and Politics, UBC Professor

Sheryl Lightfoot, who talked to the group about the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Her talk covered: global patterns in the implementation of the Declaration; what's been happening with implementation in Canada; as well as practical pathways toward implementation here and abroad. If you've been following the news you know that there have been significant issues here in Canada in terms of enacting the recommendations within the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Final Report](#), which included the implementation of UNDRIP.

Winnipeg General Strike: History

Printed from: <https://www.cbc.ca/history/EPISCONTENTSEIPI2CH3PA2LE.html>

At the end of the First World War, soldiers didn't return home to find the better world that they had hoped for. Hard times settled over Canada and discontent increased. In Winnipeg, tensions would explode. In post-war Canada, war factories were shutting down, triggering bankruptcies and unemployment. Those with jobs could not keep up with inflation. The cost of living rose by 64 per cent over 1913. People also remembered the huge profits some manufacturers made during the war, seen to be at the expense of workers and soldiers.

Canadians were angry. Some wanted better wages and working conditions. Others just wanted jobs.

The atmosphere was ripe for revolt. An ordinary event was about to spark an extraordinary response.

On May 1, 1919, Winnipeg's building and metal workers went on strike for higher wages.

Two weeks later, the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council appealed for a general strike in support of the metal workers. The response was overwhelming. The first to walk out were the "Hello Girls," Winnipeg's telephone operators. By 11 a.m., 30,000 union and non-union workers had walked off the job.

"In Germany, I fed on grass and rats. I would prefer going back to eating grass than give up the freedom for which I fought so hard and suffered so much," a war veteran wrote in the striking workers newspaper.

A strike committee was formed and for six weeks, it virtually ran Winnipeg. Elevators shut down, trams stopped, postal and telephone communications came to a halt, and nothing moved without approval from the strike committee. Sympathy strikes were breaking out across the country.

In response, Winnipeg business leaders organized a "Citizens' Committee" to oppose the strike and turned to the federal government for help. Ottawa was listening.

It had been only 18 months since the Czar of Russia was overthrown, following a general strike in Petrograd and now the Canadian government feared a revolution at home.

"The leaders of the general strike are all revolutionists of varying degrees and types, from crazy idealists to ordinary thieves," said Arthur Meighen, Canada's Solicitor General.

James Shaver Woodsworth was a Protestant minister and social activist who joined the strike. He disagreed with Meighen:

"This strike is not engineered from Russia ... In reality the strike has nothing to do with revolution. It is an attempt to meet a very pressing

and immediate need. The organized workers like everyone else are faced with the high cost of living. Like most people they imagine that is if they can get higher wages they can buy more food ... "

Ottawa ordered the federal employees to return to work immediately or face dismissal. Believing that immigrants were behind the strike, the Canadian government amended the Immigration Act so British-born immigrants could be deported. The Criminal Code's definition of sedition (incitement to rebellion) was broadened.

Meanwhile, the mayor of Winnipeg, Charles Gray, fired most of the city police force. Many officers were sympathetic to the strikers and they were replaced with 1,800 special constables, recruited and paid for by the business community. The "Specials" received a horse and a baseball bat to keep order. The Royal North-West Mounted Police, the Red Coats, were also brought in.

On June 21, 1919, war veterans organized a parade to protest restrictions arising from the Winnipeg General Strike. A crowd of 6,000 people gathered before the city hall. (National Archives of Canada, PA-163001)



On June 10th, a riot broke out after the "Specials" tried to disperse a crowd listening to a speech. A few days later, the federal government arrested 12 union leaders, forbade the publication of the Western Labour News, and ordered the Mounted Police to put down demonstrations with any necessary force.

On June 21, 1919, war veterans organized a parade to protest the restrictions and a crowd of 6,000 people gathered before the city hall.

A streetcar, operated by strike-breakers, approached on its route. The veterans overturned it and set it on fire. The Mounted Police and the "Specials" charged the crowd.

"Then with revolvers drawn," editor of the Western Labour News, Fred Dixon reported, "[the Mounted Police] galloped down Main Street, turned, and charged right into the crowd on William Avenue, firing as they charged. One man, standing on the sidewalk, thought the Mounties were firing blank cartridges until a spectator standing beside him dropped with a bullet through his breast ... dismounted red coats lined up ... declaring military control."

On that Bloody Saturday, two strikers were killed, thirty-four others were wounded, and the police made 94 arrests. Fearing more violence, workers decided to call off the strike. On June 25, at exactly 11:00 in the morning, the strikers returned to work. Forty days after it began, the largest social revolt in Canadian history had been crushed.

Seven of the arrested strike leaders were convicted of a conspiracy to overthrow the government and sentenced to jail terms ranging from 6 months to 2 years. Protestant minister James Shaver Woodsworth was arrested but not convicted. He was elected to Parliament two years later.

Winnipeg General Strike: Permanent Monument

COMING SOON - STREETCAR TO SERVE AS PERMANENT MONUMENT TO WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE!

