

The Winnipeg General Strike

Recommended Reading List

The Winnipeg General Strike is Canada's best-known general strike, lasting from May 15 to June 25 1919. At its peak over 30,000 strikers were involved including factory, retail trade and public sector employees. Elevators shut down, trams stopped, postal and telephone communications came to a halt - nothing moved without approval from the labour-led Strike Committee. At the heart of workers' demands was the right to collective bargaining, better wages and working conditions.

On June 21, Bloody Saturday, the Mounties charged a crowd of 30,000 strikers who had assembled to demonstrate on Market Square. Two strikers died and dozens were injured. The strikers returned to work on June 25. The General Strike's effect was felt for decades. The right to collective bargaining would be recognized in all of Canada by the end of the Second World War.

winnipeg.ca/library

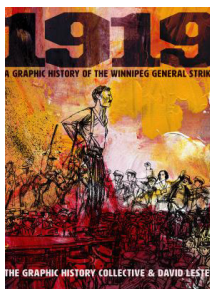


Non-Fiction For Adults

1919 A GRAPHIC HISTORY OF THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE

by Graphic History Collective and David Lester (2019)

This graphic novel introduces the strike to new generations, including the power of class struggle and solidarity, and the brutal tactics that governments and business used to crush workers' movements.



1919, THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE: A DRIVING AND WALKING TOUR

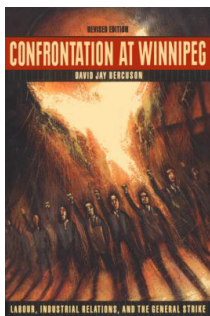
by Gerry Berkowski and Nolan Reilly (1986; 2019)

A driving and walking tour that introduces the reader to important historical sites of the General Strike. Updated and reissued in 2019.

CONFRONTATION AT WINNIPEG: LABOUR, INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS, AND THE GENERAL STRIKE

by David Jay Bercuson (1990)

An examination of the development of union labour and the impact of the depression and war in the two decades preceding the strike.



MAGNIFICENT FIGHT: THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE

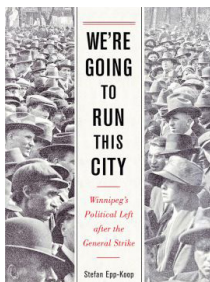
by Dennis Lewycky (2019)

An analysis of the social, political and economic conditions leading up to the strike, as well as the effects the strike had on workers, unions and all three levels of government in the following decades.

WE'RE GOING TO RUN THIS CITY

by Stefan Epp-Koop (2015)

An exploration of the dynamic political movement that came out of the Winnipeg Strike in Canadian history and the ramifications for Winnipeg throughout the 1920s and 1930s.



WHEN THE STATE TREMBLED: HOW A.J. ANDREWS AND THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE BROKE THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE

By Reinhold Kramer

The story of the Citizens' Committee – a group formed by Winnipeg's business elite to crush the revolt with anti-labour tactics and to sustain the status quo.

WINNIPEG 1919: THE STRIKERS' OWN HISTORY OF THE GENERAL STRIKE

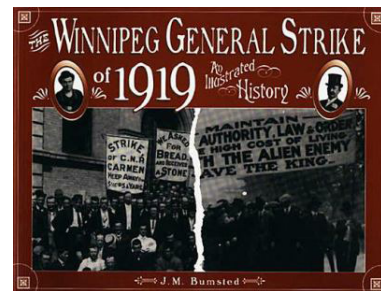
by the Winnipeg Defence Committee (1975 & 2019)

Union leaders published this account of the events leading up to and during the strike. Their volume is one of the most significant primary source describing the workers' experiences.

THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE OF 1919

by J. M. Bumsted (1994)

A chronological narrative of more than one hundred photographs and illustrations, quotations from contemporary documents, eyewitness accounts, family stories, and personal memoirs.



WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE: ORDINARY MEN AND WOMEN UNDER EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

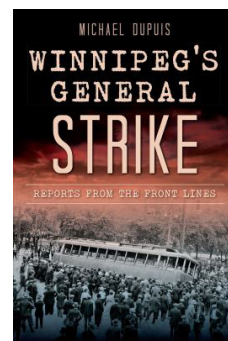
by Michael Dupuis (2018)

A behind-the-scenes look at the Winnipeg Strike and the stories and impacts of the citizens; what secrets have remained to this day?

