

# Introduction from the *Manitoba Law Journal*

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BRYAN P. SCHWARTZ

As David's moving introductory piece recalls, Jack Walker's lifework, beyond his family and dedication to his clients, was to produce this history of the Winnipeg General Strike. When he passed away, my colleague Professor Alvin Esau and our former student Duncan Fraser took over the project and released a first edition.<sup>1</sup> Its distribution channels did not then exist to make it widely available, which is the reason for this second edition. In addition to the hard copy version, the *Manitoba Law Journal* is now available free and worldwide through at least three online sources, as well as in bookstores, and through the major specialized legal databases. We hope that this second edition, prepared in connection with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the General Strike, will find a wide and enduring audience.

The academic year 2019 was also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the relocation of the law school to Robson Hall. A companion volume to this is our special edition on the life and legacy of Chief Justice Hugh Amos Robson, whose report on the General Strike remains an outstanding contribution to its historiography and evaluation. One of the essential dimensions of our journal has been exploring legal history, and Jack assembled a remarkable collection of documents on the General Strike which he donated to the Manitoba Archives. We hope this edition will not only expand awareness and understanding of the General Strike, but inspire others to follow in Jack's path of studying and reflecting upon the event and its legacy. More widely, the *Manitoba Law Journal* hopes to continue its efforts, and inspire those of

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<sup>1</sup> See Jack Walker, *The Great Canadian Seditious Trials: The Courts and the Winnipeg General Strike, 1919-1920*, Duncan Fraser, ed (Winnipeg: Legal Research Institute of the University of Manitoba & Canadian Legal History Project, 2004).

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others, to explore the legal history of this province and the way it has been influenced and affected by the world far beyond our borders.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> We invite readers interested in Manitoba legal history to explore other recent efforts, including *Five Decades of Chief Justices of Manitoba* (2012) 36 Special Issue Man LJ; *A Judge of Valour: Chief Justice Samuel Freedman – In His Own Words* (2014) 37 Special Issue Man LJ; *A Review of the Current Legal Landscape* (2016) 39:1-2 Man LJ (for a perspective on these historical projects, see e.g. Bryan P Schwartz, “The Great Transition in Canadian Legal Education” (2016) 39:1 Man LJ xxiii); *Indigenous Jurists and Policy-Makers From Manitoba: A Collection of Oral Histories* (2018) 41:2 Man LJ.