



**May 26 – 28, 2017 Labour History Conference
Vancouver, BC**

***Echoes of the 1917 Russian Revolution:
Decades of Radicalism and Red Scares in the
Labour Movements of the Pacific Northwest***

**Presented by the Pacific Northwest Labour History Association
in collaboration with the BC Labour Heritage Centre**

This program is subject to change / conference brochure, on-line registration and accommodation bookings available at www.pnlha.org

FRIDAY NIGHT May 26

5:00 - 7:30 Registration

7:00 - 8:30 Reception

- No-host bar
- Trish Everett-Kabut - 1930's leftist theatre with audience participation
- The Re:Sisters - labour songs

SATURDAY May 27

8:00 - 9:30 Registration (PNLHA table will be staffed throughout conference)

9:00 - 10:15 PLENARY #1

- **Welcome**
- **Keynote speaker: *Working-Class Responses in the Pacific Northwest to the Russian Revolution* - Ben Isitt:** In this engaging multi-media presentation, historian Ben Isitt shares his research on working-class responses in the Pacific Northwest to the Russian Revolution of 1917, including domestic incarnations of "Bolshevism" in Canada and the United States and working-class opposition to the participation of Canadian and American military forces in the Allied intervention in Russia's civil war.
- **Left Coast Labour Chorus:** This Vancouver-based chorus will present Canadian labour history through music and photographs.

10:15 - 10:40 BREAK

10:40 - 12:30 WORKSHOPS A (choose one)

A1. *Reds Under the Beds: Stories of West Coast workers, their leaders, their strikes and their struggles* - Dunc Shields & Barry Hall plus panelists Dave Lomas (ILWU), Nick Carr (UFAWU), and Sy Pederson (IWA):

This interactive workshop has three sections:

- Canadian storyteller Dunc Shields and blues guitarist Barry Hall perform stories of the region
- Q&A with Dave Lomas, ILWU, Nick Carr, UFAWU, and Sy Peterson, IWA.
- A tribute to Scotty Neish, Harold Pritchett, Harry Bridges and the militant rank and file of the UFAWU, ILWU, and the IWA

A2. *Preserving Your Union's Oral History: A "how to" workshop* - Bailey Garden: Learn how to conduct oral history interviews with BC Labour Heritage Centre's Bailey Garden, who has been recording oral and visual histories from a broad selection of BC's labour elders, and teaching unions how to capture their own history.

A3. *Decades of Radical Unionism in the USA: A conversation with two long-term labour militants* - Henry Noble & Maxine Reigel: Two socialist feminist ground-breakers recall the challenges and rewards of their four decades as working-class warriors including working with established unions, forming independent unions, building militant caucuses, and forging multi-union/community organizations.

A4. *Two Stories: Strikers and Their Defenders*

- ***Not to be Bought, Nor for Sale: The Trials of J.E. Bird* - Janet Nicol:** Joseph Edward Bird, was an early Vancouver labour and human rights lawyer. Nicol highlights Bird's involvement with the Socialist Party of BC and his courtroom work, which was impacted by the "Red Scare" of 1917.
- ***Harvey O'Connor, Working Class Formation, and the 1919 Seattle General Strike* - Cal Winslow:** The presentation examines the life of trade union activist Harvey O'Connor in the years leading up to the Seattle General Strike of 1919. O'Connor's work focused on the broader working class and provides valuable insight into historical forces of the time.

A5. *Abstract Theories to Revolutionary Action* - Kimball Cariou, Liz Rowley & George Gidora: The panel uses audio-visuals and revolutionary newspapers from before the First World War, and from the 1920s and 30s to illustrate the effect of the October Revolution on Canada's Left.

12:30 - 1:30 LUNCH (Optional with additional cost – purchase tickets with registration. There is also a grocer and several fast food outlets in the building)

1:30 - 2:30 PLENARY #2

***Waiting at the Gates: Threats to Early Modern Capitalism from Red Baiting to Hot Desking* - Aaron Ekman, Adrienne Smith & Natalie Gidora:** The presenters link past and present "threats" to argue that today's workers need to organize into unions now, more than ever.