WINNIPEG'S GENERAL STRIKE: REPORTS FROM THE FRONT LINES

by Michael Dupuis (2014)

An exploration of the impact the media had on the most influential strike in Canadian history. In an information age dominated by newspapers and magazines, the public turned to reporters and editors for answers.



SEARCH OUR CATALOGUE

Go to winnipeg.ca/library to search our catalogue for these titles and more. Place a request to hold a title for pickup at any library branch of your choice. Return to any branch of Winnipeg Public Library.

Fiction For Adults

FOX

by Margaret Sweatman (1991; 2017)

This novel centers on the Winnipeg General Strike of 1919 and the lives of men and women members of the business class and a strike leader.



HIDING SCARS

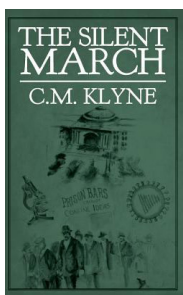
by Richard Zaric

Marko and Mildred struggle to find meaning and happiness during one of the most tumultuous periods of social upheaval in Canada's history - Winnipeg's explosive General Strike of 1919.

SILENT MARCH

by C.M. Klyne (2013)

The Winnipeg General Strike, the Spanish influenza and a sociopathic personality coalesce to forge a summer of strife, death and hope for a community still suffering the pestilence of the First World War.



Online Resources

WinnipeginFocus.winnipeg.ca

Search the archive holdings, or browse the collections for digitized images – including a collection on the General Strike – from the City of Winnipeg Archives.

www.mhs.mb.ca

Search the Manitoba Historical Society's website using the term "Winnipeg General Strike" for online archives of Manitoba History magazine.

umanitoba.ca/libraries/digital_collections.html

Visit the University of Manitoba Digital Collections to find primary sources related to the Winnipeg General Strike such as newspapers and letters. Through this portal, you can access the Strike Edition of the Winnipeg Telegram, The Strikers Defence Bulletin and the Western Labor News.

mfl.ca/1919

Find events commemorating the centennial of the strike as well as newsletters produced by the Manitoba Federation of Labour.

1919strike.lib.umanitoba.ca

This digital exhibit, titled *Unbreakable: The Spirit of the Strike*, explores the context of the strike through primary and secondary resources.



source: pastforward.winnipeg.ca

Visit Millennium Library's Local History Room for original publications of the time period. A vertical file of clippings from various sources includes articles from newspapers, *The Beaver*, *The Winnipeg Real Estate News* and a program of events produced for the 75th anniversary by the Manitoba Labour Education Centre. Millennium Library also has newspapers on microfilm from the time of the Strike. Copiers and a scanner are available to copy clippings, articles and book contents. See staff for assistance.

Selected Resources in the Local History Room

THE WINNIPEG GENERAL SYMPATHETIC STRIKE, MAY-JUNE, 1919

This history of the General Strike was prepared by various labour organizations to explain the causes and events. The publication contains transcripts of speeches and first-hand accounts from its participants.

ADDRESS TO THE JURY IN THE CROWN VS. ARMSTRONG, HEAPS, BRAY, IVENS, JOHNS, PRITCHARD, AND QUEEN (1920)

After speaking in Winnipeg at Victoria Park on June 12, 1919, a warrant was issued for William Pritchard's arrest. He was captured in Calgary and put on trial for sedition with other leaders singled out by the federal government. This is a transcript of his defense during the days of his trial.

WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE CLIPPINGS (3 microfilm reels) (1969)

Newspaper clippings from the Department of Labour Library published on microfilm in 1969. Available for onsite use in the Micromedia section of the Millennium Library, third floor.

For Older Children & Teens

BLOOD AND IRON: BUILDING THE RAILWAY

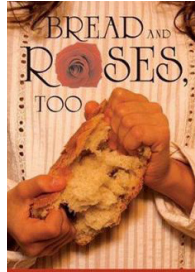
by Paul Yee (2010)

Heen and his father come to Canada to build the railroad. Heen's chilling observations of the injustice endured by workers serve as an important testament to this dramatic era of Canadian history.

