

## UNITED STEELWORKERS



UNITY AND STRENGTH FOR WORKERS

### **STRONG, PROUD AND DIVERSE**

The United Steelworkers is Canada's most diverse union, representing men and women working in every sector of the economy. We are the largest private sector union in both Canada and North America with more than 225,000 members in Canada and more than 800,000 members continent-wide.

This is our day to celebrate the struggles and accomplishments of all Canadian workers.

On behalf of the United Steelworkers and Local 7916 we want to take this time to wish all working people in all sectors of the Canadian workforce a safe and happy labor day.

USW LOCAL 7916



### **Painting Your Future**



The sun rises on an industrial worksite that is home to District Council 17 IUPAT Painters



Above left: DC17 painters specialize in applying a variety of protective coatings as seen here with a member applying thermal spray aluminum metalizing **Above right:** DC17 Painters hard at work painting a storage tank

Looking for work? Finishing high school and don't have a clear picture of your career? Did you suffer a slow-down due to the pandemic? Do you already have a job but are looking for a change of pace or the next new, interesting opportunit?

the pandemic? Do you already have a job but are looking for a change of pace or the next new, interesting opportunity? There is a skilled labor shortage in Canada. Every day employers are actively recruiting people to fill positions in the skilled trades. The shortage is only going to increase as a large population of skilled trade workers are getting ready to retire. Across North America approximately 40% of tradespeople will need to be replaced within the next 5-10 years; that's almost half of the workforce! Specifically, in Canada, it is estimated that 255 000 skilled construction workers will need to be recruited in the next 10 years to fill the vacancies.

with need to years to fill the vacancies. One of the most promising trades is that of a Red Seal Painter. Painters are constantly battling the effects of corrosion. Corrosion is a natural process that occurs everywhere. It is estimated that corrosion will cost the economy 276 billion dollars annually to preserve our infrastructure such as bridges, buildings, roads, power supplies, etc. There are specialized coatings that are applied to mitigate the disastrous effects of corrosion and painters are certified to apply these coatings. Billions of dollars are invested every year to prevent bridge collapses, building failures, and structural deterioration. Painting is a trade that will be in demand for the foreseeable future as governments and owners fight to protect their investments against

corrosion. Think the trades are boring and consist of repetitive tasks that you will perform every day till the end of your career? I don't think sol Painting offers work in a wide variety of environments from residential construction, commercial high rises, public facilities such as sports facilities, swimming pools, and community centres to the industrial sector where employees apply corrosion resistant coatings on bridges, refineries, tank farms, and

### International Union of Painters & Allied Trades



mines. I am challenged every day at my job with new and interesting problems to solve, new people to meet and work with, and research to keep up with the new and advanced products that are constantly coming out with new technology. This trade is constantly evolving and can provide a challenging work environment where one will never stop learning.

ing. So how do you get a job as a Painter Decorator? The process has become easier over the years; especially if you are unionized through the International Union of Painters & Allied Trades (IUPAT). We have people approach us all the time asking how do I get into the painting trade? With painters in such high demand it is quite easy to match a prospective apprentice with a prospective apprentice with a company. All that is required is an eagerness to learn and your local union will work with both your needs and a prospective employer to place you in a position that works best for all involved.

Maybe at this point you're thinking the trades aren't quite for you? Well I thought that as well before entering the workforce and here I am 10 years into the trade. It started off as a way to make ends meet while I attended university and turned into a fullblown career. It has offered more opportunities than I could have ever imagined. My career as a painter has developed my leadership skills, strengthened my work ethic, enhanced my problem-solving skills, and afforded me the opportunities to travel all over the world to learn about and apply these specialty coatings.