2:30 - 3:00 BREAK

3:00 - 4:30 WORKSHOPS B (Choose one)

B1. A History of Women as Agents of Social and Labour Change: Multimedia and Song presentation - The Re:Sisters. - Nicci Beninger, Karen Dean, Janet Dempsey, De Whalen, Barb Coward and Janet Hall combine as the Re:Sisters, a feminist song group who use musical and historical images to trace the rich but often unknown history of women's activism.

B2. Teaching Labour History in the Context of Our Public Schools - Wayne Axford: Learn about the BC Labour Heritage Centre's *Labour History Project* resources. This workshop focuses on lessons developed to accompany vignettes in the film series "Working People: A History of British Columbia" that are matched to BC school curriculum.

B3. Spying on Canadian Unions: You aren't paranoid if it's true

- **Canadian Postal Workers Under Surveillance by CSIS - Marion Pollack & Evert Hoogers:** The Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) have been at the vanguard of progressive trade unionism in Canada. As a result, the RCMP and CSIS have spied on the union for decades. CUPW retirees Pollack and Hoogers present research that reveals details about the extent of that spying.
- **The Cold War and the BC Teachers' Federation - Larry Kuehn:** This presentation examines the Cold War's impact on the BC Teachers' Federation, including reference to RCMP Security Service files titled "Communist influence in the BC Teachers' Federation" (1959 - 1983) and BCTF responses.
- **Bridges to Bikers: Royal Canadian Mounted Police Surveillance of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union 1937-1984 - Chris Madsen:** Domestic police agencies on both sides of the border monitored and attempted to infiltrate the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) for many decades. Madsen examines the methods used in the process of intelligence gathering, information sharing, and the conclusions reached that informed the state's general approach to this waterfront union.

B4. Communism and Conspiracies

- **Cold War, Combines Conspiracies and Fishing Unions: the struggle for solidarity on both sides of the 49th Parallel - Sean Griffin:** Using photographs, posters and news clippings, Griffin explores events around union organizing in the fishing industry in the United States and Canada during the post-war period. His analysis offers reasons for the different outcomes in the two countries, including the role of Canadian sovereignty in the BC labour movement.

B5. Repression and Resistance in the US of A

- **Labour Repression in the United States: Past, Present and Future - Dr. Kolin Andrew:** Through the use of historical examples, this presentation describes how labour repression is produced and reproduced due to institutional exclusion. It asks: "Is labour repression inevitable?"
- **Radical Years Remade: Militant Traditions and the Hiring Hall - Zachary Pattin:** A defining feature of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union is the worker-controlled hiring hall. It accounts for and explains the character and culture of the ILWU and its members, helping to preserve the radical character of the union's founders.

4:30 - 6:00 FREE TIME with option for an informal discussion with Les Kennedy re: Tolpuddle Festival in the UK

BANQUET (Optional with additional cost - purchase tickets with registration)

- 6:00 no-host bar
- 6:30 dinner
- 7:30 Charlie Demers comedy
- 8:00 Presentation of the PNLHA Awards
 - Ross Rieder Labour History Person of the Year
 - Making Labour History
- 8:45 Conclusion

SUNDAY May 28

9:00 - 10:30 WORKSHOPS C (Choose one)

C1. *The People's Culture*

- ***The People's Museum - Anna Rambos & Brian Charlton:*** The presenters highlight the importance of “people’s history” and community engagement, bringing labour history to broad audiences and in diverse spaces. This session opens and closes with a group discussion
- ***CCF Drama in 1930s Vancouver - Trish Everett-Kabut:*** In the 1930s, the “Cooperative Commonwealth Federation” (a political party that evolved into the NDP) sponsored drama clubs in BC. Workshop participants will engage in a dramatic reading from one of the scripts.

