

HIGHLIGHTS

CANADIAN LABOUR HISTORY

1872

SHORTER WORK WEEK

The Toronto Typographical Union strike and the Trade Unions Act

THE TORONTO TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION TAKES UP THE CAUSE OF THE "NINE-HOUR MOVEMENT" AND GOES OUT ON STRIKE MARCH 25, 1872, WHEN ITS DEMANDS FOR A SHORTER WORK WEEK ARE IGNORED.

1889

WORKING CONDITIONS

Royal Commission on the Relations of Labour and Capital

THE COMMISSION MAKES A STRING OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS - BUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ACT ON THEM, SAYING TO DO SO WOULD INFRINGE ON PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY.

1900

LABOUR DISPUTES

Federal Department of Labour established

THE COMMISSION MAKES A STRING OF RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS - BUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ACT ON THEM, SAYING TO DO SO WOULD INFRINGE ON PROVINCIAL AUTHORITY.

1914

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Workmen's Compensation Act, Ontario

ONTARIO BECOMES THE FIRST PROVINCE IN CANADA TO INTRODUCE A STATE SOCIAL INSURANCE PLAN WITH THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

1919

UNEMPLOYMENT & INFLATION

The Winnipeg General Strike

IN MAY 1919, AFTER TALKS BREAK DOWN BETWEEN WORKERS IN THE BUILDING AND METAL TRADES AND THEIR EMPLOYERS, THE WINNIPEG TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE.

1944

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF LABOUR RELATIONS

Wartime labour relations regulations, Order-in-Council P.C. 1003

LABOUR RELATIONS FALL UNDER PROVINCIAL JURISDICTION, BUT DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, EXERCISING ITS EMERGENCY WARTIME POWERS, ESTABLISHES A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF LABOUR-RELATIONS LAW.

1967

RIGHT TO STRIKE

Federal Public Service Staff Relations Act

AS A RESULT OF THE LABOUR DISPUTE, THE GOVERNMENT EXTENDS COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS TO THE PUBLIC SERVICE, ALTHOUGH SOME WORKERS, LIKE THE RCMP AND THE MILITARY, ARE EXCLUDED.



Source:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/highlights-in-canadian-labour-history-1.850282>

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1972

UNIFIED VOICE

Common Front, Quebec

AFTER YEARS OF UNREST BETWEEN THE LABOUR MOVEMENT AND THE QUEBEC PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, THREE PUBLIC SERVICE UNIONS UNITE IN 1972 IN THE COMMON FRONT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT FOR HIGHER WAGES AND BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS.

1972

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

Occupational Health Act, Saskatchewan

SASKATCHEWAN PASSES THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH ACT, CONSIDERED THE FIRST LEGISLATION OF ITS KIND IN NORTH AMERICA. THE ACT MAKES HEALTH AND SAFETY THE JOINT RESPONSIBILITY OF MANAGEMENT AND WORKERS AND SETS THE FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION, ENSHRINING THREE IMPORTANT RIGHTS FOR WORKERS

2007

LABOUR RIGHTS

Supreme Court of Canada's ruling on Bill 29

THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA RULES THAT THE BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT VIOLATED CHARTER RIGHTS WHEN IT INTRODUCED LEGISLATION THAT WOULD UNFAIRLY AFFECT ITS UNIONIZED HEALTH-CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICES EMPLOYEES. THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION WOULD HAVE TAKEN AWAY A NUMBER OF PROTECTIONS PROVIDED FOR BY PREVIOUS COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS. THE COURT'S DECISION REVERSES 20 YEARS OF CHARTER JURISPRUDENCE ON WORKPLACE ASSOCIATION RIGHTS.

UNIONS PLAY A PIVOTAL ROLE BOTH IN SECURING LEGISLATED LABOR PROTECTIONS AND RIGHTS SUCH AS SAFETY AND HEALTH, OVERTIME, AND FAMILY/MEDICAL LEAVE AND IN ENFORCING THOSE RIGHTS ON THE JOB. BECAUSE UNIONIZED WORKERS ARE MORE INFORMED,

THEY ARE MORE LIKELY TO BENEFIT FROM SOCIAL INSURANCE PROGRAMS SUCH AS UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND WORKERS COMPENSATION.

UNIONS ARE THUS AN INTERMEDIARY INSTITUTION THAT PROVIDES A NECESSARY COMPLEMENT TO LEGISLATED BENEFITS AND PROTECTIONS.

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