

# WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE

## QUESTIONS DURING VIEWING

### THE WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE

1. What were the causes of the Winnipeg General Strike?

There were few jobs and high inflation. The workers wanted the right to bargain with employers. Unified response to strike by building and metal workers.. Russian Revolution has people thinking.

2. What is the difference with an ordinary workers' union strike and a 'general' strike?

A whole city shuts down in a general strike, not just a group of workers.

3. In light of the recent Russian revolution and the overthrow of the wealthy class in Russia, what is the response by government and business owners to the Winnipeg General Strike?

They hired special policing forces and brought in the NWMP to maintain order. The police force was used to disperse crowds and put an end to the strike. Two people were killed.

☐ CPH, Series 3  
Episode 12  
Winnipeg General Strike  
(1:15:23-1:26:39)

☐ Complete or discuss  
Questions During  
Viewing

### Assignment

☐ Winnipeg General  
Strike 5Ws Analysis

☐ **Textbook**

*Canada, An Illustrated  
History* pp. 210

*Counterpoints* pp. 61-65

*Think History* pp. 58-61

## Lesson 20 Assignment

# FIVE WS - 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/ deportations of strike leaders
- June 21 strikers protest-NWMP & special police use violent force
- Results: Unions setback, leaders imprisoned, workers 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