

# Winnipeg General Strike, 1919, Resource List

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## PRIMARY SOURCES & DOCUMENTS

### A. Archives of Manitoba:

Charles F. Gray fonds - Records of Mayor Charles Gray, including those specific to his time in office during the General Strike.

Citizens' Committee of One Thousand Collection - Pamphlets and addresses given by the Citizens' Committee of One Thousand.

Frederick George Thompson fonds - Thompson was the creator of the Loyalist Returned Soldiers Association, an anti-strike organization for veterans. Records include minutes and resolutions from LRSA meetings.

Helen Armstrong fonds - Records from Helen Armstrong, including those related to her work for the Women's Labor League, as well as from her arrest during the Strike.

Isaac Pitblado fonds - Records from Pitblado, a member of the Citizens' Committee of One Thousand and prosecutor for the trials of strike leaders.

L.B. Foote fonds - Photographs taken before, during, and after the strike courtesy of Foote. Includes original copies of many of the strike's most famous photographs.

Mary Jordan fonds – Records from Mary Jordan, the secretary for the Winnipeg Labor Council and One Big Union.

Robert Boyd Russell fonds – Records of strike leader R.B. Russell, including minutes from the Central Strike Committee and interviews given to both the Winnipeg Citizen and the Western Labor News.

Williams Ivens fonds – Records documenting the life of strike leader William Ivens following the Winnipeg General Strike, mainly between 1921 and 1953.

## **B. University of Manitoba Libraries:**

Archived copies of the following strike-era newspapers and newsletters:

Manitoba Free Press

One Big Union Bulletin

Strikers' Defense Bulletin

The Enlightener

The Voice

The Western Star

Western Labor News

Winnipeg Citizen

Winnipeg General Strike Collection (via University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections) – Scrapbook holdings of various strike-related newspaper clippings from the Winnipeg Tribune and the Manitoba Free Press.

Winnipeg Tribune

## **C. City of Winnipeg Archives:**

The Winnipeg General Strike: A Guide to Research – Research guide commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike. Includes reproductions of famous photographs and primary sources. Online: <<https://winnipeg.ca/clerks/pdfs/publications/COWArchivesResearchGuideStrike.pdf>>.

**D. University of Winnipeg Archives:**

Winnipeg General Strike microfilm collection – a collection of published material on the Strike, available via microfilm.

**E. Library and Archives Canada:**

Rare film footage of the strike is available via LAC's YouTube channel, online (video): <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7k0HzRYoi8>>.

**F. Peel's Prairie Provinces (University of Alberta):**

Dixon's Address to the Jury: An argument for Liberty of Opinion. Winnipeg: Defence Committee, 1920, online: <<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/4579.html>>.

Pritchard's Address to the Jury. Winnipeg: Defense Committee, 1920, online: <<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/4627.html>>.

Royal Commission to enquire into and report upon the causes and effects of the General Strike which recently existed in the City of Winnipeg for a period of six weeks, including the methods of calling and carrying on such strike (Robson Commission). Winnipeg: Government of Manitoba, 1919, online: <<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/4525.html>>.

The activities and organization of the Citizens' Committee of One Thousand in connection with the Winnipeg strike, May-June 1919. Winnipeg: Citizens' Committee of One Thousand, 1920, online: <<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/4546.html>>.

The King vs. J.S. Woodsworth: Indictment for Publishing Seditious Libels, Six Counts, and Speaking Seditious Words. Winnipeg: Defense Committee, 1920, online: <<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/4550.html>>.

The Winnipeg General Sympathetic Strike, May-June 1919. Winnipeg: Defense Committee, 1919, online: <<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/bibliography/4548.html>>.

**G. Books (Non-Fiction)**

Bercuson, David, *Confrontation at Winnipeg: Labour, Industrial Relations and the General Strike* (1990); Bercuson explores the development of labour unions in Manitoba in the two decades preceding the strike. He also

looks at the impacts depression and war played on the striking workers and their distrust of authority.

