

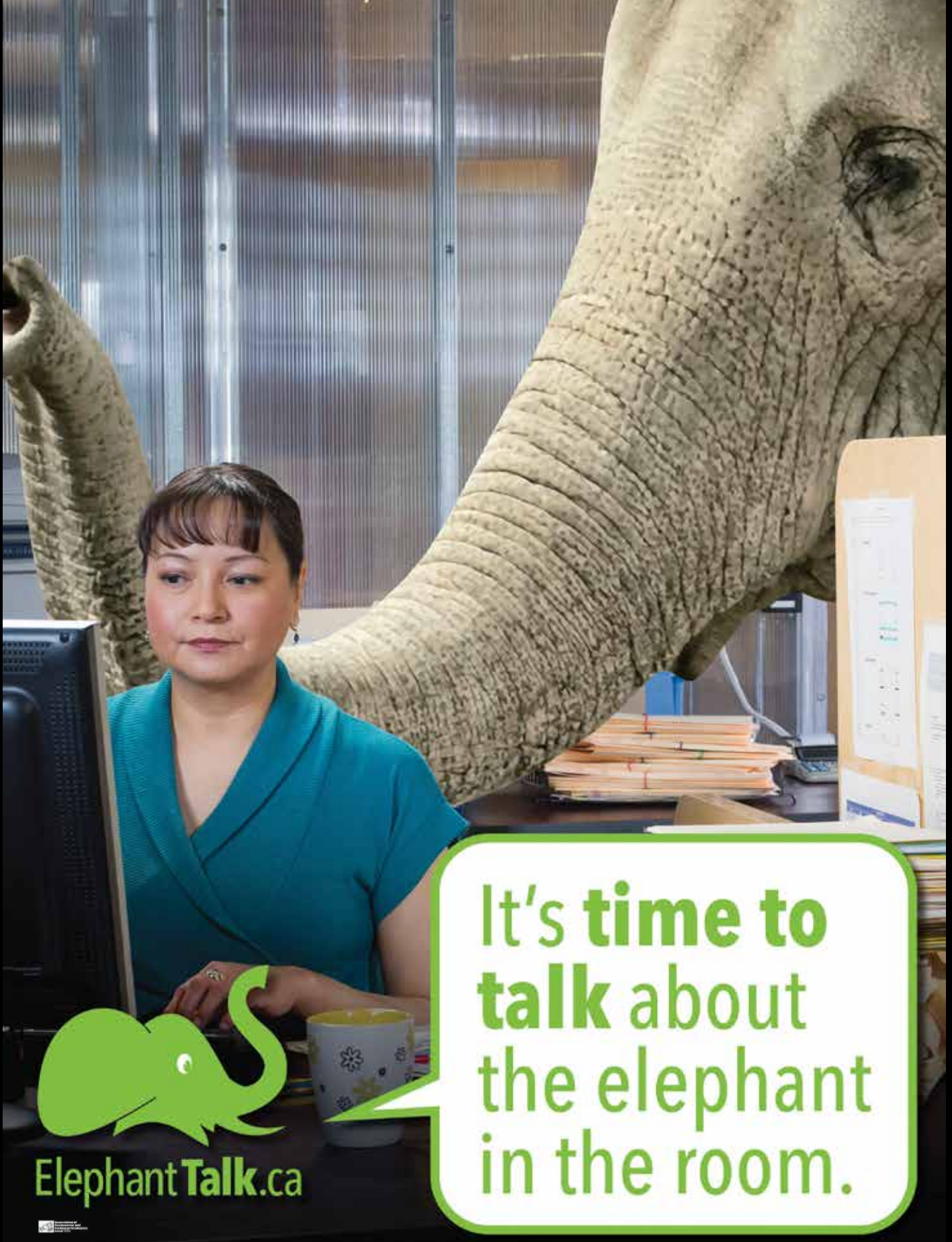
MAY
WORKS

2014
FESTIVAL



CELEBRATING LABOUR & THE ARTS
www.mayworks.org

For further information contact the Workers Organizing Resource Centre 947-2220



It's **time to talk** about the elephant in the room.

Elephant**Talk**.ca

Manitoba's quality public services are getting stretched as demand soars. It's time to talk about how we're going to invest in our futures and sustain the services Manitobans count on every day.

MGEU Manitoba
Government
and General
Employees'
Union



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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American Income Life

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Open Door Press

UNION BUG HERE

ICON LEGEND

ACTIVITY



ART



MUSIC



FILM



TALK



LITERARY



FOOD



THEATRE



DANCE





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to MayWorks 2014 and the Festival of Labour and the Arts. MayWorks is dedicated to the art and lives of working people. MayWorks celebrates this through artistic expressions and events that reflect the struggles, aspirations and dreams of working people.

