

Vancouver and District Trades and Labour Council 1935 - 1939 Minutes

Valuable references to organization of women workers: garment workers; civic employees; restaurant workers; domestic workers; laundry workers; teachers; hotel workers; jam, fruit and cannery workers; office employees; retail clerks. References to motions in support of unemployed struggles and labour activities by women's organizations: Housewives League and Vancouver Mothers' Council. Discussions and motions of support for organizing of mainly female job sectors. From material presented it is possible to develop a sense of organizing process and key strikes in various sectors. Formation of Women's Auxiliaries to several locals described. Issues and demands of unions in this period outlines. Although this was a Council of craft unions, the organization of industrial unions led to the affiliation of many non-craft unions to the council before the split in 1939 (TLC), and thus some interesting debates, particularly on strategy and political affiliation.

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Workers Unity League of Canada Files UBCSC, Angus MacInnis Collection  
Box 33, File 22

Contains a listing of female (and total) leadership of WUL. This includes Annie Buller, Delia Joanisse, Maus McKenzie. Mrs. Annie Stewart from the Women's Labour League, the central support grouping of the WUL, was the Vancouver women's contact. Also contains:

Unity 1935

This is the WUL publication from the 1935 convention. Article by Annie Buller, "How Much Longer Should Our Women Suffer", calling for 100% unionization and an end to sweat-shop conditions for women and children.

Unity 1936

Explains the "Case for Industrial Unionism" and poses women's role in the struggle for "cheap bread and good homes".

Also material on organizing drive of WUL: attempt to win affiliation of non-WUL women's groups. The WUL was central to the CPC's work in organizing industrial unions from 1929 onwards. This material is useful for an understanding of WUL strategy and positions towards women workers.

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Workers Unity League - Policy Tactics and Demands, Bennett Collection,  
Box 4 - 33 - 22.

Analysis of position of women workers in labour force - women brought in as entire family gradually exploited by capitalism: rather than banning women from production there must be special demands to meet their needs: equal pay for equal work; 7 hour day/5 day week; maternity leave; special campaigns for women. Women are also seen as important in strike support work (the united front).

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