



BC LABOUR HERITAGE CENTRE

**Labour History
Teaching Resources**

The Labour History Project is operated jointly by the BC Labour Heritage Centre, the BC Teachers' Federation and the BC Social Studies Teachers' Association.

www.labourheritagecentre.ca/educate



The Labour Movement in British Columbia 1840–1914

An introduction to the first 13 Working People videos and lesson plans, with suggested questions for students.

[ENGLISH](#) [FRENCH](#)

Knowledge Network “Working People” Series

These lessons are also available in French. Cette série de leçons est également disponible en français.



First Economies

This film references the existing economy prior to colonization and Aboriginal workers in the emerging industries of British Columbia.

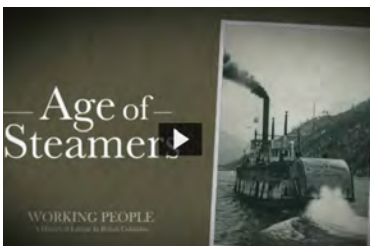
Length: 2:14



Gold Fever

Gold Rushes attracted people from around the world to British Columbia. Although hopes were high, very few struck it rich.

Length: 2:16



Age of Steamers

The focus in this film is the introduction of sternwheelers and steamships that allowed greater movement and mobility in British Columbia.

Length: 2:29

www.labourheritagecentre.ca/educate

Miners vs. Dunsmuirs

An infamous name in British Columbia, particularly related to coal mines on Vancouver Island, this film presents a snapshot of working in Dunsmuir-run coal mines in the 19th century.

Length: 2:26



Mattie Gunterman

Mattie Gunterman's photograph collection is used in this film to capture early images of work and play in the interior of British Columbia.

Length: 2:31



Won Alexander Cumyow

Through the story of Won Alexander Cumyow, this film explores the history and early experiences of Chinese Canadians in British Columbia

Length: 2:41



Children at Work

Through the story of the explosion at Coal Creek Mine in Fernie, this film examines the issue of child labour.

Length: 2:19



Fishermen's Strike of 1900

A series of strikes rocked the fishing industry in Steveston, BC in the early 1900s. This story examines the efforts made to unite fishers across racial lines.

Length: 2:30





Wilmer Gold

A talented photographer on Vancouver Island who made a living photographing loggers and fallers, Gold's amazing photographs are featured in this film.

Length: 1:34



Trouble on the Line

An historical look at female telephone operators in British Columbia and their early activism.

Length: 2:03



Bows and Arrows

This video focuses on early indigenous longshore union activity along Burrard Inlet.

Length: 2:21



Where the Fraser River Flows

Named after the song written by IWW singer and activist, Joe Hill, this film is inspired by his words and organizing efforts amongst railway workers in the interior of BC.

Length: 2:44



Helena Gutteridge

This film highlights the work undertaken by Helena Gutteridge, a tailor, suffragette, politician and advocate for working-class women.

Length: 1:43

Vancouver Island War

This film highlights the 1912-1914 Big Strike in Vancouver Island coal mines.

Length: 2:59



The Professionals

A short profile on Ethel Johns, an important figure in the history of nursing in British Columbia.

Length: 2:06



Ginger Goodwin

Looks at an important figure in BC labour history whose life and death continue to stir debate.

Length: 3:03



Canning Salmon

A snapshot of work in early canneries in BC is presented through images and song.

Length: 1:21



Mayo Singh

An important and often unknown story of the town of Paldi, located on Vancouver Island, and the history of Indo-Canadian workers in BC's forest industry.

Length: 2:03

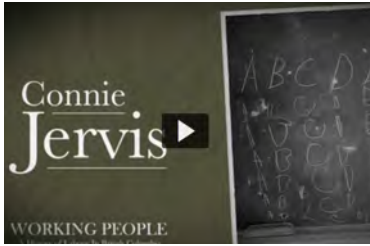




On to Ottawa

In 1935, unemployed men took to the rails, with the intention of arriving in Ottawa. While they did not reach their destination, the protest lives on.

Length: 3:28



Connie Jervis

In 1939, Connie Jervis, 24 year old president of the Langley Teachers' Association, led a successful fight for an improved system of wages and compulsory arbitration.

Length: 2:32



Bloody Sunday

This film considers the events of 1938, when Relief Camp workers held a sit-down strike in downtown Vancouver.

Length: 2:46



Ocean Falls

Life in a company town can come to an abrupt end if the company pulls up and moves elsewhere. This was the case for Ocean Falls on the North Coast of BC.

Length: 2:26



Margaret Rutledge

From an early age, Margaret Rutledge knew she wanted to fly. Through her story, the history of women and aviation in BC comes to life.

Length: 2:34

Buck Suzuki

Tatsuro “Buck” Suzuki was a fisher and early environmentalist on the Fraser River who also played a key role in the return of interned Japanese Canadians to the coast after WWII.

Length: 2:31



Home Front, Work Front

This film captures working life at Burrard Dry Dock during WWII, when women entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers.

Length: 1:32



Dark Day at Second Narrows

On June 17, 1958, the bridge under construction collapsed. In memory of the workers killed, the bridge is now known as the Ironworkers’ Memorial Bridge.