Bumsted, J.M., *The Winnipeg General Strike of 1919: An Illustrated History* (1994); a chronological narrative of the Winnipeg General Strike featuring more than one hundred photographs and illustrations. Primary source material includes newspaper photographs, eyewitness accounts, personal memoirs, and family stories.

Dupuis, Michael, *Winnipeg General Strike: Ordinary Men and Women Under Extraordinary Circumstances* (2019); Dupuis explores the background, events, and result of the Winnipeg General Strike through the use of personal artifacts from those directly involved with the conflict. This book was published to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the strike.

Dupuis, Michael, *Winnipeg's General Strike: Reports from the Front Lines* (2014); Dupuis' book examines the role played by journalists during the Winnipeg General Strike via their reporting from the front lines. Both pro and anti-strike media are given exposure here, while special attention is given to a number of strike-related conspiracy theories that, according to Dupuis, were pushed by the media.

Epp-Koop, Stefan, *We're Going to Run This City: Winnipeg's Political Left after the General Strike*; this book explores the political evolution of Winnipeg's Left immediately following the 1919 Strike. Emphasis is given to changes that took place during the 1920s and 30s specifically, the election of the ILP's John Queen as mayor.

Kehler, Ken & Alvin A.J. Esau, *Famous Manitoba Trials: The Winnipeg General Strike Trials: Research Sources* (1990); an overview of the various trials that took place following the conclusion of the Winnipeg General Strike. Strike leaders were brought on trial by the state for various offences, including disturbing the peace, sedition, and even treason.

Kramer, Reinhold & Tom Mitchell, *When the State Trembled: How A.J. Andrews and the Citizens' Committee Broke the Winnipeg General Strike* (2010); the comprehensive story of the Citizens' Committee of 1000, an organization formed by Winnipeg's business elite in order to crush the strike. According to the authors, the Committee of 1000 drew upon a wide variety of anti-labour tactics in order to present the strike as a criminal action.

Larsen, Norm, *Notable Trials from Manitoba's Legal History* (2015); this book provides analysis of fifteen significant trials from the annals of Manitoba's

legal history. The now infamous Strike trials are given special attention, and analysis is provided on the six men who were sent to prison for conspiring to overthrow the governments of Canada, Manitoba, and Winnipeg.

Lester, David & Graphic History Collective, *1919: A Graphic History of the Winnipeg General Strike* (2019); a graphic novel that revisits the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike using easy-to-read comic book panels. Special attention is given to themes of class struggle and worker solidarity.

Lewycky, Dennis, *Magnificent Fight: The 1919 Winnipeg General Strike* (2019); Lewycky provides a social, political, and economic analysis of the strike, including a look at the conditions that led to its outbreak in 1919. He also discusses its after-effects, including the impact levied on workers, unions, and all three levels of government during the 1920s and 30s.

Reilly, Nolan & Sharon Reilly, *1919 The Winnipeg General Strike: A Driving and Walking Tour* (2019), written by two local historians, this book provides readers with a thematic guide to the events and historic locations of the General Strike across Winnipeg. Seventy-five photographs and two foldout maps help readers explore the city and relive the Strike.

*The Workers' Revolt in Canada, 1917-1925* (2016), Craig Heron, ed; this book, a collaboration of nine labour historians, explores the Winnipeg General Strike through the lens of the post-war labour movement in Canada (especially its evolution in the Western Canada). The authors argue that the upsurge, although national in scope, took on different appearances depending on their region.

Walker, Jack & Duncan A Fraser, *The Great Canadian Sedition Trials: the Courts and the Winnipeg General Strike 1919-1920* (2004), published as a joint project by the Legal Research Institute of the University of Manitoba and the Canadian Legal History Project, this book analyzes the sedition trials that followed the conclusion of the Winnipeg General Strike.

*Winnipeg 1919: The Strikers' Own History of the General Strike* (2019), Norman Penner, ed; an edited collection of materials from the strike leaders, including their personal account of the events of 1919. Long considered one of the more important primary sources related to the General Strike, this collection provides a detailed look at the worker's own experiences.

