

BC LABOUR HERITAGE CENTRE

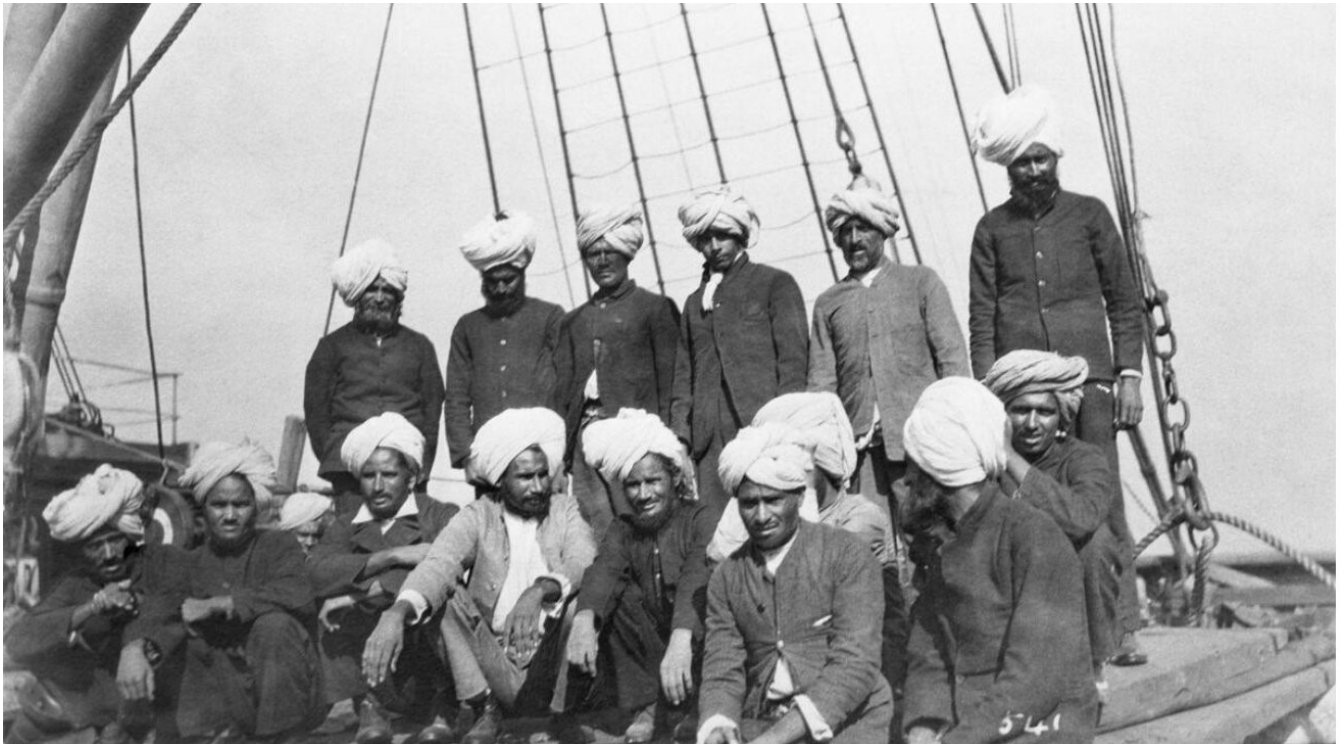


20 Epic Things We Did in 2021

1. **Union Zindabad! South Asian Canadian Labour History in British Columbia.** Ground-breaking research undertaken in 2021 – part of the University of the Fraser Valley South Asian Studies Institute Punjabi Canadian Legacy Project – traces the story of South Asian workers in BC spanning more than 100 years. The project covers the long and complex relationship, from early exclusion within the BC labour movement to growth in union membership, activism and leadership.
2. **COVID Chronicles: BC Labour's Story.** This project spanned two years and has created an archive of labour's stories for future researchers.
3. **Our Podcast: On the Line: Stories of BC Workers** turned out nine new episodes of BC labour history.



Canadian Farmworkers Union Collection, Simon Fraser University Library.



Most South Asian migrants to Canada in the early 20th Century were Sikhs from India's Punjab region. "Sikh emigrants on arrival in Vancouver, British Columbia.", [ca. 1906], (CU186963) by Unknown. Courtesy of Libraries and Cultural Resources Digital Collections, University of Calgary.

