

Women's Labour History Project: Video Project Summary

This project will produce two accessible and much needed video productions about working women's labour force and workplace organization in British Columbia. While including extensive historical research, the audio/visual resources will appeal to a popular audience. They will be suitable as teaching aids for high school, post-secondary, community and labour education.

The series will highlight women's contribution to known events within the B.C. labour movement. We will examine women's unique and hidden contribution to community organization, the unionizing of female-dominated job ghettos, unemployed women, employment standards legislation, union women's committees and other processes.

A teaching guide will accompany each production in order to broaden their value as educational resources.

The current project will focus on two periods: Women in the great depression and women in the war economy with some reference to the post-war period. Interviews, dramatizations of home, work and organizing situations and narration will create a living sense of women's experiences and attempts to improve their own conditions and the lives of those around them. The goal of the productions will be to stimulate discussion, interest the viewer in further information on the subject and develop a realization that women played important roles in B.C.'s working life.

Interviews with former activists in the B.C. labour movement will form the core resource for the films/video. A general historical context will be established both in the beginning and throughout the film.

CONTENT OUTLINE

These productions will provide a vision of women's attitudes towards labour force participation, their various work experiences and the combined pressures of childrearing, homemaking and wage work. The images which currently dominate the province's labour history suggest a largely male workforce in which the impetus for social change came exclusively from men.