



MESSAGE FROM THE BCTF AND BCFL PRESIDENTS

For too long, Canadian history has been dominated by tales of great men, their wars, their exploration, their industrial exploits and their political battles. The experiences, struggles and triumphs of working men and women have been too often overlooked.

Much of what is called “history” presents us as helpless, not capable of changing or controlling the course of events or even our own lives. This is particularly true when it comes to the history of the labour movement, the oldest and largest of the popular movements built by working people to advance their interests. The 40-hour week, the weekend, the end of child labour, medicare, pay equity—these are all achievements of the labour movement, achievements our children need to know about and understand as they enter the workforce.

That’s why this new labour studies curriculum, developed jointly by the B.C. Teachers’ Federation, the B.C. Federation of Labour and the B.C. Ministry of Education, makes such an important contribution. It gives teachers the tools to bring this vital dimension of our history and society into the classroom.

Unions continue to make a vital contribution to the life of our province. No doubt the students who work with this curriculum will add their own achievements to our common future.

David Chudnovsky
BC Teachers’ Federation, President



Jim Sinclair
BC Federation of Labour, President