May begins with one of the most significant celebrations for working people, International Working Class Day on May 1 and it is a fitting beginning for MayWorks. This year is the 95th Anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike and there are three offerings to mark this occasion. The first is the launch of a new book about the Winnipeg General Strike. This is followed on Saturday, May 24 with a graveside memorial service for Mike Sokolowski one of two strikers known to have died because of the events on "Bloody Saturday" June 21, 1919. Culminating our special acknowledgement of this anniversary is a bus tour on Sunday May 25 of the locations synonymous with the Strike.

The Artistic Call for this year's Festival is "**CROSSING BOUNDARIES AND DEFYING RESTRICTIONS**". It is based on the words found in the cover art: "Our calling is not to cross boundaries, defy restrictions or escape compartments. It is to embrace a universe that does not admit their existence." In the program you will find an essay by Lynne Fernandez that explores the numerous constraints imposed on working people and those organizations and individuals who are responding to the challenge.

It is impossible to acknowledge all those doing this work and what is sometimes called "civil society". However, a few have been profiled in the program to show the energy and commitment people have to change the situation: Community Unemployed Help Centre; Green Action Centre; U of W Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies; United Jewish People's Order; Save Our Seine; Canadian Dimension Winnipeg Labour Council and Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (Manitoba).

The passing of two activists: one local, Nick Ternette and one on the international stage, Pete Seeger requires special mention. Both were social and political activists who devoted their lives to the cause of working people. Both are honoured in the Festival. MayWorks 2014 is dedicated to Nick and on May 9 there is a tribute concert to Pete Seeger.

No introduction to the Festival would be complete without recognizing the importance of the union support we receive and the artists who have responded to be part of the Festival.

Whatever your interest we invite you to come and participate in the events that are part this year's MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts. Enjoy this program book as part of that offering.

Glenn Michalchuk

President MayWorks Festival of Labour and the Arts

2014 MAYWORKS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

28 MON

NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING- SAFE WORKERS OF TOMORROW ANNUAL LEADERS' WALK

10:45 am

p4



MAY

1 THURS

CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS DAY

5:30 p.m.

MAY DAY CABARET

7:30 p.m.

p4

p5

5 MON

CINCO DE MAYO POETRY

7 p.m.

p5



8 THURS

OPEN HOUSE: CANADIAN CENTRE FOR POLICY ALTERNATIVES MANITOBA OFFICE

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

"LABOUR OF LOVE" ART EXHIBIT AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

p5

p5

9 FRI

"LABOUR OF LOVE" ART EXHIBIT AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

PETE SEEGER TRIBUTE CONCERT

Doors at 7 p.m.

Concert at 8 p.m.

p5

p5

10 SAT

"LABOUR OF LOVE" ART EXHIBIT AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

FESTIVAL OF MANDOLINS

8 p.m.

p5

p6

15 THURS

BOOK LAUNCH: "WINNIPEG'S GENERAL STRIKE: REPORTS FROM THE FRONT LINES" WITH AUTHOR MICHAEL DUPUIS

7:30 p.m.

p6



22 THURS

"LABOUR OF LOVE" ART EXHIBIT AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

p5



23 FRI

"LABOUR OF LOVE" ART EXHIBIT AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

"BEYOND MY HUSBAND'S QUARTERS" MIXED MEDIA OIL PAINTINGS BY SHELLEY VANDERBYL

12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

p5

p6

24 SAT

"LABOUR OF LOVE" ART EXHIBIT AND MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MIKE SOKOLOWSKI

1 p.m.

"BEYOND MY HUSBAND'S QUARTERS" MIXED MEDIA OIL PAINTINGS BY SHELLEY VANDERBYL

2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

p5

p7

p6

25 SUN

1919 STRIKE TOUR

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

p7



27 TUES

"BEYOND MY HUSBAND'S QUARTERS" MIXED MEDIA OIL PAINTINGS BY SHELLEY VANDERBYL

12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

p6

28 WED

"BEYOND MY HUSBAND'S QUARTERS" MIXED MEDIA OIL PAINTINGS BY SHELLEY VANDERBYL

12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

p6

29 THURS

"BEYOND MY HUSBAND'S QUARTERS" MIXED MEDIA OIL PAINTINGS BY SHELLEY VANDERBYL

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

p6

31 FRI

AUUC SPRING CONCERT

8 p.m.

p7

All of May

MAYWORKS ON CKUW

MAYWORKS MAIL ART

Millenium Library

2014 MAYWORKS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ALL OF MAY

MayWorks on CKUW

All month long CKUW 95.9 FM will be carrying news and coverage of MayWorks events. Tune in to "People of Interest" Mondays to Wednesdays from 8 to 9 a.m.