The strike was an important catalyst for the development of Canada's modern-day labour movement. One of the concrete take-aways from this seminal event in Canadian history is the most famous image of the tipped streetcar surrounded by onlookers photographed by L.B. Foote. Until last year, the only acknowledgment of this historical moment was a plaque hidden in the underground walkway beneath City Hall. The Winnipeg Arts Council is overseeing this project with help from Heritage Canada.

Sculptor Bernie Miller and I set out to create a memorial streetcar in bronze adjacent to the site of Bloody Saturday on the present-day Pantages Playhouse Plaza at Market and Main Street, one of the city's busiest intersections.

We wanted a visually impactful work illuminated at night, its angular profile sinking into the plaza's surface, connecting us back across the century to L.B. Foote's famous photo. DMS Industrial Contractors - a unionized shop - are preparing to weld the sub-frame for a replica of the Brill streetcar that was tipped off its tracks and set ablaze.

The overturned streetcar is one of the most enduring images from the six week-long strike. During this time, trolley car service was one of many services halted by the strike, as the city came to a near standstill, with only essential services continuing through coordination of the Strike Committee.

Then, on June 21, in the midst of a 30,000 strong peaceful rally at City Hall, a streetcar appeared on Main Street, in provocative defiance of the strike. The tipping of the streetcar, and the violent response by mounted police, which included shooting and killing Mike Sokowolski and Mike Schezerbanowicz (who died later of gangrene), is widely considered to have been the inevitable result of an economic elite bent on inciting anger and chaos to bring about an end to the strike.

With construction of the replica streetcar now well underway, we expect the art piece will be on display by next summer, serving as a permanent site to honour the legacy of the strike, to celebrate the important gains of the last century, and to organize for the debates and struggles still to come.



National Day of Mourning



Held annually in Canada on April 28, the CCU recognizes the National Day of Mourning and is dedicated to remembering workers who have lost their lives, or suffered injury of illness on the job, or due to a work related tragedy.

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety—<https://www.ccohs.ca/>

The Statistics - recent statistics from the Association of Workers' Compensation Boards of Canada (AWCBC) tell us that in 2017, 951 workplace fatalities were recorded in Canada, an increase of 46 from the previous year. Among these deaths were 23 young workers aged 15-24. Add to these fatalities the 251,508 accepted claims (an increase from 241,508 the previous year) for lost time due to a work-related injury or disease, including 31,441 from workers aged 15-24, and the fact that these statistics only include what is reported and accepted by the compensation boards, there is no doubt that the total number of workers impacted is even greater.

Observance - The National Day of Mourning is not only a day to remember and honour those lives lost or injured due to a workplace tragedy, but also a day to collectively renew our commitment to improve health and safety in the workplace and prevent further injuries, illnesses and deaths. On April 28th the Canadian flag will fly at half-mast on Parliament Hill and on all federal government buildings. Employers and workers will observe Day of Mourning in a variety of ways. Some light candles, lay wreaths, wear commemorative pins, ribbons or black armbands, and pause for a moment of silence at 11:00 a.m. (see affiliate photos on page)

History - Workers' Memorial Day⁽¹⁾ was started when two labour activists, Colin Lambert & Dr. Ray Sentes, who were driving in early April 1983 to a union meeting, and were stopped by a funeral procession for a firefighter that had been killed in the line of duty. They worried that other workers who died because of work did not receive similar honours. Lambert and Sentes sought endorsements from union officials for the idea to hold a national day of mourning. The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) passed a resolution to that effect at its annual convention in 1983, and the Canadian Labour Congress followed suit at its annual convention the following year. The AFL-CIO declared a day of mourning in 1989 and a "workers' Memorial Day" is observed in over 100 countries. In December 1990, this day became a national observance in Canada with the passing of the Workers Mourning Day Act, so that on April 28, 1991, it was officially the National Day of Mourning for persons killed or injured in the workplace; making April 28, an official Workers' Mourning Day.

(1) BC Labour Heritage Centre (2017-04-20), Day of Mourning The Untold Story (2017), retrieved 2018-05-09

Images from Vancouver, BC



Affiliate Reports

Assoc. of Employees Supporting Education Services (AESES)

By: Leanne Shumka

To commemorate this historic time in Winnipeg and union history, AESES has been involved in many commemorative events. We kicked things off with our annual Members' Day free lunches to celebrate May Day at the three campus locations. A Ukrainian dinner was offered to celebrate the Ukrainian Labour Temple's role in the Winnipeg General Strike which also celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. On May 8-11, 2019 (four) AESES board members, joined by CCU members Kelly Johnson, Scarlett Farquhar, Wanda Hollingshead and Breanne Whitwell, attended the Winnipeg General Strike Centenary Conference at the University of Winnipeg. We had a great time learning about past and current labour issues together and meeting potential new CCU members.

