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



**Helena Gutteridge**

Film Summary: This film highlights the work undertaken by Helena Gutteridge, a tailor, suffragette, politician, and advocate for working-class women in the early decades of the 20th century.

**Curriculum Application:**

Social Studies 10 and Social Studies 11

**The Essential Question:** What were the interrelationships in BC among important social reform movements, including the women’s suffrage movement, the peace movement, the social democratic movement, and the trade union movement?

What historical factors

**Summary of the Lesson Activities**

1. Focus questions for the vignettes provide a short lesson option. ( 15 minutes)
2. Small group activity to develop an understanding of the key vocabulary and terms.
3. Small group activity to examine assigned focus questions.
4. Mock interview with Helena Gutteridge and accompanying writing assignment
5. Optional questions for further research and discussion.
6. To learn about the achievements of Helena Gutteridge.
7. To appreciate the complicated and occasionally contradictory nature of political and social attitudes in particular historical contexts.
8. To appreciate that, while the struggles of working people ought to have been unified, there were divisions based on contemporaneous bigotry.
9. To understand the well-established (but little known) history of women’s union organizing and the political achievements of one woman, Helena Gutteridge, in British Columbia and to connect those with other socially progressive groups and activities.

Learning Objectives

**Materials and Resources Provided**

* [“Helena Gutteridge” Episode 2-](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_kme4jc6d/embed/dynamic)

[Working People – A History of](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_kme4jc6d/embed/dynamic)

[Labour in British Columbia](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_kme4jc6d/embed/dynamic)

Lesson Activity 1: Backgrounder on Helena Gutteridge

Lesson Activity 2: Vocabulary Activity

Appendix 1: Teaching Suggestions and guiding questions

**Additional Suggested Materials**

[“These were the reasons….” Chapter 7 Fighting for Equity” The 30’s, the War Years, and a Shoreworker’s Story](https://teachbcdb.bctf.ca/list?q=these+were+the+reasons&p=1&ps=25)

For additional vignettes and lessons that deal with gender roles see [Mattie Gunterman](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_44prvu0s/embed/dynamic), [Trouble on the Line](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_oe4rrl6i/embed/dynamic), [Helena Gutteridge](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_kme4jc6d/embed/dynamic), [The Professionals](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_s6ni1f58/embed/dynamic), [Connie Jervis](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_9btseqlq/embed/dynamic), [Margaret Rutledge](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_ocef1nrz/embed/dynamic) , [Home Front, Work Front](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_ul89x774/embed/dynamic), [Bea Zucco](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_dsofh51a/embed/dynamic) and [By Women, For Women.](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_g7yosdnf/embed/dynamic)

**Vignette Questions**

1. Where did Helena Gutteridge emigrate from and in what year did she arrive in Vancouver?
2. What right did Helena strongly believe that women should have?
3. In 1917, women in British Columbia achieved the right to vote and hold public office with what restriction?
4. What economic issues for women did Helena work to improve?
5. Together with the Vancouver Trades and Labour Council Helen was successful in lobbying for what law that was first introduced into BC in 1918?

**Lesson Activities**

1. Have students work in small groups to define the vocabulary and terms (Lesson Activity 2). Debrief and discuss with the whole class.
2. In small groups (each group might deal with a single question) have students discuss and respond to the Seven Quick Questions and then debrief with the whole class. (Appendix 1)
3. This activity will likely require on-line or library research to provide enough information to respond to each significant question or issue. Divide students into small groups and assign one or more of the questions / issues to each. (Appendix 1). Have each student in each group keep detailed notes of points made and answers/ responses developed during group discussion. Students will present ideas, findings and responses to the whole class for further examination.
4. Write the word ORGANIZER in the center of a clean page, using all upper case letters. Then, using no more than three words for each idea, note on straight lines, everything about the work of Helena Gutteridge that is relevant to the central word. Connect with line and arrows to show relationships.
5. Role Playing Activity: In addition to reading the backgrounder on Helen Gutteridge, students and pair up and create an interview of the subject. (Lesson Activity 1)

Credit: Teaching Activities and Lesson Plan developed by Marcy Toms