Labour History Project Working People: A History of Labour in BC



**Ginger Goodwin**

**Film Summary**: This vignette looks at an important figure in BC labour history whose life and death continue to cause debate today. Ginger Goodwin’s early activism started in the coal mines of Vancouver Island and continued with the smelter workers of Trail prior to his death in 1918.

**Curriculum Application**

Social Studies 9

Social Studies 10

**The Essential Question:** Was Ginger Goodwin killed because he was a socialist trying to better the conditions of the working class or because he was a dangerous criminal?

What historical factors

**Summary of the Lesson Activities**

1. Focus questions for the vignette provide a short lesson option (15 minutes)
2. Reading assignment to guide students towards developing and defending a “point of view” on the death of Ginger Goodwin in a written format.
3. Opportunities for small group activities.
4. Extension activities can include a class debate on the causes of his death.
5. Additional extension activities can explore stylized editorial writing in an historical setting.

Learning Standards

1. Demonstrate an ability to critically analyze a historical debate and take a position on the issue. ***Ethical judgement***
2. Demonstrate an ability to find evidence from different and competing sources and use it to support an argument. ***Evidence*** ***and Perspective***
3. Assess the varying perspectives on the significance of the Ginger Goodwin’s life. ***Significance***
4. Demonstrate understanding of the underlying labour and economic issues in Canada during the First World War and how they influenced events, decisions and developments at that time ***Cause and Consequence***

**Materials and Resources Provided**

[“Ginger Goodwin” Video Link](https://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/goodwin/)

Appendix 1- Lesson Strategy

Lesson Activity 1- the Shooting of Ginger Goodwin

Lesson Activity 2- Determining Your Position

Lesson Activity 3 – Justifying Your Position

**Additional Suggested Materials**

[Working People- A History of Labour in British Columbia video series](https://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/educate/)

1: [“Miners vs. Dunsmuirs”](https://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/miners/)

2: [“Children at Work”](https://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/children/)

3. [“Vancouver Island War”](https://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/island/)

* [The Labour Movement in British Columbia 1840-1914](https://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/History-of-BC-and-Working-People-1840-1914-revised.pdf)
* [These Were the Reasons](https://youtu.be/NFwpDcBUPlw)
* [Ginger Goodwin - Miners Memorial](https://minersmemorial.ca/ginger-goodwin/)
* [Biography – GOODWIN, ALBERT – Volume XIV (1911-1920) – Dictionary of Canadian Biography (biographi.ca)](https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?BioId=41525)
* [[Albert Goodwin | The Canadian Encyclopedia](https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?BioId=41525)](https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/albert-goodwin)
* [British Columbia: An Untold Story Episode 2 Labour + Persistence Ginger Goodwin](https://www.biographi.ca/en/bio.php?BioId=41525)
* [On the Line: A History of the British Columbia Labour Movement p 57-61](https://www.knowbc.com/books/On-the-Line/Chapter-5)

1. What events on Vancouver Island led to the radicalization of Ginger Goodwin?
2. How did the mining companies of Vancouver Island respond to Ginger Goodwin’s radicalization?
3. What position did Ginger Goodwin take on Canada’s involvement in the First World War?
4. What gains did the workers at the Trail Smelter gain in 1917?
5. Why was Ginger Goodwin exempted from Military Service in 1917?
6. What was B.C. labour’s response to the death of Ginger Goodwin in 1918? Xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx?

**Vignette Questions**

**Lesson Activities**

1. A short lesson option is to watch the video and use the vignette questions above as an extension to the coverage of the topic “The Labour Movement” in the Grade 10 Social Studies text, Counterpoints 2nd edition page 50.
2. The extended lesson that is provided here helps students understand some of the key Home Front Issues of the First World War. Details of the extended lesson are found in Appendix 1- Lesson Strategy. The lesson focuses on research and note taking to support a position on the events that led to the death of Ginger Goodwin in 1918.
3. There are a number of vignettes and lessons from Working People- A History of Labour in British Columbia that deal with coal mining issues in this time period. They are listed above under additional resources. In addition, the video “These were the reasons..” has a chapter on the Vancouver Island War of 1912-1914 as well as the life of Ginger Goodwin.
4. Additionally, the vignette ["Coal Miners Lament"](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xzoS0jqB5g) from the Edge of the World Series; BC’s Early Years can also be used to develop and extended unit on this topic of labour in the coal mining industry of early British Columbia

Credit: Teaching Activities and Lesson Plan developed by John Decaire