My only regret is that I did not enter the painting trade sooner. A skilled unionized trade such as painting affords many opportunities to a person. Whether it be a filler while deciding on a career path, a way to fill summers between semesters, or a route into a serious career you really can't go wrong investing your time into a career as a painter decorator. Let's say you do change your mind. What has it cost you? You have learned a new set of skills in an in-demand career with little to no monetary investment on your part. Yes, you read that correctly, the majority of training required to excel as a Painter Decorator is supplied by unions, employers, government organizations and grants, etc. As a unionized Painter Decorator you will also have access to highly specialized courses that are provided to you for no cost. These courses focus on specialized skills required for our trade, certifications that allow you to work on exclusive jobs, and supervisory courses which aim to see you excel in your career as a Painter. Not a fan of academia? That's alright! The majority of material learnt in the painting trade is hands-on training provided in both a classroom environment and through a mentorship with an experienced journeyman to teach you the skills needed to be a successful painter.

needed to be a successful painter. Compare that to a student loan where you are faced with costs between \$40 000 to \$80 000 to achieve an undergraduate degree once cost of living is factored in. On top of that, there is no guaranteed job once you finish your university degree. You may face years of unemployment or the cost of going after a master's degree to land that dream job you're after. Or, perhaps a university degree is the way you want to go? Why not fund it with a career in Painting and Decorating and come out with little to no debt and a Red Seal trade in your back pocket?

bedy and a ked sear trade in your back pocket? Not only is training provided but so are other additional benefits. As a member of the IUPAT you are eligible for benefits packages that help cover the costs of dental, eye, chiropractic, massage, alternative health, physiotherapy, counselling, and much more. You are also eligible for enrollment in the union's pension plan to help you prepare for retirement.

Worried you will not fit in? The construction industry is already a diverse atmosphere and employs people from all backgrounds, ethnicities, countries, etc. There are even federal initiatives in place to encourage the hiring of new apprentices with a focus on women, indigenous people, newcomers to Canada, and other minority groups. The workforce has changed since 1 entered the trade. There's a strong presence of minority groups representing the workforce. Furthermore, there are committees established to promote the rights and benefits of these minority groups provincially, federally and internationally through the IUPAT. A career as a skilled painter

A career as a skilled painter presents many opportunities for personal and career growth. The added benefits of job placements, benefits packages, benefits, inclusive environments, and challenging atmospheres are some of the most attractive highlights of this position. The trades are booming. The International Union of Painters and Allied trades has been representing painters in Saskatchewan from 1906 to present day. The union has survived and adapted through all types of economic and technology changes and adversity. Continue to thrive with us as a painter decorator. Speak to your local International Union of Painter's and Allied Trades representative today!

IUPAT District Council 17 Manitoba: 204-943-2497 Saskatchewan: 1-800-322-0694 Alberta: 780-484-8645 Email: office@dc17.ca



### Labour Day in Canada

ARTICLE BY MARC-ANDRÉ GAGNON, WWW.THECANADIANENCYCLOPEDIA.CA

Labour Day, the first Monday in September, has been a statutory holiday in Canada since 1894. It originated in the first workers' rallies of the Victorian era. Historically, workers marked the day with various activities. These included parades, speeches, games, amateur competitions and picnics. The holiday promoted working-class solidarity and belonging during a time of rapid industrialization. Since the Second World War, fewer and fewer people have participated in Labour Day activities. Nevertheless, it remains a statutory holiday. Many Canadians now devote the Labour Day holiday to leisure activity and family time.

Before the 1880s, people held sporadic festivities in connection with larger labour movements. Some historians trace the origin of Labour Day to the Nine Hour Movement (1872).