On May 15, AESES held a lunch-time rally at the University of Manitoba with other unions on campus to commemorate the start of the strike 100 year ago at 11am. AESES also had a table at the Manitoba Building Trades Gala Dinner on the evening of May 15th which interested AESES members got to attend by luck of the draw and had a wonderful time listening to guest speakers and live music. On Saturday May 25, 2019, AESES had a float with live band strumming and singing labour songs followed by a walking group in the Solidarity Forever Parade! The theme of our float was "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants". We had members on the float represent 1919 strikers as telephone and elevator operators, two members represented the AESES strikers of 1975, and another two members represented the struggles of current day – Fight for \$15 and Pharmacare for All. Next up, AESES is hosting a 1919 Strike Bus Tour for

members at the subsidized cost of \$5 per person on the morning of Saturday June 8. The narrated tour will re-tell strike events, explain where they occurred, highlight former social and economic conditions that led to the strike, and share stories about key personalities involved. Tour attendees can then go enjoy the free concert at Old Market Square sponsored by MGEU in the afternoon. On June 21, 2019 AESES is hosting a night at Rainbow Stage to view Strike! The Musical in conjunction with the CCU Executive-Board meeting being held in Winnipeg on June 22-23, 2019. AESES members will get a chance to get a sizable reduction on the cost of a ticket to the June 21st performance, where we will sit with some of our brothers and sisters of the CCU.

AESES is also offering six one-time essay prizes of \$500 for AESES members or their spouses/dependents on the topic of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike. The winning essays will be published on the AESES website in June/July.

We've been doing all these 1919 Strike activities on top of our regular ones. The annual AESES Scholarship for dependents in post-secondary studies is open for application until June 30. Our Education Committee offered six seminars for Spring 2019 which were free or low cost. The sessions included a history seminar on the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg, as well as painting, ukulele, fitness and cooking classes. The Activities Committee offered a bingo bowling and pizza event in February, complete with prizes for winning teams to shake off the winter blues. They are currently offering group rates to attend the Goldeyes baseball game on Sunday, June 9 to soak up the sun. We look forward to a restful and sunny July and August to recharge and get ready for the Fall "run of show".

In Solidarity, LS



Affiliate Reports Cont'd.

Canadian Union of Skilled Workers (CUSW)

By: Geoff Denstedt

Spring Safety Rollouts have just finished up at Hydro One. During these Safety Rollouts, our partner Hydro One acknowledges our apprentices that have recently completed their apprenticeship's. Pictured below is a recent graduate of our apprenticeship program, Dan Plourde, accepting his award from our Hydro One Eastern Steward Chad Guindon, Ottawa-Kingston Unit Executive Todd Edwards, and Hydro One Eastern Superintendent Kurtis Jackson.



From Left to Right: Chad Guindon, Todd Edwards, Daniele Plourde, and Kurtis Jackson

Hydro One and CUSW recently celebrated the graduation of 40 apprentices throughout Hydro One across the province of Ontario. Congratulations to all apprentices who have recently become Journeypersons within our AGC (Apprenticeship Governance Council).

May 10th and 11th are the dates for our annual hockey tournament, being held at Upper Canada College in Toronto. This year will see 6 teams participating at our tournament, with the

Greater Durham Region looking to claim back to back National Titles. The teams participating this year are the Central Unit, Greater Durham Region Unit, Southwest Lines, Bremar Construction OPG, Montgomery Industrial Bruce, and Montgomery Industrial OPG. Thank you to Peter Baird, Paul Pavao, and everyone involved for organizing a successful tournament.

Skills Ontario recently held their skills competition in Toronto. This year was the 30th celebration of the event, which puts the spotlight on the apprenticeship program of the skilled trades in Ontario. Bruce Unit Executives Chris Cover and Lindsay Abbott attended the event and participated in the Women's Conference, meeting and greeting potential apprentices. It was amazing to hear that over 1200 young women expressed an interest in the apprenticeship programs that are offered in Ontario. The shortage of skilled workers in Canada has been a concern for many provinces and has received the much needed attention in Ontario, with the federal and provincial governments offering various incentives to attract these potential candidate's to the apprenticeship programs. Skills Ontario is a great example of Colleges and School Boards bridging the gap of the skilled workforce shortage.

The Canadian Union of Skilled Workers is proudly celebrating 20 years of existence as a Canadian Trade Union. We will be having a family day at Canada's Wonderland in Vaughan on Saturday June 15th to help celebrate this milestone. The following weekend will see another celebration in the Kawartha's on Buckhorn Lake at Anchor Bay Marina and Campgrounds. This is the location of our National Fishing Derby and is attended by many members and their family's. Hopefully, weather will be on our side for both events. During the year, many of our Units will be embracing our accomplishments and acknowledging all the hard work that has been done by many during this journey. Many organization's believed that the Canadian Union of Skilled Workers would not last six months! They did not know how tenacious and persistent our President Joe Mulhall was, as well as the many members that helped create this wonderful Canadian Union!!

In closing, the Canadian Union of Skilled Workers and the Support Staff at COPE 343 would like to wish all the affiliates of the Confederation of Canadian Unions and their families a safe and wonderful summer.



Affiliate Reports Cont'd.

**Construction Maintenance Allied Workers Canada
(CMAW) Local 2020 Vancouver Island, Sunshine Coast
By: Andrew Brown**

Chinook Scaffold Systems

With the expertise and guidance of Chinook Scaffold Systems, HARMAC Pulp Mill & Powell River Pulp Mill successfully completed their annual maintenance shutdown!