## **H. Books (Fiction)**

McCracken, Melinda & Penelope Jackson, *Papergirl* (2019); a children's paperback that tells the story of a 10-year-old girl who distributes the strike bulletin at Portage and Main.

Sweatman, Margaret, *Fox: A Novel* (1991); a novel which looks at the lives of various individuals directly impacted by the Winnipeg General Strike. This includes men and women from the business class and those directly involved with the strike.

Zaidman, Harriet, *City on Strike: A Novel* (2019); a young adult fiction that tells the story of a 13-year old boy and his immigrant family as they are drawn into the events of the Winnipeg General Strike.

## **I. Journal Articles**

Brown, Desmond H, "The Craftsmanship of Bias: Sedition and the Winnipeg Strike Trial, 1919" (1984) 14:1 Man LJ 1-34.

Cahill, Barry, "Howe (1835), Dixon (1920) and McLachlan (1923): Comparative Perspectives on the Legal History of Sedition" (1996) 45 UNBLJ 281-305.

Dupuis, Michael, "William R. Plewman, 'The Toronto Daily Star', and the Reporting of the Winnipeg General Strike" (2006) 57 Labour/Le Travail 167-181.

Katz, Leslie, "Some Legal Consequences of the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919" (1970) 4:1 Man LJ 39-52.

Komeski, Kurt, "Prairie Fire: The Winnipeg General Strike" (2000) 45 Labour/Le Travail 259-266.

Lederman, Peter R, "Sedition in Winnipeg: An Examination of the Trials for Seditious Conspiracy Arising from the General Strike of 1919" (1976-77) 3 Queen's L Rev.

McNaught, Kenneth, "Political Trials and the Canadian Political Tradition" (1974) 24:2 UTLJ 149-169.

## **J. Articles by the Manitoba Historical Society**

Mitchell, Tom, "A.J. Andrews to Arthur Meighen: Winnipeg General Strike Correspondence" (1992).

Dupuis, Michael, "Jean Arsin's Winnipeg General Strike Film" (2010).

- Larsen, Norm, ed, "Notable Trials from Manitoba's Legal History Including Sedition Trials from the Winnipeg General Strike" (2015).
- Penner, Anna, "Politics in the Park: Winnipeg's Victoria Park During the General Strike" (2000-2001).
- "The Strike Bulletin of the Western Labour News" (revised 27 August 2009).
- Idiong, Uduak, "The Third Force: Returned Soldiers in the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919" (1997).
- Dupuis, Michael, "The Toronto Star and the Winnipeg General Strike" (2005)
- Horodyski, Mary, "Women and the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919" (1986).
- Berzish, Murph, "Young Historians: Suppressing the Winnipeg General Strike: Paranoia or Preserving the Peace?" (2010).
- "The Western Labour News" (revised 27 August 2009).
- "Citizens' Committee of 1000" (revised 29 August 2009).
- "Central Strike Committee" (revised 2 November 2009).

## **K. Websites**

- Canada's History - Differing Perspectives on the Winnipeg General Strike, online: <<https://www.canadashistory.ca/education/classroom-resources/differing-perspectives-on-the-winnipeg-general-strike>> [perma.cc/L78D-ET5K].
- Canadian Museum for Human Rights - The Winnipeg General Strike: Demanding Rights for the Working Class, online: <<https://humanrights.ca/story/the-winnipeg-general-strike>> [perma.cc/TD8F-GKST].
- Canadian Public Health Association - Fighting the Good Fight: Winnipeg General Strike of 1919, online: <<https://www.cpha.ca/fighting-good-fight-winnipeg-general-strike-1919>> [perma.cc/UD5H-VLLR].
- The Canadian Encyclopedia - Winnipeg General Strike of 1919, online: <<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/winnipeg-general-strike>> [perma.cc/9U9G-WYTB].