

FIVE WS

EVENT

WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE

WHO?

- Workers & trade unions against the Citizen's Committee – business leaders, politicians, owners, Federal government
- NWMP, special strike police
- J.S. Woodsworth
- CCF, NDP

WHAT?

- 30,000 workers walk out in a general strike
- Wpg police force replaced with special strike police
- Criminal Code changed to allow arrests and deportations of strike leaders
- June 21 strikers protest and NWMP & special police use violent force
- Results: Unions suffered setback, leaders imprisoned, worker lost jobs
- Royal Commission examined strike
- Woodsworth founded CCF which became the NDP

WHERE?

- Winnipeg – financial centre of Canada
- Fears of communist influence because of uprisings in Russia (Red Scare)

WHEN?

May 15, 1919 – General Strike
June 21, 1919 – Bloody Saturday

WHY?

- Workers wages, decreased during WWI, were not adequate for costs
- Communism gained world support because workers were dissatisfied with inequality between rich & poor
- Socialism – ordinary people wanted more involvement in government