

Major Labour Organizations

CANADA

- 1800s** **Knights of Labour** *Started in 1869, in Philadelphia; swept across Canada in the 1880s*
-pioneers in industrial unionism
-organized semi-skilled and unskilled workers
-co-founded Canadian Trades and Labour Congress
-declined because of conflict with American Federation of Labour
- 1834** **Printers' Union** *Toronto union*
-held strike in 1872, victory in the form of Trade Union Act
- 1836** **International Typographical Union (CTU)**
-one of the first unions in Canada
-later merged with ITU, lead historic strike in Toronto, 1872
- 1871** **Toronto Trades Assembly** *Group of trade unions from Toronto*
-campaign for shorter hours
-instrumental in establishing the Trade Union Act
-moved toward a National Labour Assembly
- 1873** **Canadian Labour Union (CLU)** *First National labour-centre; Toronto base*
-lasted for three conventions until an economic recession caused its end
- 1886** **Trades and Labour Congress (TLC)**
Toronto base with delegates from across Canada; national labour body
-forerunner of Canadian Labour Congress of today
-influenced by American Federation of Labour (AFL)
-international union policy
- 1903** **National Trades and Labour Congress changing to**
1927 **Canadian Federation of Labour (CFL)** *Aimed at building a purely Canadian trade union system*
-formed after TLC opted for closer relations with the AFL and international unionism
-anti-international policy
- 1903** **International Brotherhood of Teamsters (the Teamsters)**
-1.5 Million members worldwide, about 102,000 members in Canada (35 locals)
-began in the US Mid West with team drivers (1898), and grew when championed by AFL leader Samuel Gompers
- 1905** **Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or Wobblies)** *Originated in Chicago; aim to overthrow the capitalist system by and for the workers; had 10,000 Canadian members by 1911*
-organized workers into industrial unions
-pioneered strike on-the-job, mass sit-downs and organization of the unemployed, migrant and im-migrant workers
-declined during WW 1 when governments outlawed the organization

- 1919 One Big Union (OBU)** *Predominantly western Canadian organization*
 -arose out of the fight for a united, militant, Canadian trade union movement
 -industrial unionism policy
 -short-lived strength
- 1919 International Labour Organization (ILO)**
 -Tripartite world body representing labour, management, and government
 -an agency of the United Nations, it disseminates labour information and sets (and monitors) minimum labour standards
- 1927 All-Canadian Congress of Labour (ACCL)**
Started by the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees (CBRE); came out of the CFL
 -objective of achieving the complete independence of the Canadian labour movement
- 1937 Industrial, Wood and Allied Workers' of Canada (IWA-Canada)**
 -founded to represent the interests of loggers and mill workers in the Pacific Northwest
 -was the largest union in B.C. after World War II, but has declined in membership until recent years
- 1938 Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO)**
American organization formed because of split in AFL over craft vs. industrial unions
 -Canadian implication: TLC followed AFL example and expelled any CIO unions
- 1940 Canadian Congress of Labour (CCL)**
Merger between CIO unions and All-Canadian Congress of Labour
 -emphasized organizing the unorganized
 -autonomous Canadian body
 -flexible membership acceptance
- 1944 International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU)**
 -roots go right back to the Knights of Labor (1888), and through the International Longshoremen's Association (1912-1923); in B.C. is made up of thirteen autonomous local units
 -there were earlier attempts to establish B.C. chartered locals in B.C. at New Westminster (1937) and Vancouver (1938) but both failed
- 1956 Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)**
Merger between Trades and Labour Congress and Canadian Congress of Labour
 -main central labour body of today
 -over two million members in 1976
- 1963 Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)**
 -Canada's largest union, with 485,000 members; formed by merger of two previous public sector unions
 -includes school boards, hospitals, municipalities, universities, utilities, libraries, transit and other public facilities
- 1979 United Food and Commercial Workers, International Union (UFCW)**
 -more than 10,000 members in Canada (with more than 100,000 in North America)
 -formed by the merger of two previous unions

- 1985 Canadian Auto Workers (CAW)**
 -largest private sector union in Canada, representing 245,000 members in a wide range of industries
 -formed when it broke away from its International, the United Auto Workers (see NFB film "Final Offer")
- 1988 Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW)**
 -represents 49,000 workers at Canada Post, and 15 bargaining units
 -Earliest beginning as Federated Association of Letter Carriers (1891), the current union is the result of the merger of the letter carriers with other postal unions
- 1992 Communications, Energy, and Paperworkers' Union of Canada (CEP)**
 -150,000 members, one of Canada's largest unions
 -formed by merger of three earlier unions

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- 1886 International Typographic Union (ITU)**
 -first fully certified union in B.C., and has the oldest existing charter
- 1893 Western Federation of Miners (WFM)**
 -created in Montana, crossed border into B.C. at Rossland in 1895
 -lead bitter 1901 Rossland strike
- 1910 British Columbia Federation of Labour (BCFL)**
 -affiliation of labour unions representing about 450,000 members
 -dominant voice of organized labour in B.C.
- 1916 British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF)**
 -represents over 44,000 public school teachers and related members
- 1916 International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers (Mine-Mill)**
 -formerly within WFM, Mine-Mill was weakened in the 1917 Trail. It became powerful in the 1930s and was one of the founders of the Congress of International Organization (CIO)
 -was seen as a "Red" union in the 1950s. It merged with the United Steel Workers in 1967
- 1944 Hospital Employees' Union**
 -more than 46,000 members in over 400 health care facilities and agencies
- 1945 United Fishers and Allied Workers' Union (UFAWU)**
 -organized from the uniting of smaller fishery unions in the early 1940s
 -at its height in the late 1990s it had more than 4,000 members, it voted to merge with the CAW in 1996
- 1968 British Columbia Government Employees' Union (BCGEU)**
formerly BC Government Employees' Association (BCGEA)
 -60,000 members, representing more than 400 bargaining units
 -also represents some private sector theatres, child care centres and hotels