During a shutdown at a pulp and paper mill, the company will typically inject significant dollars and resources into a detailed maintenance plan, often once or twice per year. This involves the coordination of several trades (millwrights, pipefitters, welders, etc.) who are given access to the mill in order to perform routine and non-routine maintenance and testing. Maintenance projects include but are not limited to: rebuilding boilers in the steam plant, adding new piping, rebuilding pumps, new wiring, adding rollers, replacing chains on conveyers, etc. Whatever is needed in order to keep the mill operating safely and efficiently.

Frequently scaffolding is required in order for the trades/workers to safely access specific worksites in the mill. Below are examples of the scaffold structures created by CMAW members at Chinook Scaffold Systems.



Pacific Building Systems (Pacific Truss/Wall Division)

Celebrating 60 years!!

In 1969 Pacific Builders' Supplies started manufacturing roof trusses, making them the oldest truss manufacturer on Vancouver Island. Twelve years later Pacific Homes was established offering a smart, fast and affordable way to build a home.

Founded in 1959 by Ken McKinnon as Pacific Builders' Supplies in Cobble Hill on Vancouver Island, the company has gone from strength to strength. Still operating as a family business, now run by Ken's sons, Pacific Homes/Truss literally spans the globe.

West Point Wall Systems -15 employees are on site at the Tapestry Building in Victoria, BC

Site "C" - on-going call out for carpenters

Affiliate Reports

By: NSUPE

April 28th, Day of Mourning, saw the entire country take pause to remember those who lost their lives at work, or due to work related injuries.

In Nova Scotia, there was a staggering forty (40) lives lost in 2018 to job related injuries, workplace accidents or illness from the workplace. For each life lost, a flag was placed in the lawn at Province House and many gathered for the ceremony to lay wreaths to remember those who lost their lives. NSUPE President, and Local 14 Interim President, Shelby Kennedy participated in the Nova Scotia ceremony along with Local 22 President, Robert Styles.

Prince Edward Island has seen a much lower incident of work-related injuries and accidents and only one (1) life was lost in 2018 in PEI. NSUPE Treasurer and Local 19 President, Tanya Harrell along with Local 19 Secretary, Patti Hooley attended the ceremony in PEI at St.

Paul's Church Hall in Charlottetown.

May 1st saw a rally of approximately sixty (60) gather in downtown Halifax to focus on the solidarity of workers. Highlighting minimum wage workers; the lowest wages in the country can be found in Saskatchewan, \$11.06/hr; workers who have little protection in the workplace, face poor working conditions and migrant workers. A letter of demands was hand-delivered to the Minister of Labour during the rally. There were many speakers at the rally, but one of notable interest was a migrant justice activist who presented the case of a local migrant worker who has allegedly experienced extortion by their employer.

May 1st also saw the Centennial celebration of the Halifax General Strike of 1919. While obviously much smaller in scale than the Winnipeg General Strike. The Halifax General Strike was against war profiteering and the exploitation of the construction trades in the wake of

the Halifax Explosion of December 6, 1917. It was the largest strike in the history of Halifax which saw 1,100 building trades workers go out on strike.

Link to May Day Rally article: <https://nsadvocate.org/2019/05/01/may-day-2019-in-halifax-justice-for-all-workers-including-migrant-workers/>

Link to Halifax General Strike article: <https://nsadvocate.org/2019/05/01/this-may-1st-is-the-100th-anniversary-of-the-halifax-general-strike-of-1919/>



Did you know...

The founding convention of the Confederation of Canadian Unions was held in Sudbury, ON, July 1969.



CCU Spotlight—Scarlett Farquhar

In each issue, we will spotlight a member of the CCU. This issue, Dawn Burns sat down with CCU Treasurer, Scarlett Farquhar:

Circa 1988 (18-something year old) Scarlett!

- Q. What are your plans after high school? A: *Open own riding school at my farm in Lakefield or go to Law School*
- Q. Where did you grow up? A: *Beaches area of Toronto*
- Q. Are you a good student? A: *Yes – quite good*
- Q. Most memorable job? A: *working at a City of Toronto pool as a “gate keeper”*
- Q. 8-track, cassette or vinyl? A: *All three*
- Q. Favourite band? Favourite song? A: *Gosh – tie between Alphaville (Forever Young) and Platinum Blonde (It Doesn't Really Matter)*
- Q. If you could go back in time and change one thing, what would it be? A: *To give my Grandma Kathleen (Kitty) Belson one last hug and kiss before she passed away.*
- Q. Career aspirations? A: *Lawyer*
- Q. Most memorable travel destination? A: *Dependant on the year: Summer of 1983 – Belgium with my sister Helen; 1988/89 – Switzerland for Grade 13*
- Q. Best friend? A: *Erin Trenholm*
- Q. Favourite food? A: *Pasta*
- Q. Favourite author? A: *Judy Blume – Are you there God, it's me Margaret or Harper Lee's “To Kill a Mockingbird”*
- Q. Favourite Movie? A: *Breakfast Club or Sixteen Candles*
- Q. What makes you laugh? A: *My friends*



