**Lesson: Trouble on the Line**

**Extension Activity 1: Further Studies**

1. Using the information that you have from the vignette, Lesson Activity 1 and 2, discuss the challenges faced by women in securing respectable jobs in the 1900 British Columbia work force. Do any of the challenges you have outlined still exist today. If so, which ones? (Considerations: public attitudes, comparative wage rates between men and women, restrictions as to the professions that women can enter, limitations on work after marriage and/or family.
2. In the period 1900 to 1915, there were a significant number of unions created specifically to represent women. Review the [Rosenthal article](http://bcstudies.com/issues/union-maids-organized-women-workers-vancouver-1900-1915) (see sources) and prepare a brief summary of the purpose and activities of three of the following unions who represented women in the Vancouver/BC workforce.
   1. Retail Clerks Protective Association
   2. Bookbinders’ and Tailors’ Union
   3. Tailors’ Union
   4. Shirt, Waist and Laundry Workers’ Union
   5. Factory Workers’ Union
   6. Hotel and Restaurant Employees’ Union (under various names)
   7. Home and Domestic Employees’ Union

The names of the unions reflect jobs and professions that women had access to. What professions/jobs appear to be missing from this list?

In addition to the [Rosenthal article](http://bcstudies.com/issues/union-maids-organized-women-workers-vancouver-1900-1915), try to locate any additional information on the unions that you have selected.

1. Look at the Knowledge Network vignette entitled [*By Women, For Women*](https://www.labourheritagecentre.ca/sorwuc/) which will give you an appreciation of women’s issues in the workplace in the 1970’s. The video is about an attempt to organize a union in the banks by the independent union SORWUC. Write a brief paragraph comparing the challenges in the 1970’s compared to the challenges of the early 1900’s.

**Sources:**

Bernard, Elaine, “The Long Distance Feeling: A History of the Telecommunications Workers Union” (PhD diss., Simon Fraser University, 1988). [*https://summit.sfu.ca/item/5179*](https://summit.sfu.ca/item/5179).

Rens, Jean-Guy. *Invisible Empire: A History of the Telecommunications Industry in Canada, 1846-1946.* Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press, 2001.

Rosenthal, Star. “Union Maids: Organized Women Workers in Vancouver 1900 to 1915,” *BC Studies* 41 (1979): 36-55. <http://bcstudies.com/issues/union-maids-organized-women-workers-vancouver-1900-1915>

Sangster, Joan. “The 1907 Bell Telephone Strike: Organizing Women Workers,” *Labour/Le Travailleur,* 3e 109-129 [www.lltjournal.ca/index.ph p/llt/article/viewFile/2383/2787](http://www.lltjournal.ca/index.ph%20%20p/llt/article/viewFile/2383/2787)

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