Labour organizations began to hold celebrations more frequently following a labour convention in New York in September 1882. Spurred on by this initial success, the American Federation of Labor and the Knights of Labor and the Knights of Labor actively promoted workers' celebrations on the first Monday in September in the United States. The Canadian chapters of thes ame. Records show similar gatherings in Toronto (1882); Hamilton and Oshawa (1883); Montreal (1866); St. Catharines (1887); Halifax (1888); Ottawa and Vancouver

(1887); Halifax (1888); Ottawa and Vancouver (1890); and London (1892). As the event grew more popular nationwide, labour organizations pressured governments to declare the first Monday in September a statutory holiday (see National Holidays). Their impact was significant enough that the Royal Commission on the Relations of Labor and Capital in Canada (1886– 89) recommended that the federal government establish a "labour day." Before this, the day had official status in only a few municipalities. Montreal, for example, declared it a civic holiday in 1889. In March and April

In March and April 1894, more than 50 labour organizations from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia petitioned parliamentarians. These groups included several regional trade and labour councils, as well as local assemblies of the Knights of Labor. They based their lobbying movement on similar initiatives from American unions. In the House of Commons, a bill sponsored by Prime Minister John Thompson prompted the debate about the holiday's legal status in May 1894. The House passed an amended holiday law without major discussion. It received royal assent on 23 July. The United States federal government also recognized the holiday in 1894.

The provinces had no choice but to adapt. For example, Quebec parliamentarians announced that the province's courts would not sit on the first Monday in September of that year. It wasn't until 1899 that the province granted the holiday legal status, ordering school boards to delay the start of classes until after the first Monday in September.

Canadians celebrated Labour Day with much ceremony on 3 September 1894. In Montreal, the city's Trades and Labour Congress played a key role in organizing events for the day. A parade set out from the Champ de Mars park at 9:00 a.m. Its divisions grouped together unions representing the same trade. The Grande-

Hermine local assembly of the Knights of Labor led the way. It guided participants to a park where they held speeches, games and

#### Happy Labour Day!

This Labour Day I would like to salute the working men and women of Saskatchewan and thank them for the huge contribution you make to your communities and to our province's economy.

#### Steven Bonk, MLA

for Moosomin Constituency

622 Main St., Moosomin, SK Phone 306-435-4005 Fax: 306-435-4008

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 noon 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.





LIUNA Local 180 would like to thank the hard working people of Saskatchewan this Labour Day. Together we will continue the fight for safer working conditions and better wages



2206 E Emmett Hall Road Regina, SK S4N 3M3 a picnic. In Quebec City, the Trades and Labour Congress chose instead to hold a mass followed

by entertainment. This included bicycle competitions, foot races and a lacrosse match.





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Workers or labourers are an inseparable part of the society, and on a larger scale, of the nation. We all are heavily dependent on the contribution of everyone surrounding us, so we also must give back to them in return. On Labour Day, May Day, or International Workers' Day, we can pay our respect to their efforts and celebrate their jobs without creating any discrimination among them.

Sending our appreciation and respect to the workers of every field. Happy Labour Day!



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# LODGE 555 SALUTES ALL WORKERS THIS LABOUR DAY

The Boilermakers, with our contractors, construct and maintain heavy industry across Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Northwestern Ontario.

On this Labour Day we recognize the valuable contributions that our fellow workers and producers make in agriculture, potash, power generation and oil everyday to the Western Canadian economy.

This year especially, we honour the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice of our healthcare professionals. Thank You!

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY LABOUR DAY REGINA - TEL: 306-949-4452 WINNIPEG - TEL: 204-987-9200 THUNDER BAY - TEL: 807-623-8186 www.555.boilermaker.ca



# SUN: Essential workers making the difference during the pandemic

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, essential workers have been busy keeping the world moving. Unlike so many Canadians who have been encouraged to stay safe at home essential workers have donned their uniforms and masks. and braved the ever-changing CO-VID-19 world. They've weathered constantly evolving rules from their employers and governments, shown up for work as case numbers climbed, and kept our hospitals functioning, our grocery stores open, and our gas stations running. Canada's organized labour forceunsung hero of the pandemic and this Labour Day, it's important to recognize all these workers



have done. However, these heroes are not tireless. Eighteen months of pressure have left their mark. For registered nurses, the stress of heavy patient loads, stretched resources, long hours, ballooning—and sometimes mandated overtime hours are contributing to an increasing rate of burnout. In Saskatchewan, almost one-

