

BC LABOUR  
HERITAGE  
CENTRE

2016 annual  
report

*Vancouver*  
**WORKING CLASS  
& LABOUR HISTORY  
WALKING TOURS**  
WALK WITH US

OPEN GUIDED TOURS ONCE A MONTH,  
MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER -  
WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM

Private tours available anytime  
for groups of 6 - 16.  
We request a \$10 donation from  
each participant.  
Sign up or book your own tour:  
[www.labourheritagecentre.ca  
/projects/walkingtour](http://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/projects/walkingtour)  
(604) 419-0400

# 2016: A Year of Change

The past year was a big year for organizational change for the BC Labour Heritage Centre.

The Board agreed to the idea of hiring an Executive Director that would take over many of the administrative and HR duties currently done by the chair. The process for selection of an ED, including a job description, was approved by the Board at a subsequent meeting and in July, Donna Sacuta was hired to the part time position, effective January 1, 2017.

As well, provision was made in the 2017 budget to provide for the hiring of an additional staff person.

In addition to the projects highlighted in this report, we have a dedicated group of public school teachers working to produce a new labour studies curriculum for high schools. Labour education officers are also working to develop teaching modules for unions to be used in shop steward and officer training.

We are working to share as much as possible with our friends on social media and are looking forward to a website upgrade this year.

If you don't already, please encourage your organization to become a sponsor of the BC Labour Heritage Centre to help us continue with our important work.

Ken Novakowski, Chair  
BC Labour Heritage Centre

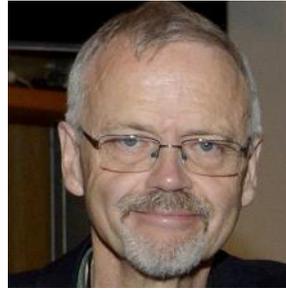
# 2017 Board of Directors



**Ken Novakowski**  
Chair



**Joey Hartman**  
Vice Chair



**Al Cornes**  
Treasurer



**Donna Sacuta**  
Executive Director



**Mike Clarke**



**Johanna den Hertog**



**Bob Dhaliwal**



**Aaron Ekman**



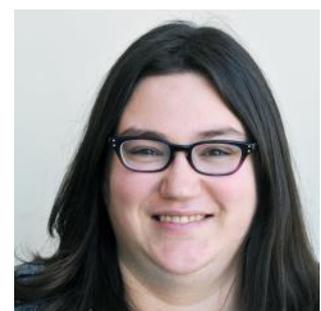
**Amber Hockin**



**Michelle Laurie**



**Lee Loftus**



**Karen Ranalletta**



**Brooke Sundin**



**Annette Toth**

**Sponsors:** Bargaining Council of BC Building Trade Unions • BC Federation of Labour • BC Government and Service Employees' Union • BC Teachers' Federation • CUPE BC • LiUNA Local 1611 • Movement of United Professionals • United Steelworkers District 3 and USW National Office • United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1518

Here are a few projects the BC Labour Heritage Centre supported in 2016

## Plaques around the province

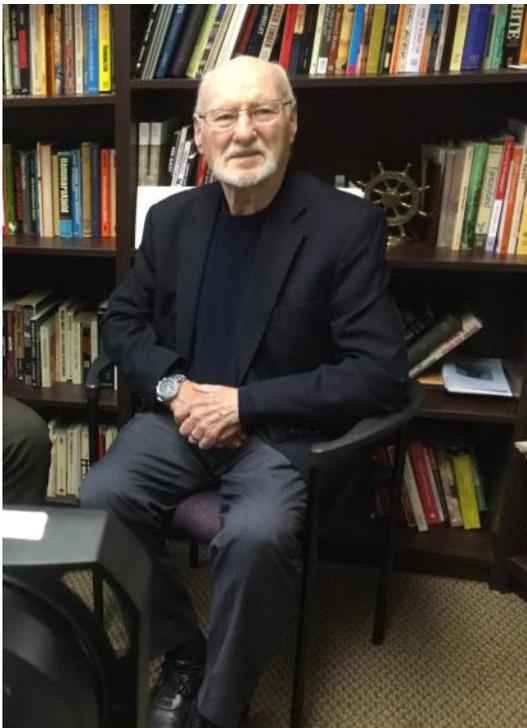
In 2016 we cast six new bronze plaques in communities such as Barriere, Cumberland, Prince George, Kitimat and Armstrong. The project aims to demonstrate the contributions of working people to the history of British Columbia.