Length: 2:58



Bea Zucco

Out of the loss of her husband to an occupational-related illness came one woman’s crusade for change.

Length: 3:16



Farmworkers

This film highlights organizing efforts of the Canadian Farmworkers’ Union.

Length: 3:02





For Women, By Women

A union established to organize women workers in the 1970s—the Service, Office, and Retail Workers' Union of Canada—is the subject of this film.

Length: 2:51












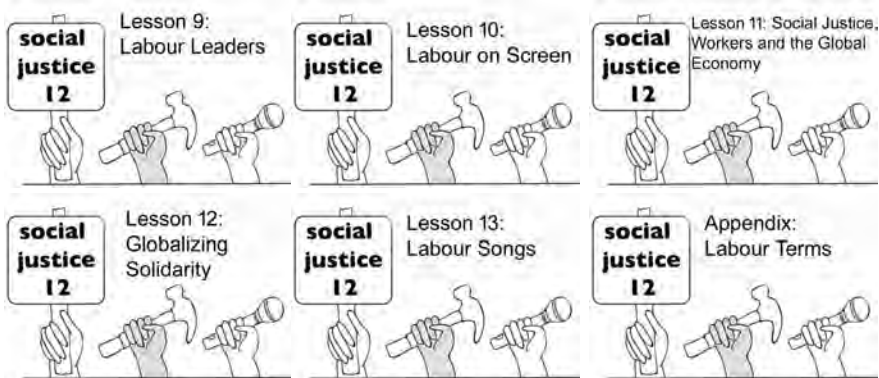
Solidarity

In 1983, Operation Solidarity and the Solidarity Coalition came together to stage the largest protest in the province's history in response to a series of proposed bills by the Social Credit government

Length: 2:50

Labour Studies Unit

 Labour Studies Unit: Introduction and Overview	 Lesson 1: Good Jobs Needed	 Lesson 2: Where Do You Stand?
 Lesson 3: The Folks Who Brought You the Weekend	 Lesson 4: Trade Unions and Social Justice	 Lesson 5: Factory Simulation
 Lesson 6: History of the Labour Movement in BC	 Lesson 7: Case Study of the Big Strike	 Lesson 8: Workers and the Law



New Lesson Plans



Indigenous Workers in BC's Early History

A comprehensive investigation into what is recalled of the role of Indigenous Peoples in the early economy of British Columbia.



The 1918 Vancouver Steam Laundries Strike

The time period of the lesson is set in the closing months of the war and the early recovery period from the Great War to early 1919.



Lessons from the Spanish Flu: 1918-1920

Chronology, readings and questions to study the Spanish Flu pandemic.

Workplace Health & Safety



Work is Hazardous to Your Health.

A synopsis of the WorkSafeBC/BC Labour Heritage Centre video series and suggested activity guide.



Asbestos Case Study

A historical perspective on asbestos exposure in BC and the continuing legacy of dangers for workers and their families.



Stave Lake Case Study

Connecting occupational health and safety concerns at the Stave Lake Quarry with the death of a new and inexperienced worker.



Lake Babine and Lakeland Mills Case Study

Review of two explosions and fires that destroyed two mills within a 3-month period. Analysis of positions taken by employers and government afterwards.



Day of Mourning BC Schools Project

An extensive collection of resources for teaching students and young workers about their health and safety rights at work.

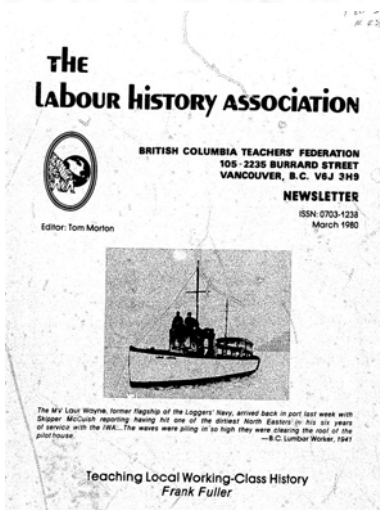
Legacy lesson plans



A teaching manual to accompany the video series program

"THESE WERE THE REASONS..."

... A HISTORY OF UNION ORGANIZING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA



These Were the Reasons

A [video link](#) to “These Were the Reasons: Stories of Union Organizing in BC” and a [Teaching Manual](#). This documentary is about the struggle of working people in BC to win basic union rights.

Labour History Provincial Specialist Association Journals

Labour History PSA journals from March 1977 to early 1982. Included numerous articles on labour history as well as lesson ideas for use by teachers in their classrooms.



Youth, Unions and You

Produced in 2001 by the BC Teachers' Federation and the BC Federation of Labour. 300+ pages of lessons and supplementary resources .

Intended for teachers and youth as a practical tool to understand the issues that will define working lives, including the unions to which students will belong.

www.labourheritagecentre.ca/educate

BC LABOUR
HERITAGE
CENTRE
EST. 2004

#301—8988 Fraserton Court
Burnaby, BC V5J 5H8
PH: 604-419-0400
www.labourheritagecentre.ca



British Columbia
Teachers' Federation



French translations sponsored by CUPE BC.



www.labourheritagecentre.ca/educate