Lesson Activity 1 Lesson: Home Front, Work Front

**Activity #1 – Extended Viewing activity for the Vignette “Home Front, Work Front”**

Previewing:

1. What work was available to women in the first half of the century, from the pre-WW1 era to the outbreak of the Second World War? Consider the changes during wartime and the interwar period.
2. What would make a job attractive to workers in the 1940s—especially women? What needs would have to be met?

Viewing:

1. What kinds of work was available to women at the Burrard Dry Dock?

2. How did the experience of working in unionized wartime industry affect women?

1. What were some of the concerns around the change to post-war work?
2. Based on what you see here, images and oral history statements, what was it like to work there? What seems to be the mood from what you can see/hear?

Post-viewing:

1. What do you think might have been the long-term effect on women who worked in these kinds of jobs?
2. Considering the context of the Second World War, how might this portrait of women’s wartime work differ from the wartime work of other women in Canada? For example:
   1. Japanese Canadian women.
   2. Women working in the non-paid work force
   3. Rural women
   4. Indigenous women
3. The end of wartime industry had a major effect on women workers. Consider the following statement:
   * 1. While the Second World War altered attitudes towards women and paid labour, these changes had little lasting effect. Daycare facilities closed, women’s corps disbanded and women in war industries were laid off. [Employment numbers] fell from 33% during wartime to 25% in 1946 and fell into more decline in the 1950s”. However, the largest lasting effect was the change in the employment of married women, which now had become as acceptable as the employment of unmarried women.[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. COOK, SHARON ANNE, LORNA R. McLEAN, and KATE O’ROURKE, eds. *Framing Our Past: Constructing Canadian Women's History in the Twentieth Century*, p. 328. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)