We have partnered with unions and community groups to produce the plaques and many more are planned for 2017.

Funding for this project has come from plaque sponsors, WorkSafeBC and the Boag Foundation.



## Oral histories of Labour pioneers



The BC Labour Oral History Project has been conducting audio and video interviews with working people involved in the history of British Columbia since March 2016. The Project has a short list of individuals which it is currently pursuing interviews with. Suggestions to the Project for potential future interview subjects are welcomed.

As well, the BCLHC, through its partnership with the BC Teachers' Federation on the Labour History Project, has been involved in conducting interviews of BCTF past presidents.

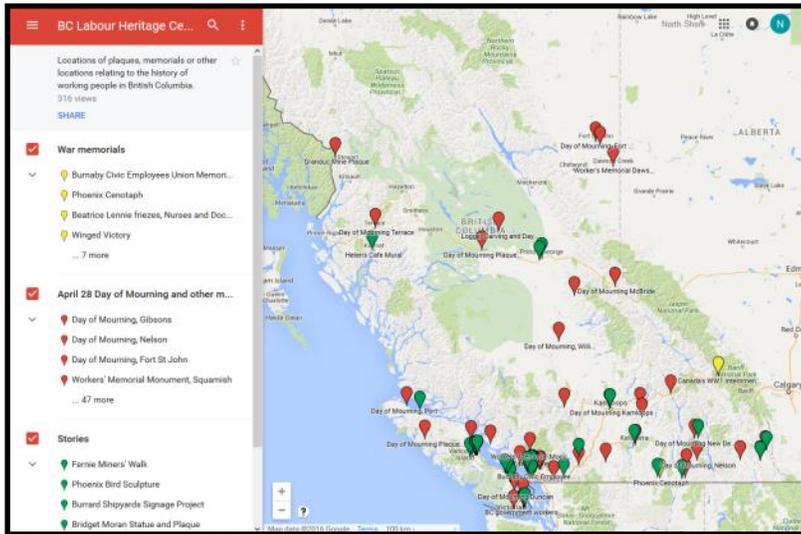
To date, we have conducted 14 full-length oral history interviews with notable individuals in BC labour history, and 33 shorter interviews based on historic labour events in BC. These interviews are digitally archived and will be available to the public in future.

# Chronicling the fight for safer workplaces

For the past several years, the BC Labour Heritage Centre has partnered with WorkSafeBC to produce a series of videos that highlight the history of workers' health and safety in our Province.

In 2016 we produced "The History of Health & Safety in BC's Commercial Fishing Industry". This video tells the story of the fight by fishermen to obtain recognition as workers and coverage by Workers' Compensation. It recounts the hazards and dangers of what was once a major BC industry.

The videos can be accessed through our website, and are free to use in schools and union training programs.



## Putting working people on the map

**Working history is everywhere in BC.** The BC Labour Heritage Centre has catalogued over 160 plaques, memorials, and other locations in British Columbia that hold significance to working people and their history. The information is plotted on a map on our website and can be browsed online.