4. National labour magazine **Our Times** published a front-page feature on the work we completed this year documenting BC labour's experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic .
5. The multi-year project to create **North America's first international monument honouring the victims of asbestos exposure** will be erected on the Vancouver waterfront. "Magic and Lethal" includes the kinetic sculpture "Wind Wheel Mobile" by Vancouver artist Douglas Taylor.
6. Walking tours meet digital history! We provided content to Ontario's Workers Arts and Heritage Centre in a **Virtual On to Ottawa Trek** which took participants on a simulated journey from Vancouver to Regina in 1935.
7. Over 30 cassette tapes of **interviews with longshoremen who worked the waterfront from the 1920s and on** were digitized in partnership with ILWU Canada. The interviews were recorded in 1975.
8. More than 50 **BC labour history lesson plans** have been created through our partnership with the BC Teachers' Federation. Workshops for teachers were conducted during the year.
9. The BC Labour Heritage Centre provided administrative resources to the **Day of Mourning BC Schools Project** so students and young workers learn about their health and safety rights at work.

COVER PHOTO: 'East Indians' at the Youbou Mill were 100% unionized (March 20, 1943 Meeting Minutes), Kaatza Station Museum & Archives, N01603, IWA Local 1-80, Wilmer Gold Photo Collection, ©United Steelworkers Local 1-1937.

RIGHT: Interviews with longshoremen who worked the waterfront from the 1920s and onward have been digitized. City of Vancouver Archives Bo P157 (1908).





North America's first international monument honouring the victims of asbestos exposure will be erected this year. This multi-year project has been led by the BC Labour Heritage Centre.

10. We dug through the **IWA Archives in Lake Cowichan**. The archive was established in 2019 at the Kaatza Station Museum in historic Lake Cowichan to preserve the records of the International Woodworkers of America.
11. We continue to curate small collections of **BC labour memorabilia**. Newspapers, pins and photographs are being preserved.



During the 1930s May Day parades and rallies drew crowds in large cities and in smaller towns around the BC. Vancouver Archives CVA 417-9.

12. We provided a **"virtual tour" of our archive** for Library and Information Technology Program students at Langara College.
13. Labour history segments recorded in 1988 with the IWA's Clay Perry have been digitized. **"Perry's Log Book"** can be viewed on our website or YouTube channel.
14. We shared the history behind the monumental government announcement ending **the privatization of dietary and housekeeping jobs in BC health care**.
15. On a hot July day, we joined the ILWU Young Workers Committee at St Peters Cemetery in Nanaimo to remember the nine workers killed in the **1886 explosion aboard the Queen of the Pacific**.
16. **Twelve issues of our popular monthly e-newsletter** were published and distributed to over 1,400 subscribers.
17. We explored early May Day parades for **International Workers' Day**.



Striking members of the Hospital Employees' Union picketing the corporate offices of a private owner of long-term care facility in Vancouver in 1981. Worker solidarity was powerful in achieving better pay and rights at work. Courtesy HEU.

18. The prize-winning **Sheet Metal Union Rocket** from the 1936 Vancouver Jubilee Parade was featured, including a rare interview with designer Lew Perry. The rocket went on display at the Vancouver Airport for over 35 years, before being replaced with the current version near False Creek.
19. We shared the story of the **1981 union occupation of BC Telephone Company offices** by the Telecommunications Workers Union. The BC Federation of Labour declared "industrial relations war" on the employers of BC and organized regional general strikes across the province.
20. **Our website** contains links to resources and our projects on the role that work and workers have played in the evolution of British Columbia.

www.labourheritagecentre.ca

BC Labour Heritage Centre

301, 8988 Fraserton Court, Burnaby, BC V5J 5H8

604-419-0400 • info@labourheritagecentre.ca



Sponsors: BC Federation of Labour • BC General Employees' Union •
BC Teachers' Federation • CUPE BC • Hospital Employees' Union • United Steelworkers
District 3 and USW National Office

Board Members: Joey Hartman • Lee Loftus • Marie Decaire • Al Cornes •
Johanna den Hertog • Tom Dufresne • Shawn Harris • Orion Irvine •
Kari Michaels • Ken Novakowski • Rod Mickleburgh • Karen Ranalletta • Oliver Rohlf