MayWorks MAIL ART

Millennium Library
251 Donald Street

FREE ADMISSION

The MAIL ART exhibit is part of the world's largest collection featuring the theme of work. MAIL ART is a worldwide cultural movement started in the 1960's. The idea behind the movement is to bypass the elitist gallery/museum system of art. There are no hierarchies, no rules, all participants work is shown to the public. MAIL ART is non commercial, no entry fees, no sales and the yearly call is universal.

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 10:45 A.M.

National Day of Mourning

Candlelight Memorial Service

2nd Floor Auditorium
Union Centre, 275 Broadway

The MFL Health and Safety Committee will hold a Candle Light Service honouring those who have been killed on the job or died of an occupational illness since April 28th, 2013. There will be three speakers: Kevin Rebeck, President, Manitoba Federation of Labour; Susan Smerchanski, Co-Chair, MFL Health and Safety Committee; Hassan Yussuff, Secretary-Treasurer, Canadian Labour Congress.

For more information contact 204-947-1400



MONDAY, APRIL 28TH, 11:45 A.M.



Leader's Walk organized by Safe Workers of Tomorrow

Union Centre, 275 Broadway

Following the Candlelight Memorial Service there will be a walk from the Union Centre to the Manitoba Legislature. At the Legislature, we will observe the ceremony organized by Safe Workers of Tomorrow, with participation by the Minister of Labour and Immigration and Manitoba Workers' Compensation Board.



THURSDAY, MAY 1, 6 P.M.

Celebrate International Working Class Day

Assemble at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall
March begins at 6 p.m.

Winnipeg Labour Council celebrates International Working Class Day with a march starting and returning to City Hall. This year's theme is: "What we desire for ourselves, we desire for everyone." Bring your banners and demands for a better world. Duration of the march is about one hour.



THURSDAY, MAY 1, 7:30 P.M.

May Day Cabaret



King's Head Pub
120 King Street

Tickets: \$5 available at Organic Planet,
Winnipeg Labour Council and at the door



After the May Day March, MayWorks continues the celebration at the King's Head Pub. Musical artists: Pat Krawec, Debbie Patterson, Lindsay Jane and RasTamilis.

MONDAY, MAY 5, 7 P.M.

Cinco De Mayo Poetry

McNally Robinson Booksellers in the Atrium
1120 Grant Avenue

FREE ADMISSION



A people's holiday event featuring Mexican Poetry read in Spanish by Liliana Romanowski and in English by John H. Baillie. Also new and selected poetry by Winnipeg activist poet Ron Romanowski author of *Incantations from the Republic of Fire*

For more information contact Ron Romanowski at 204-667-6802.

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 4 P.M. TO 7 P.M.

Open House: Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives Manitoba office

Social Enterprise Centre
765 Main Street

REFRESHMENTS SERVED



Celebrate CCPA's community-based and labour research and new location! CCPA is pleased to join Winnipeg's social cluster at the Social Enterprise Centre. The Social Enterprise Centre, is an innovation cluster for social enterprises (SE), formed and operated by the three social enterprise partners: BUILD, Manitoba Green Retrofit, and Pollock's Hardware Cooperative.

**THURSDAY, MAY 8 (AND OTHER DATES- SEE BELOW),
7 P.M. TO 9 P.M.**

"Labour of Love" Art Exhibit and Musical Performances Featuring Jamil the DJ



Studio Wall
8-791 Wall Street

FREE EVENT

Celebrate the works of West End Artists in their "Labour of Love" with the blank canvas, songbook and dance floor. Featuring Artwork by Sue Hoang and Wai Tien and Musical Performances from Jamil the DJ, Jonathan Seburn and local guest DJs and musicians.

"Labour of Love" continues with performances on:

Friday, May 9 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday, May 10 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. with Jamil the DJ

Thursday, May 22 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. with Jamil the DJ

Friday, May 23 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday, May 24 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.

with DJ Jonathan Seburn

For more information 204-807-6989

FRIDAY, MAY 9, 8 P.M.

Pete Seeger Tribute Concert

Doors at 7 p.m. Concert at 8 p.m.



Winnipeg Art Gallery

Muriel Richardson Auditorium

Tickets \$20 available at Organic Planet,

Winnipeg Folk Festival Music Store or at the Door

**Featuring: Heather Bishop, Leonard Podolak,
Nathan Rogers, Sweet Alibi, Jessee Havey, Red
Moon Road, Keith Dyck**

"I've often thought, standing onstage with 1,000 people in front of me, that somebody over on my right had a great-great grandfather who was trying to kill the great-great grandfather of somebody off to my left. And here we are all singing together. And wouldn't it surprise all those great-grandfathers if they could see their great-grandchildren singing together? They'd probably say, 'Why did we fight so hard?'"