2019 (40 something), year old Scarlett

- Q. Did your plans change? A: *Oh heck ya!*
- Q. Where do you live now? A: *Still in Toronto*
- Q. What is your educational background? A: *Degree in Sociology; Professional Aquatics designations; started a Certificate in Disaster and Emergency Management*
- Q. Most memorable job? A: *Working at the delivery gates of the CNE over 2 summers getting free chocolate milk and caramel corn*
- Q. CD's, live-stream? A: *CD's*
- Q. Favourite band? Favourite song? A: *Anything 80's*
- Q. Same Question. If you could go back in time and change one thing, what would it be? A: *Oh gosh – probably stick with playing all my musical instruments I used to play.*
- Q. Career Choice? A: *Aquatics—anything to do with a pool—that's me!*
- Q. Most memorable travel destination? A: *Too hard to pinpoint one: I would say in 2000 for my 30th birthday – travelling to Scotland and England with my mom; Dominican Republic in 2003 when my husband proposed (with the help of our 4 month old daughter Isabella); Family trip to Italy, Switzerland and France in 2017.*
- Q. Best friend? A: *Still Erin (Trenholm) Vienneau all these years later*
- Q. Favourite food? A: *Cheese fondue (the real Swiss kind)*
- Q. Favourite author? Favourite book? A: *Any crime fiction and true crime – Kathy Reichs and Jonathan or Faye Kellerman*
- Q. Favourite movie? A: *Still anything John Hughes, Grease or Wizard of Oz*
- Q. What makes you laugh now? A: *My kids*

Next issue will feature: Leanne Shumka, CCU Secretary!

CCU Affiliate Reports Cont'd.

PPWC National

By: Todd Smith, 1st Vice-President

Hello Brothers & Sisters, I am always wondering what our memberships want to hear about from a 1st Vice-President; current events, empathy for the world, history of unions, who I am, what I see for the future for unions, your union, my union or even unions in general. So many various topics. To be completely honest, I think the biggest challenge for unions in general, is connecting with the young worker. I can't really blame them. We can sometimes seem like loud, aggressive alpha types who seemingly force our opinion down workers throats. Let's face it, the majority of workers don't even see the need for a union. They just go about their day, working and supporting their family while collecting pay and taking vacations. Here's the kicker; all of the window

dressings like vacations, benefits, job security, and pensions are because of unions. I believe that all of us take these luxuries for granted. What I mean is, I didn't fight for any of these things. Much braver and greater people than I did. They risked and sacrificed everything to fight for what they believed in, even endangering their lives. I must say that I have been truly blessed in my life by all of this window dressing.

As I get older and closer to the end of my journey, I see things differently then I once did. I think one of my most important rolls is to inspire our future by not only reflecting on our past, but by also listening to the young worker. By understanding that I cannot walk in their shoes as mine are worn, I cannot see through their eyes, but I can and will listen to their voice. It is vital that we all have a hand in and make sure a hand

reaches out to carry on with such a precious torch. Unfortunately, this work can be under appreciated, exhausting, selfless, and employers may target you at times. It is also extremely rewarding to help others, but it does come with personal sacrifice. However, through this comes strength and with strength comes solidarity, and this is the bases of all unions or it should be. You, we, us, collectively preserve, improve and protect the workers balance from discriminatory acts, improve monetary compensation, protect the workers right to be safe among so many other rights and earned benefits. My last words are shame to any union if they forget whom they serve because our Union should or would never be 'me' or 'I'. It will always be 'you, us and yours.'

In solidarity, TS



Photo: Paper Excellence marks its Formal Transfer of Ownership in Crofton

From left to right: PPWC National 1st Vice-President Todd Smith, BC Premier John Horgan, PPWC Local 2 President Lynn Lindeman, North Cowichan MLA Doug Routley.

Photo: The Catalyst paper mill on Hay Road in Crofton, BC. Paper Excellence is the new owner.

Photograph By Catalyst paper



Affiliate Reports Cont'd.

PPWC Local 1

By: Quinn Glock

Hello all CCU members. Hope all is going well. Here in Castlegar much like the rest of the Country we have traded the grey colour of winter for the green colour of spring. The hibernation has officially ended. Along with the renewed blossoms came a new mill manager. Our new mill manager is extremely out going and it's safe to say he has met at least three quarters of all employees. The engagement process is nothing like anything we have seen in the past few years. From town hall meetings to hitting the floor without stunt doubles or bodyguards to introduce himself to the workforce. This guy does his own stunts. The new manager has been a breath of fresh air so far, we hope going forward his excitement for engaging with the workforce continues. This past April along with our sisters and brothers of Local 26 (Selkirk College) we hosted the PPWC Annual Convention. The week went so fast with a good mixture of business and pleasure. Having an opportunity to show case what our area has to offer and the people who make it what it is. We would like to thank all those who came, hope you had a great time. To tell the truth my fingers were crossed that our "Cancel-gar" Airports reputation wouldn't live up to its name... Whew.