C2. *Ripples of the Russian Revolution*

- ***British Trade unions and the Russian Revolution - Les Kennedy:*** This presentation examines how British Trade unions responded to the Russian Revolution.
- ***Lenin's Letter to American Workers - James H. Williams:*** In 1918, Russian Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin wrote a manifesto to American workers, which was smuggled into the USA by a Russian merchant seafarer. Williams examines the content and purpose of this letter.

C3. *Racism in the Labour Movement & Leaders on a Different Path*

- ***Racism in British Columbia's Labour Movement - Kassandra Cordero:*** This presentation provides an in-depth view of the racism which has existed in the labour movement from its inception to present day.
- ***On Red Scares & Yellow Perils: Organizing Chinese Labour in the BC Fishing Industry, 1945-1950 - Devin Eeg:*** The UFAWU offers a timely case study in channeling racial antagonisms into common class struggle. However, it also suggests that racial conflicts in the labour movement can have a long-term legacy.

C4. *Red Fish, Red Diapers: Evolution of the Communist Party of Canada*

- ***The Development and Changes in CP Ideology and Politics from its 1921 Inception to the Late 1950s - David Chudnovsky:*** The Communist Party experienced many changes in ideology and politics over time. Chudnovsky traces the reasons and impacts of these changes on the organizing and campaigning of the Party at the grassroots level.

- **Rear View Mirror a Guide to the Future - George Hewison:** To be useful, history should provide a guide to the future. This reflection from the perspective a Communist labour activist comments on the Russian Revolution, Lenin and anti-communism.

10:30 - 10:50 BREAK

10:50 - 12:30 PLENARY #3

First Nations, Work and Labour-- Understanding Leading to Reconciliation

12:30 CONFERENCE ADJOURNS

12:30 - 1:00 BREAK

1:00 - 2:00 PNLHA AGM (new members welcome)

REGISTRATION

Register on-line with PayPal at www.PNLHA.org or mail this completed form to address below

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

NOTE: All costs are in Canadian \$

Conference Rate: (check one)

Early Bird until April 25th

Regular @ \$125.00

Low Income @ \$85.00

No Charge (by specific arrangement)

April 26 or later

Regular @ \$140.00

Low income @ \$95.00

No charge (by specific arrangement)

Lunch ticket: (check one)

Regular @ \$15.00

Low income @ \$15.00

No thanks!

Banquet ticket: (check one)

Regular @ \$45.00

Low income @ \$35.00

No thanks!

On line registration available at www.PNLHA.org or send cheques payable to "PNLHA"
Mail with this form to #301-8988 Fraserton Ct, Burnaby BC Canada, V5J 5H8

Conference Cancellations:

Until April 25 – 75% refund / April 26 or later no refund but substitutes welcome

ACCOMMODATIONS

Registrants are responsible for booking your own accommodation.

A limited block of rooms has been secured at the **Ponderosa Suites – 2017 W. Mall** (<http://suitesatubc.com/>).

This is a new student residence 5 minutes walk from the conference site. (Shuttle for those requiring).

There are 2 options:

A) “Ponderosa Studio Suite”: one double bed, full kitchen, private bath @ \$120.00 per room/night + 13% taxes; or

B) “Ponderosa Premium Single” for singles, a family or friends: a single bed within a 4-bedroom unit with 2 full bathrooms, kitchen, dining and sitting area @ \$56.00 per person/night + 13% taxes

Both offer daily housekeeping.

Make reservations by **APRIL 25th** directly with UBC Accommodations. Indicate you are with the “**PNLHA Labour History Conference**” for the reduced rate.

Phone: 1-888-822-1030 / Email: reservations@housing.ubc.ca.

On line: Booking link (with discount code) available on our website at www.pnlha.org

Cancellation charges will apply.

Subject to availability, these rates are extended 3 days before and 3 days after the conference for those wishing an extended stay in Vancouver.

Note: Parking is an additional \$16/day or \$35/wk. Transit express bus to downtown 20 minutes.

Questions? Email pnlha@shaw.ca or call Joey Hartman at 778-870-0703

