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



**Solidarity**

Film Summary: In 1983, Operation Solidarity and the Solidarity Coalition came together in response to a series of proposed bills by the Socred government to stage the largest protest in the province’s history.

**Curriculum Application: Social Studies 11, Social Justice 12**

**The Essential Question:**

What are the ways in which Canadian citizens can influence their government? How can ordinary people affect positive change in a democratic society?

What historical factors

**Summary of the Lesson Activities**

1. Focus questions for the vignette provide a short lesson option. (15 minutes)
2. A more detailed lesson reviewing the video and provided reading material allows for a greater understanding of the events of the Solidarity movement in 1983. This work can be completed individually or in small groups.
3. The activity “Resolve the problem without a union” provides the opportunity to understand the reasoning behind collective bargaining rights. This is a small group activity.
4. Demonstrate an ability to connect labour and human rights tensions of the past with contemporary ones.
5. Demonstrate a historical understanding of labour issues in BC.
6. Explore options for resolving labour disputes and evaluate their individual effectiveness.

Learning Objectives

**Materials and Resources Provided**

[“Solidarity” Episode 3- Working People- A history of Labour in British Columbia](https://cdnapisec.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/1454421/uiconf_id/26824312/entry_id/0_3nfde2wa/embed/dynamic)

Appendix 1: Teaching Strategy

Appendix 2: Solidarity Backgrounder

Appendix 3: The Good, the Bad and the Wal-Mart

Lesson Activity 1: Solidarity Worksheet

Lesson Activity 2: Resolve the Problem without a Union

**Additional Suggested Materials**

[Common Cause- a 1984 film examining the events of Operation Solidarity](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=b90V1GRo0os)

[VIU Media Studies. BC’s 1983 Solidarity Movement 30 Years On-Something for the Left to Celebrate or best forgotten?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWv_miGZpAc)

**Lesson Activities**

1. The lesson materials are designed to be taught as part of the study of labour relations and social justice within the history of the later part of the 20th century. The materials can be incorporated into Social Studies classes, Social Justice, Law or Political Studies.
2. Appendix 1 provides a detailed overview of suggested strategies for teaching the materials of this lesson
3. Lesson materials can be covered in variety of ways depending on the time available in your course. A short lesson option would cover a portion of the class, the extended version; resolve a problem without a union would take a normal class period to complete. An extension reading for further understanding the role of workers’ rights is found in Appendix 3 the Good, the bad and the Wal-Mart with sample questions to prompt student discussion.
4. The 2 video links provided in “Additional Suggested Materials” could be used to compare and contrast how historical events are covered and perceived over time.

**Vignette Questions**

1. What events prompted the origins of the solidarity movement in the summer of 1983?
2. Which 3 main groups joined together in the summer of 1983 that would become known as the Solidarity movement?
3. Three major protests took place in the summer and fall of 1983 against the Social Credit government’s stripping of legislation; where did these protests take place?
4. What “fear” prompted the provincial government to negotiate with the solidarity movement?
5. Which labour leader negotiated a settlement with the provincial government?
6. Which groups were not satisfied with the settlement? Explain

Credit: Teaching Activities and Lesson Plan developed by John Decaire