in-five registered nurses are eligible to retire at any time, which would further threaten the stability of a healthcare system that was on life support long before the

pandemic began. To help remove some

of the stress born by Saskatchewan's registered nurses—and the province's entire workforce is to help the population stay healthy and well. One of the most effective tools in the toolboxes in the fight against COVID-19 is receiving a COVID-19 vacination. Immunization has been proven to limit the spread of the virus and keep symptoms mild in those who do become infected, thus keeping Saskatchewan's hospitals and ICUs open. Beyond healthcare, choosing to become fully vaccinated keeps communities safe, protecting the essential workers who have so bravely worked throughout the pandemic to maintain our way of life.

This Labour Day, when recognizing all organized labour has done for you, consider becoming fully vaccinated to thank Saskatchewan's work force for all they do today.

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#### Happy Labour Day!

sun

SASKATCHEWAN UNION OF NURSES

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### Labour Day: the holiday Canada gave the world

Welcome to Labour Day, the holiday that is so much a part of our culture that Canadians rarely pause to consider its true purpose and meaning. Today, Labour Day is of-

ten more associated with fairs and festivals, and a last summer weekend at the cottage, than with what it was meant to be—a heartfelt celebration of workers and their families.

That's too bad, but per-haps not surprising. In a way, the holiday has be-come a victim of the labour

come a victim of the labour movement's enduring suc-cess in improving the lives of working Canadians. Today we take paid holidays, safe work plac-es, medical care, unem-ployment insurance, fair hours, union wages and 'the weekend' for granted. But how many of these advances would have happened if it were not for the long-forgotten heroes who fought so hard to make unions, and Labour Day, a

reality in the first place? Labour Day began in Canada on April 15, 1872, a mere five years after Con-federation. On that historic day the Toronto Trades Assembly, the original central labour body in Canada, organized the country's first significant 'workers dem-onstration.'

At the time trade unions

were still illegal, and au-thorities still tried to repress them, even though laws against "criminal laws conspiracy" to disrupt trade unions had already been abolished in Britain.

Despite the obstacles, the assembly had emerged as an important force in Toronto. It spoke out on behalf of working people, encouraged union orga-nization and acted as a watchdog when workers were exploited. Occasion-ally, it also mediated disputes between employers and employees.

By the time the land-mark parade was orga-nized in 1872 the assembly had a membership of 27 unions, representing wood workers, builders, carriage makers and metal work-ers, plus an assortment of other trades ranging from

bakers to cigar makers. One of the prime reasons for organizing the demon-stration was to demand the release of 24 leaders of the Toronto Typographi-cal Union (TTU), who had been imprisoned for the "crime" of striking to gain a nine-hour working day

The event took on a life of its own and was one that authorities could not ignor

Held on Thanksgiving Day, which was then observed in the spring, the

parade featured throngs of workers and a crowd estimated at 10,000 Toronestimated at 10,000 10ron-tonians who applauded as the unionists marched proudly through the streets, accompanied by four bands. In speeches that followed, trade union leaders demanded freedom for the TTU prisoners and better conditions for all workers.

It was a defining mo-ment in Canadian labour history, opening the door to the formation of the broader Canadian labour movement over the next decade and sowing the roots of what is now an annual workers' holiday around the world.

The Toronto parade in-spired leaders in Ottawa to stage a similar event. A few months later, on September 3, 1872, seven unions in the nation's capital orga-nized a parade more than a mile long, headed by an artillery band and flanked by city fireman.

The Ottawa parade passed the home of Sir John A. MacDonald, the prime minister. He was hoisted into a carriage and taken to City Hall where, by torch light, he made a ringing promise to sweep away "such barbarous laws" as those invoked to imprison the TTU workers in Toronto.