On May 21 of this year our Contracting Out Committee members, both Union and company spent a day going over all the language that pertains to Contracting Out in our CA and it's intent. Wait for it...With our Lawyer...This was part of a settlement reached to avoid arbitration over a blanket contracting out notice grievance. Over the past few years we have compiled grievances of contravention's the company has committed repeatedly. With very little redress. Maybe get an OPPs or we'll try and do better next time, or nothing at all. Past arbitration's and rulings from arbitrators surrounding contracting out language was also part of

the meetings context. Quite a few bells were going off with so many similarity's on the table in front of everyone. Hopefully this will put us on better ground. Anyhow, that's about it right now. Have a safe summer, enjoy. In Solidarity, QG

PPWC Local 8

By: Rod Gallant

Local 8 has had a lot going on lately. At Harmac negotiations have begun. We held a Special called meeting with the membership and all items were approved and the whole agenda passed unanimously. We have exchanged our agendas and now reviewing them.

The reality of the pulp markets has hit home lately and with the prices as low as 600 a ton. Its not making it easy right now for Harmac. China has stopped buying and we figure its due to the trade conflict between the USA and China. Fiber costs are also at their highest with us having to chip whole logs on our mill site with a portable chipper. On a positive note we are running excellent with the capital changes we have invested in the mill and the maintenance that was done on the shutdown.

Nanaimo Forest Products, Harmac, has been participating in the BC Coast Forestry Revitalization Initiative by the BC Government to better utilize the timber on the coast for the benefit of manufactures. Legislation has been adopted that will require timber holders to bring more timber out of the forests and make it available to solid wood and pulp and paper manufacturers. It is early but are hopeful the efforts will result in more available fibre at lower cost than sourcing it from outside our region.

Local 8 Certs.

We have doing good with remanufactured wood at one of our plants but at the small log mill its had downtime due to the economy we are told. We firmly believe it has

to do with the changes the BC Government is putting into place and the large forest company isn't liking the changes. Some of the sawmills here are in contract negotiations with a different Union and the talks have broken off. This could have something to do with the company shutting down the mill sites. We have contract negotiations starting with the same company later this year. We hope this isn't the start of it for us as well.

Looks like summer is arriving early here on the coast as the weather has been beautiful and sunny. This doesn't help the dried-out forests and camp fire bans are already in place. Looks like it may be another hot and dry summer. Take care be safe. In solidarity, RG

PPWC Local 9

By: Ron Richardson

Well here we go again, it's that time of the year where we put away all of the winter gear, and get the old trailers and gas masks out from hibernation for the what I like to call the 5 season "smoke season", just kidding! Anyways I always look forward to this time of year to get out and enjoy at least a couple of weekends with the family camping and getting out in nature. Things are usually pretty calm at this time of the year around Local 9, but this year Pacific BioEnergy is starting to bargain their collective agreement at the end of June it was up in April but unfortunately there was a fire at the plant which put a stop to the bargaining. Elsewhere in the Local things have been pretty much status quo with everyone ramping up for holidays. Well hope everyone enjoys the summer holidays and remember to stay safe out there.

The link for Local 9's Website -<http://ppwclocal9.com/>

In solidarity, RR

Affiliate Reports Cont'd.

PPWC Local 26—Selkirk College **Rod Fayant & Susan Kanigan**

Greetings From Local 26,

Summer is upon the college and as such we are in the midst of evaluation of the past year, along with preparing for the upcoming year. This year's closing will include two commencement ceremonies to accommodate the number of students attending and graduating from the programs.

Selkirk College will play host to thirty International students along with thirty students from Quebec as part of the ESL (English as a Second Language) Program. The college will also play host to fiddlers and young golfers learning to golf over the summer. The students will participate in workshops with the fiddlers entertaining visitors and locals, capping off the summer with a concert.

The numbers are in for the Full Time Enrollment (FTE) Report of

2018/2019. Overall, there was a 4% decrease in FTEs with domestic students declining by 10.17%. However, international students increased by 15%.

The college has submitted its 2019/2020 budget to the Board of Governors for approval. Overall, it represents a 10.1% increase (\$5.2 million) from the previous year. The increase is driven by an increase in government grants (\$1.6 million), international and domestic tuition revenue (\$1.5 million), other revenue including contracts (\$1.4 million), and deferred capital contributions (\$417,705). The plan for the increase is to support the increasing need for services and to achieve its new five year strategic plan – Building Remarkable Futures while still meeting mandates and commitments to the government.

Items that the college will be supporting include strengthening program development, quality assurance, and renewal processes to ensure that the college follows provincial quality standards. It will also be

focusing on Indigenous ways of knowing and programming, a permanent senior administrative position in Indigenous affairs, improving work integrated learning opportunities for students, improve enrollment services, expand its institutional research ability, and improving the college's website to better align with the launch of the enterprise resource planning software (the college has been implementing a multimillion dollar software upgrade). Also, the new budget is looking to improve the college's Healthy Workplace which includes improved recruitment & retention processes, diversity & inclusion, and leadership development.