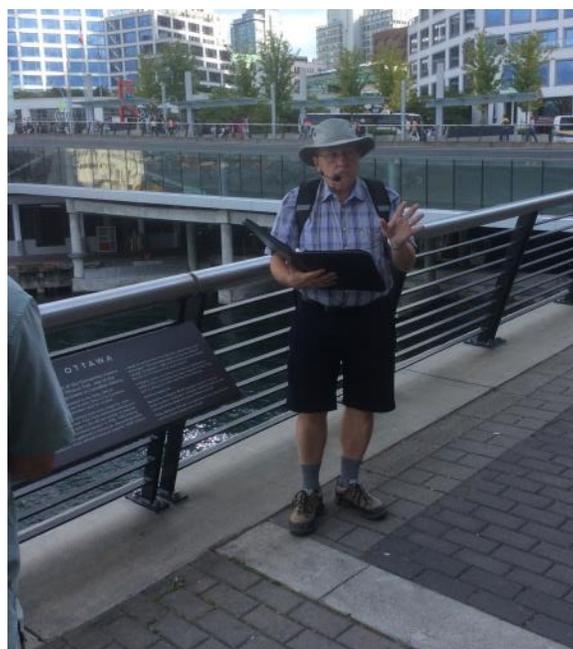
Photo: Fisherman Publishing Society

# Vancouver Labour History Walking Tours

**Our Vancouver Labour History Walking Tours** allow you to visit sites of significance to workers' heritage and which commemorate the importance of labour unions, individuals, collective actions and much more.

We offer private guided tours as well as open public tours with guides trained to offer insight and insider anecdotes of the City's working history.

Included in the tours are the interpretive plaques on the exterior of the Vancouver Convention Centre, installed by the BC Labour Heritage Centre in 2010.



## A new BC labour history book

**Work is ongoing to finish the first comprehensive overview BC labour history book to be published in over 50 years.**

Our Steering Committee includes partners from SFU Labour Studies and the BC Federation of Labour. Retired labour journalist Rod Mickleburgh is authoring the narrative to be finished in the fall of 2017 or early 2018.



Photo: City of Vancouver Archives

Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter  
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Facebook.com/LabourHistory in BC/



# Health and Safety begins in the classroom

John Decaire (left) and Al Cornes are helping to teach the next generation of workers the importance of

Excerpted from WorkSafe Magazine, May/June 2016

## A new project in B.C. high schools aims to help create the next generation of healthy and safe workers.

This spring, more than 100 secondaries around the province joined the Day of Mourning BC Schools Project.

Designed for students who are, or soon will be, young workers, the project ties in to the national Day of Mourning, which remembers Canadians who have died on the job and promotes health and safety rights in the workplace.

“Young workers are a critical demographic,” explains Scott McCloy, WorkSafeBC’s director of government, community, and media relations. “Our research tells us that young workers and new workers are far more vulnerable in the workplace than other workers.”

How vulnerable? Well, an average of 27 young workers have time-loss injuries every day in B.C. And an average of seven young workers are permanently disabled every week.

That’s where the schools project comes in.

“We’re hoping to get those numbers as low as possible,” says project manager Al Cornes, secretary treasurer for the BC Labour Heritage Center.

The project provides a teachable moment for secondary students, he says. “We’re hoping that kids will gain a more serious appreciation of their first

job, and their rights as workers.”

To get that message across, the project this year provided high schools with scripts, posters, postcards, and a video for students. Leading up to the April 28 Day of Mourning, participating schools were encouraged to make daily announcements about workplace safety. And on the day of observance, principals were encouraged to address students and lead a moment of silence.

All materials were designed specifically for young workers, prominently featuring their peers. Decaire is the one who first came up with the idea for the project. The idea hit him one day when he asked his Grade 11 students how many of them had jobs. “Half the class raised their hands,” he recalls. “That was eye-opening for me.”



“ Really enjoyed today's tour - we learned a lot. Will definitely recommend the tour to others.”

***“Our province’s labour history is so important.  
Keep up the good work!”***

*“Way to go teachers!!!teachers are awesome!!  
Thanks for sharing.”*

**“I remember those days...tough on everyone! Glad to see it being commemorated.”**

“Great production values, perfect length and story so well told. Thanks.”

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