The 'Old Chieftain' kept his word. Before the year was out the hated laws were gone from the statute books in Canada. In 1873 the

Toronto Trades Assembly called a national convention and national convention and set up the first national central organization, the Canadian Labour Union (CLU), which in 1886 be-came the Trades and La-bour Congress of Canada (TLC), which was one of the forerunners of the

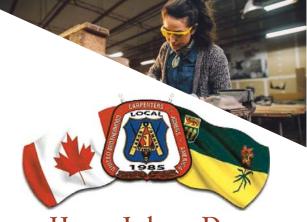
present Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), now the major national labour or-

ganization in Canada. Labour Day celebrations in the United States began in the 1880s, inspired by the beginnings made in Canada

Initially, Labour Day was celebrated in the spring but that did not last long. Af-ter it was declared a legal holiday by the Parliament of Canada on July 23, 1894, the celebration was moved to the early fall, where it has remained ever since

Around the world today Labour Day is celebrated at different times. In Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia it is known as "May Day" - or Interna-tional Workers' Day - and it is celebrated on May 1. In New Zealand, it is held on the fourth Monday in October, and in Australia the date varies from state to state across the country. But wherever it is cel-

ebrated, the purpose re-mains the same. In the same spirit it began so many years ago, it remains a day that affirms the dig-nity and honour of working people everywhere. NUPGE



#### Happy Labour Day

As you enjoy your long weekend, take time to remember the labour movement pioneers who have helped to secure the rights and benefits we enjoy today in Canada!







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### 1872 demonstrations in Canada led to rights we enjoy today

In a time when work-ers' rights are taken for granted and even work-ers' benefits have come to be expected, it's no won-der that the origins of Labour Day are confined to the history books. What evolved into just another summer holiday began as a working class struggle and massive demonstration of solidarity in the streets of Toronto.

Canada was changing rapidly during the second half of the 19th century. Immigration was increasing, cities were getting crowded, and industrialization was drastically altering the country's economy and workforce.

As machines began to replace or automate many work processes, employ-ees found they no longer had special skills to offer employers. Workers could easily be replaced if they easily be replaced if they complained or dissented and so were often unable to speak out against low wages, long work weeks and deplorable working conditions. This is the context and setting for what is ensure

setting for what is gener-ally considered Canada's first Labour Day event in 1872. At the time, unions were illegal in Canada, which was still operating under an archaic British law already abolished in England.

For over three years the Toronto Printers Union had been lobbying its employers for a shorter work week. Inspired by workers in Hamilton who had begun the movement for a nine-hour work day, the Toronto printers threat-ened to strike if their demands weren't met. After repeatedly being ignored by their employers, the workers took bold action and on March 25, 1872, they went on strike. Toronto's publishing in-

dustry was paralyzed and the printers soon had the support of other work-ers. On April 14, a group of 2,000 workers marched

Happy



A Labor Day procession in Winnipeg in 1908.

through the streets in a of solidarity. They show picked up even more suppicked up even more sup-porters along the way and by the time they reached their destination of Queen's Park, their pa-rade had 10,000 partici-pants—one tenth of the city's population.

The employers were forced to take notice. Led by George Brown, found-er of the Toronto Globe and notable Liberal, the publishers retaliated. Brown brought in workers from nearby towns to replace the printers. He even took legal action to quell the strike and had the strike leaders charged and arrested for criminal conspiracy.