The end of year banquet to honor those with notable years of service and those retiring included our very own Susan Kanigan who will be retiring in January 2020. I would like to personally give Susan best wishes on her upcoming retirement. Susan has been actively involved in our Local and is presently our CCU rep.

In Solidarity, RF & SK

PPWC Local 15

By: Tim Strachan

We currently have 222 active members, 67 of which have less than 5 years seniority. We are hoping our newer members take advantage of the new *Young Workers Committee* that was struck at the April Convention.

The Local has signed a Casual Manning Agreement with the Company as our major shutdown began in late May.

The Company has finally found a new HR manager, eight months after our last manager left the Mill. We currently have 9 grievances to go to Third Stage. Arbitration dates for the Shop Stewards Attending Safety Investigations are slated for September 25th to 27th.

(right) Local 15 donated a set of hockey jerseys to a kids' team attending a Friendship tournament in Japan. "The Brothers from Different Mothers" looked like winners according to the pictures they sent.

Our new Webmaster has been busy updating our webpage and it is looking great so far.

Fraternally, TS

"Brothers from Different Mothers"



Affiliate Reports Cont'd.

York University Staff Association (YUSA)

By Breanne Whitwell

Bargaining Highlights

On January 23rd, 2019 after 6 long months of bargaining, Unit 1 YusApuY members voted to ratify a new collective agreement. In addition to a wage increase consistent with our faculty colleagues on campus (a nearly unprecedented achievement in YUSA history!) our bargaining team was able to negotiate much-appreciated gains in benefits such as massage therapy, dental and vision care by limiting the value of orthotics. Unfortunately, we were unable to bargain better benefits for our retirees. We successfully negotiated additional bereavement leave for grandparents and grandchildren. We were also able to negotiate better language regarding seniority accrual for our Unit 1 members who are working limited term contracts rather than working in a continuing position. Our Unit 2 Bargaining was halted throughout the most recent CUPE 3903 strike and then set aside to negotiate our Unit 1 contract.

Despite a pay equity exercise in 2015, our Unit 2 members have been without a newly negotiated contract since 2006. Having said that, we remain committed to fight for as much as we can for our Unit 2 members who are working in precarious conditions without access to sick leave, benefits or our pension. We have a mediation date related to bargaining coming up in September.

Job Evaluation Projects

We have a series of job evaluation projects underway jointly with the Employer, including: updating our job evaluation benchmarks; developing a new online process for our job evaluation system; and creating a new process to ensure that we're regularly monitoring the banding of our Unit 2 positions, a process known as "sore-thumbings". In terms of member support for Job-E, we've had positive feedback from our video series related to job evaluation, so we intend to create more of them, and are regularly hosting information sessions at both our Keele and Glendon campuses. We're also setting up a committee to rate Unit 2 jobs and ensure that they're being assigned to pay bands correctly. It's important that we do this so that we can ensure that our Unit 2 members are being paid correctly.

Grievances

We've been filing a lot of grievances! The grievances have been for several issues, but this year the full-time Officers have been meeting regularly to review every single "management" job that's posted, and we've been filing grievances where we feel the positions should have been in the bargaining unit.

Policing Contracts

YUTA (York University Temporary Agency) – these contracts are intended to be 3 months long. If there are exceptional circumstances, then the employer can ask for an extension to these contracts but YusApuY must grant such a request. We've been scrutinizing these contract extension requests very closely and if there isn't a valid reason for the extension request then we've been denying these requests. We don't want the employer to be circumventing posting jobs as Unit 1 jobs by using YUTA placements and then extending and extending these positions.

Unit 1 – we've also been asking for rationales for the extension of Unit 1 contracts. Sometimes there are legitimate reasons for extending contracts, but if there isn't, we've been denying these requests as well. Our position is, if there is continuing work, it should be posted as a

continuing position with better job security, not as a temporary contract. In many cases, the employer will say that they need to post the position as a temporary contract because they don't know if they will have funding for the position in the future or because the "department is re-evaluating its needs". If we accept these rationales, then the employer could make pretty much every YusApuY position a temporary contract, because really there is never any 100% guarantee that there will be funding in the future, and departments are pretty much always reassessing their needs. We're cracking down on this.

Health and Safety Changes

The Ministry of Labour revoked our multi-site certificate (as they are doing for all multi-site committees) for our Joint Health and Safety committee, and we've been required to reimagine our approach to health and safety. The result is a new structure and format for all the JHSCs on campus. In April 2019, York shifted from five union-based JHSCs (of which YUSA comprised one committee) to 23 area-based JHSCs, where YUSA will have representation on each committee where YUSA members work in the area. We are currently working as part of a Steering Group to determine how to implement the changes and are actively recruiting new members to our Health and Safety Committee who will also sit on the JHSC of their area.