BREAD AND ROSES, TOO

by Katherine Paterson (2006)

Jake and Rosa, form an unlikely friendship as they try to survive and understand the 1912 Bread and Roses strike of mill workers in Lawrence, Massachusetts.



CITY ON STRIKE

by Harriet Zaidman (Coming in 2019)

Set during the Winnipeg General Strike, a 13-year-old boy and his sister are drawn into chaos that changed the city forever.

GRACE AND THE SECRET VAULT

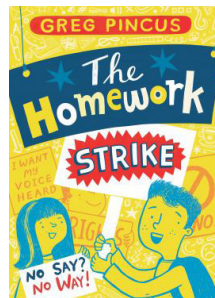
by Ruth Latta (2016)

The General Strike breaks out in Winnipeg in the spring of 1919 and Grace's father is caught up in it. Facing her fears while waiting for news, Grace finds ways of helping her family.

THE HOMEWORK STRIKE

by Greg Pincus (2017)

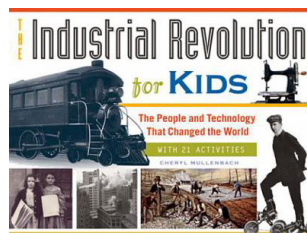
Gregory is frustrated by all the homework that leaves him no time for writing—so he decides to go on a homework strike. He learns a valuable lesson in civics and standing up for what you believe in.



THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION FOR KIDS

by Cheryl Mullenbach (2014)

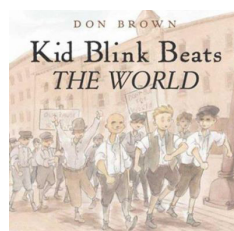
This educational activity book introduces readers to the Industrial Revolution through the people and places. It tells the human stories of the Industrial Revolution and impacts on workers.



KID BLINK BEATS THE WORLD

by Don Brown (2004)

The true story of the newsboys (and girls) who took on the world's most powerful press barons. The issue was an extra penny. The newsboys brought the press owners to the negotiating table and won.



PAPERGIRL

By Melinda McCracken (coming in 2019)

The story of ten-year-old Cassie, a volunteer papergirl for the Winnipeg General Strike Committee. This novel is a celebration of solidarity, justice and one brave little girl.

ROSIE IN NEW YORK CITY: GOTCHA!

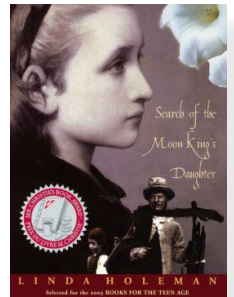
by Carol Matas (2003)

Rosie starts working in a garment factory where conditions are horrible and the factory boss is extremely strict. A strike breaks out for change in the workplace and Rosie wants to join in.

SEARCH FOR THE MOON KING'S DAUGHTER

by Linda Holeman (2002)

Emmaline's family moves to a mill town where her mother is injured in a factory accident. She sells Tommy into servitude as a chimney sweep in London – a tale of harsh working conditions and family survival.

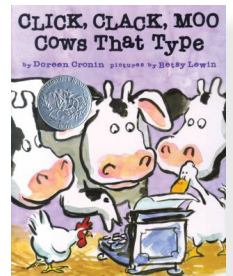


For Young Children

CLICK, CLACK, MOO COWS THAT TYPE

by Doreen Cronin (2000)

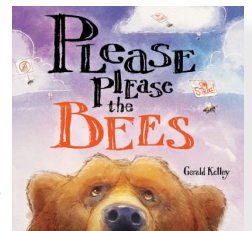
When Farmer Brown's cows find a typewriter in the barn, they start making demands and go on strike when the farmer refuses to give them what they want.



PLEASE PLEASE THE BEES

by Gerald Kelley (2017)

Benedict has a pretty sweet life for a bear. But all that changes when the bees go on strike. He realizes there's a lot more he could be doing to help them.



SILENT LETTERS LOUD AND CLEAR

by Robin Pulver (2008)

When Mr. Wright's students express a dislike for silent letters, the offended letters teach them a lesson by going on strike.