Conservative Prime Minister John A. Mac-donald was watching the events unfold and quickly saw the political benefit

of siding with the workers. Macdonald spoke out against Brown's actions at a public demonstra-tion at City Hall, gaining ať the support of the work-ers and embarrassing his Liberal rival. Macdonald passed the Trade Union Act, which repealed the outdated British law and decriminalized unions. The strike leaders were re-

leased from jail. The workers still did not obtain their immedi-ate goals of a shorter work week. In fact, many still lost their job. They did, however, discover how to regain the power they lost in the industrialized economy. Their strike proved that workers could gain the attention of their employers, the public, and most importantly, their political leaders if they worked together. The

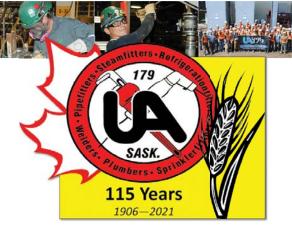
"Nine-Hour Movement," as it became known, spread to other Canadian cities and a shorter work

week became the primary demand of union workers in the years following the Toronto strike

The parade that held in support of the strikers carried over into an annual celebration of worker's rights and was adopted in cities through-out Canada. The parades demonstrated solidar-ity, with different unions ity, with different unions identified by the color-ful banners they carried. In 1894, under mounting pressure from the work-ing class, Prime Minister Sir John Thompson de-clared Labour Day a na-tional holiday. tional holiday. Over time, Labour Day

strayed from its origins and evolved into a popular celebration enjoyed by the masses. It became viewed as the last celebra-

viewed as the last celebra-tion of summer, a time for picnics, barbecues and shopping. No matter where you find yourself this Labour Day, take a minute to think about Canada's la-bour pioneer. Their acbour pioneers. Their ac-tions laid the foundations for future labour movements and helped work-ers secure the rights and benefits enjoyed today.



**United Association of Plumbers & Pipefitters** 

#### U.A. Local 179

402 Solomon Drive | Regina, SK | S4N 5A8

### 306-569-0624 www.ualocal179.ca

Established in 1906 to represent Saskatchewan Plumbers, Pipefitters, Welders, Sprinklerfitters, Instrumentation Mechanics and Gasfitters. Members are engaged in fabrication, Installation, Maintenance and servicing of all form of process piping systems

Mike McLean **BUSINESS MANAGER**  **Brandon Faul BUSINESS AGENT** 

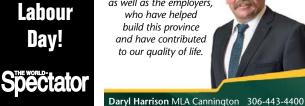
**Mitch Grenier BUSINESS AGENT** 

Happy Labour Day!

Thank you to all the hard working women and men of Saskatchewan, as well as the employers, who have helped build this province and have contributed to our quality of life.



CanningtonConstituency@sasktel.net







# **Looking forward to Labour Day**

The meaning behind some parts of our history tends to fade from our collective memory over time. This is certainly the case for Labour Day, a holiday that has taken on a whole new significance through the years. One thing remains the same, however: Canadians continue to welcome this long weekend with open arms!

he years. Chandians continue to welcome this long weekend with open arms! Nowadays, Labour Day signals the end of summer activities and the beginning of a new school year, and it is a time to relax before our busy fall schedules take precedence. Even though there is still a feeling of summer in the air, we become more aware that the days are getting shorter and we notice that the harvest season is around the corner, bringing fall scents like hay and wet fallen leaves.

Labour Day is a time of change in many different ways, and it provides a wonderful opportunity to roam the countryside,



Labour Day is a time to relax before our busy fall schedules take precedence.

stocking up on freshly-picked vegetables or biting into crispy apples. It is a favourite time of year for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds, with some people taking advantage of this three-day weekend to travel even further afield, exploring new areas of the country.

Yet there is a great deal of meaning behind this special event, which we all celebrate on the first Monday of September. It should also be a time to remember the origins of Labour Day, to remember that, without the efforts and sacrifices of the labour movement to improve working conditions during the 1880s and '90s, this holiday would not exist. That vast mobilization of the labour force, born in big cities such as Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, grew to encompass the entire Canadian working class and became the holiday that we know today.



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This pandemic has shown us that postal services are more essential than ever for rural Canadians to stay connected to the rest of the world.

Our jobs are vitally important, and we are proud of the work we do. We will keep striving to bring more services to our communities and safeguard the services we already offer.

On this Labour Day, know that your local Postmaster and rural post offices are working hard for you. We welcome your support.





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