Cross-Campus Alliance

Related to the recent government announcements in the post-secondary sector, through our Cross-Campus Alliance (CCA) – a group of all worker and student unions across York's campuses – we are working to exert pressure on the administration to uphold the funding of student unions and otherwise working collectively to address issues on campus that affect us all, such as: transit, health and safety, and advancing the "15 and fairness" campaign. We're also discussing shared concerns about the pension and exploring possibilities related to coordinated bargaining.

Ontario Government

The current Conservative Provincial government is creating a difficult environment for unionized workers across the province, but especially for public sector unions like ours. Most of the gains workers achieved under Bill 148 have already been repealed. This has already directly impacted our membership. For example, our Unit 2 members have lost their 3 paid sick days per year. Despite these challenges, this is not the time for us to back down. The legislation that affects us often swings like a pendulum with one government coming in and eroding the rights of workers until another government comes in and enhances those rights. Right now, we're experiencing the former, but our job right now is to stand our ground to maintain the rights and protections this union has struggled for over 40 years to achieve. We're working hard to do this and achieve gains where we can. Our strength is our solidarity, both with each other within our union, and with our allies across the university, city, province and country. To each of you, we give thanks for your continued camaraderie as we endure this difficult provincial landscape. Let's hope we come together to ensure a different federal outcome this fall.

In solidarity,
BW

Winnipeg General Strike: Recommended Reading List

1919 A GRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE

By Graphic History Collective and David Lester (2019)

This graphic novel introduces the strike to new generations, including the power of class struggle and solidarity, and the brutal tactics that governments and business used to crush workers' movements.

1919, THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE: A DRIVING AND WALKING TOUR

By Gerry Berkowski and Nolan Reilly (1986; 2019)

A driving and walking tour that introduces the reader to important historical sites of the General Strike. Updated and reissued in 2019.

WINNIPEG 1919: THE STRIKERS' OWN HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE

By the Winnipeg Defence Committee (1975 & 2019)

Union leaders published this account of the events leading up to and during the strike. Their volume is one of the most significant primary source describing the workers' experiences.

THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE OF 1919

By J. M. Bumsted (1994)

A chronological narrative of more than one hundred photographs and illustrations, quotations from contemporary documents, eyewitness accounts, family stories, and personal memoirs.

WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE: ORDINARY MEN AND WOMEN UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

By Michael Dupuis (2018)

A behind-the-scenes look at the Winnipeg Strike and the stories and impacts of the citizens; what secrets have remained to this day?

CONFRONTATION AT WINNIPEG: LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, AND THE GENERAL STRIKE

by David Jay Bercuson (1990)

An examination of the development of union labours and the impact of the depression and war in the two decades preceding the strike.

MAGNIFICENT FIGHT: THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE

By—Dennis Lewycky (2019)

An analysis of the social, political and economic conditions leading up to the strike, as well as the effects the strike had on workers, unions and all three levels of government in the following decades.

WE'RE GOING TO RUN THIS CITY

By Stefan Epp-Koop (2015)

An exploration of the dynamic political movement that came out of the Winnipeg Strike in Canadian history and the ramifications for Winnipeg throughout the 1920s and 1930s.

WINNIPEG'S GENERAL STRIKE: REPORTS FROM THE FRONT LINES

By Michael Dupuis (2014)

An exploration of the impact the media had on the most influential strike in Canadian history. In an information age dominated by newspapers and magazines, the public turned to reporters and editors for answers.

WHEN THE STATE TREMBLED: HOW A.J. ANDREWS AND THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE BROKE THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE

By Reinhold Kramer

The story of the Citizens' Committee – a group formed by Winnipeg's business elite to crush the revolt with anti-labour tactics and to sustain the status quo.

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You received this newsletter because you subscribe to the CCU listserv. The communications committee team works hard to deliver timely, good quality information. However, we apologize in advance if we inadvertently omitted any information or made an error. Please consider the men and women working in the forestry industry/pulp mills and print this newsletter as many times as you deem necessary.

National Day of Mourning: Affiliate Photos



Photo by Alex Deevy



Photo by Alex Deevy



Photo by Alex Deevy

Labour Lyrics: Union Burying Ground

Lyrics—By Woody Guthrie. This tune was featured on Guthrie's 1941 album *Struggle*, and was written to commemorate everyone who died in labour actions in the early 20th century.

I see they're low'ring a right new coffin,
I see they're letting down a right new coffin,
Way over in that union burying ground.

And the new dirt's a falling on a right new coffin,
The new dirt's a falling on a right new coffin,
Way over in that union burying ground.

Oh, tell me, who's that they're letting down, down?
Tell me, who's that they're letting down, down?
Way over in that union burying ground.

Another union organizer,
Another union organizer,
Way over in that union burying ground.

A union brother and a union sister,
A union brother and a union sister,
Way over in that union burying ground.

A union father and a union mother,
A union father and a union mother,
Way over in that union burying ground.

Well, I'm a gonna sleep in a union coffin,
I'm a gonna sleep in a union coffin,
Way over in that union burying ground.

Every new grave brings a thousand new ones,
Every new grave brings a thousand members,
Way over in that union burying ground.

Every new grave brings a thousand brothers,
And every new grave brings a thousand sisters
To the union in that union burying ground.