

# 1919 General Strike 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



## POST WAR CANADA

- After the Russian Revolution
- Factories were shutting down
- Cost of living rose 64% since 1913
- Wages have not kept pace
- High Rates of unemployment
- Little Employment Standards
- People resented huge profits made during the war at the expense of workers and soldiers



## STRIKE!

- Winnipeg Building and Metal Workers went on Strike May 1st and 2 weeks later called for a general strike. (after months of trying to be recognized)
- First to walk were the "hello girls", Winnipeg's telephone operators
- By 11 am, 30,000-50,000 union and non-union workers had walked off the job
- As word of the General Strike Spread, Sympathy strikes were called in Brandon, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Regina, Vancouver, New West Minister, Victoria and in as Many as 20 other towns.
- Was of National and International importance
- (Unions were formed by voluntary recognition or strike action, no labour board votes or signing cards then)



## SPECIALS

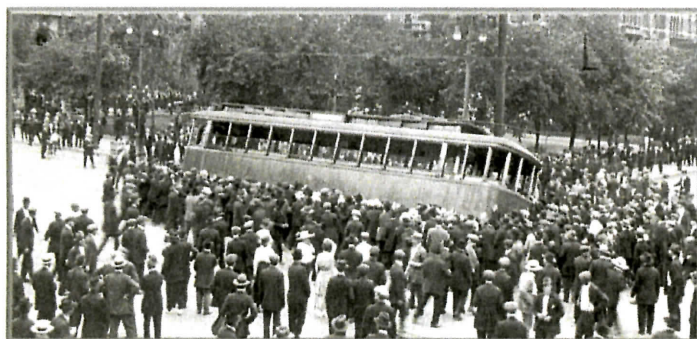


- The Police has voted to strike but were asked to stay on by the strike committee
- The Federal Government got involved and deployed the North West Mounted Police.
- Ottawa ordered federal employees to return to work or face dismissal
- The Canadian Government amended the immigration act so British born immigrants could be deported
- The criminal codes definition of sedition was broadened
- All these actions to intimidate eh workers back to work.
- The mayor of Winnipeg, Charles Gray, fired most of the police as officers were sympathetic to the strikers
- 1,800 special constables were recruited and paid for by the business community receiving an armband and bats or wagon spokes, to keep order



## JUNE

- 10<sup>th</sup> – a riot broke out after the “specials” tried to disperse a crowd listening to a speech
- A few days later – 10 union leaders were arrested
- Speeches by strike leaders and gatherings were banned
- On Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup> – war vets organized a parade to protest restrictions



### Bloody Saturday

A streetcar driven by scab labour came around the corner and was rocked or tipped over (reports differ)

Shots rang out

- Killing 2
- Wounding 34
- And arresting 96

The Strike came to an end shortly after



# GAINS

## POLITICAL

- Empowered and engaged the public
- Every Level of Government changed
- Civic election labour seats from 5 to 7
- 1920 provincial election – 11 labour representatives elected (3 strike leaders elected while still in jail)
- 1921 J.S. Woodsworth elected to parliament
- 1935 John Gordon elected Mayor
- Set the stage for formation of CCF 1932

## LEGISLATIVE

- Premier Norris called a Royal Commission into living and working conditions
- 1921 – first ever min. wage established at \$0.25/hour
- Over subsequent years we establish legislation to protect union rights, organize, H & S legislation, healthcare, home care, MPI, CPP
- Set the framework for the employment standards and labour legislation we enjoy today

## COMMUNITY

- 1919 establishment of Community Welfare Council (later to be called Social Planning Council)
- 1921 \$100,000 start to the Winnipeg Foundation
- Welfare Council and Winnipeg Foundation form the community chest in 1921 (today known as United Way)

# CELEBRATE

Community events

Leave a legacy

Community involvement

Labour events

Exploring other opportunities





## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### GALA DINNER

- 1,000 people at the Convention Centre with entertainment
- May 15

### PARADE

- Floats and march ending with a family area and small community concert
- May 25

### PUBLIC CONCERT

- Free, at the Cube all day -evening w-beer gardens, food court and more
- June 8

### SOCIAL

- Ukrainian Labour Temple
- May 11

## LEGACY PIECES

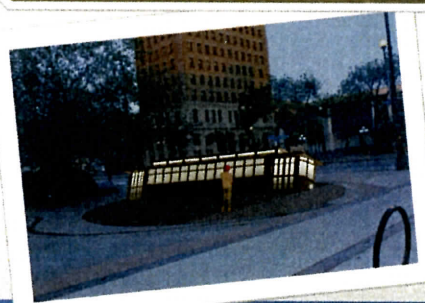
Permanent sign monument

Streetcar Sculpture

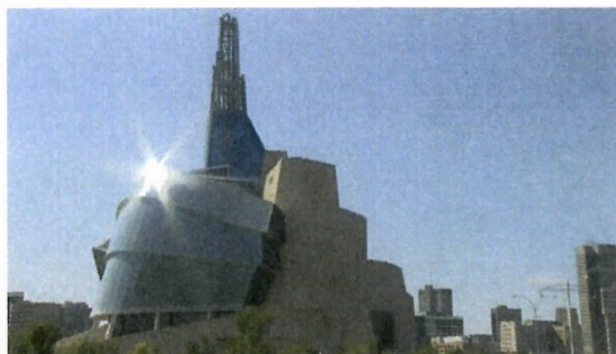
Strike the Musical Movie

Oral History Project

Updated school curriculum 1919 strike kits



# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



# LABOUR EVENTS





## EXPLORING

Special Coin or Stamp

Clothing with the 1919 logo

4 Newsletters

Graphic Novel and Youth Novel

Graffiti Art Gallery  
Performance or Art Work

Full Page Ads in Winnipeg  
Free Press and an Insert



Little Brown Jug, 1919 brewery is partnering with us



## COMMITTEES

Co-chairs Kevin Rebeck & Basia Sokal

Executive Committee (co-chairs, MFL Executive Director, CLC Representative, Staff Support)

Sub-committees, History & Education, Events, Communications, Finance

Advisory Committee



## BUDGET

Community  
sponsorship goal of  
\$400,000

Manitoba's unions  
sponsorship goal of  
\$250,000

Tickets &  
Merchandise  
\$100,000

Total budget of  
\$750,000

## SPONSORSHIP

### Intrinsic & Recognition

- The good feeling knowing you are supporting such an important event

### Engagement

- Free tickets for events, tables and or option to purchase more at a discount, free merchandise, speaker at your events

### Promotion

- Includes, signs, banners, ad recognition, online, publications, announcements

### Networking

- Invitation to sponsors events, pre-event receptions, quarterly sponsor updates



# SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Manitoba's Unions Goal of \$250,000 (each Union up to \$25,000)
- Platinum sponsor (\$50,000)
- Gold sponsors (\$15,000)
- Silver sponsor (\$10,000)
- Bronze (\$5,000)
- Table of 10 at Gala Dinner (\$2,000)

**BECOME A  
SPONSOR**

**LiUNA!**  




## SPONSORS TO DATE

**LiUNA - \$125,000**

**MTS - \$65,000**

**MGEU - \$50,000**

**MBT- \$50,000**

**CUPE - \$50,000**

**UFCW 832 - \$50,000**

**MNU - \$25,000**

**MAHCP - \$25,000**

**Operating Engineers - \$15,000**

**Teamsters - \$5,000**

**COPE - \$2500**

**Myers & Weinberg - \$25,000**

**Union Centre - \$25,000**



## TEAM

We are hopeful TEAM can contribute towards the Centennial Celebrations.

We are asking unions based on their size to contribute up to \$25,000. Many are also asking if their national or international may also contribute with them.

Given TEAM's size we are asking for \$2,500 - \$10,000 if possible.

Sponsorship Benefits include things like; Signage at events, Logos on materials, online, social media promotion, recognition in newsletters and Winnipeg Free Press, thank you recognition at the events, gala dinner tables or tickets, recognition at events, commemorative gifts, free merchandise or discounts on orders

**DO YOU HAVE ANY  
QUESTION  
FOR US?**

**THANK YOU**