Pete Seeger





Folksinger, backwoods musicologist, social activist, warrior for peace, environmentalist, supporter of men and women's political and social struggles all across the world, Pete Seeger, our hero, passed away this year. At 95 all of us fans (Seegerites) knew the day was coming when Pete wouldn't be here, but secretly we wished he was physically immortal. His songs will be around for generations and perhaps for hundreds of years and I suppose that will have to do.

The first time I encountered Pete was in 1960. My older sister had a pair of tickets for a concert in Toronto's Massey Hall and her date didn't show so she dragged me along and I had the epiphany of my life. I was studying clarinet and I didn't much like it and but right here in front of me was an artist whose music I immediately liked and whose words struck home with a 13 year old radicalizing kid. "The Bells of Rhymney", "Turn, Turn, Turn", and "Abiyoyo" right in front on my eyes and into my ears and directly into my heart and brain. The next morning I was down at the Richmond Trading Post where I traded my very good clarinet for a crappy old and warped five string banjo. It didn't matter I learned out of Pete's banjo book and in those few days my life suddenly found a direction. The time distance between buying that old banjo and declaring myself as a red wasn't very far.

In my experience there never was a clearer voice that articulated the choices that we humans have to consider. There are so many people who when Seeger is mentioned talk about how he affected their lives in a fundamental way. The outpouring of emotion and storytelling since his death has been monumental. For so many of us Seeger was our teacher and mentor and cultural leader and we are forever grateful that he was here when we were passing through.

Mitch Podolak

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 8 P.M.

Festival of Mandolins

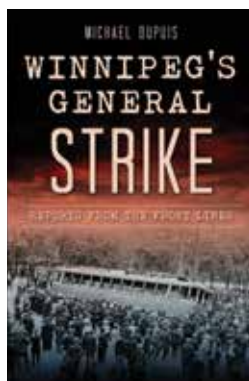
Ukrainian Labour Temple - 595 Pritchard Avenue
Tickets \$15 at the door



The Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra and guest performers present the Festival of Mandolins at one of Winnipeg's most historic and unique venues.

For more information contact Brent Stearns at
204-488-1008

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 7:30 P.M.



Book Launch: "Winnipeg's General Strike: Reports from the front Lines"

with author
Michael Dupuis



McNally Robinson Booksellers in
the Atrium
1120 Grant Avenue

FREE ADMISSION

"A strike gripped Winnipeg from May 15 to June 26, 1919. Some twenty-five thousand workers walked out, demanding better wages and union recognition. What was really happening in Winnipeg? In an information age dominated by magazines and newspapers, the public turned to reporters and editors for answers."

Author Michael Dupuis will give a talk and take questions about his work on the Winnipeg General Strike followed by a book signing.

FRIDAY, MAY 23 THRU THURSDAY, MAY 29

"Beyond My Husband's Quarters"

Life on a military base as seen
through the eyes of a civilian woman
Mixed media oil paintings by Shelley Vanderbyl



The Edge Gallery
210-611 Main Street

Shelley Vanderbyl has explored ideas of stepping outside one's comfort zone while going past both physical and social barriers. She was surprised to discover which areas of the base were off-limits, which she could gain access



to, and how much beauty could be found in her industrial surroundings. Quiet and dark, they express the intimidation she felt as she related to an organization she was closely tied to, but did not belong to.

<http://www.shelleyvanderbyl.com/>

Gallery Business hours:

Tuesday: 12 p.m. - 4p.m. | Wednesday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Friday: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. or by appointment

For more information:

Contact the Edge Gallery at: 204-947-2992

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 1 P.M.

On the 95th anniversary of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike

Memorial Service for Mike Sokolowski



Brookside Cemetery

3001 Notre Dame Avenue

(immediately west of Red River College)

North side of Section 30

please see map at:

<http://winnipeg.ca/ppd/cemeteries/images/brooksidemap.pdf>

Memorial Service begins at 1 p.m.

Please join MayWorks at Brookside Cemetery for a grave side memorial service for Mike Sokolowski, who died as a result of a gunshot wound on June 21, 1919.

After the service we will visit the gravesite of Steve Schezerbanovich who died a few days later of gangrene poisoning as a result of gunshot wounds also received on June 21st during a peaceful demonstration.

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 3 P.M. TO 5 P.M.

1919 STRIKE TOUR



On May 6, 1919, over eleven thousand Winnipeg workers voted to support the striking workers of the Metal Trades Council and the Building Trades Council. The first workers to leave their jobs in solidarity were telephone workers who left work at 7 a.m. on May 15.

The 1919 Strike Tour will visit some of the significant sites of this important event and take people through highlights of what happened in 1919. The tour will go over some of the social and economic conditions that laid the foundation for the strike. An important part of the tour is a reflection on how the echoes and shadows of the strike can be heard and seen in Winnipeg of today.

The tour starts on Selkirk Avenue, goes to the residential area south of the Assiniboine River and then ends in the Exchange area of the city, particularly on the Red River. This route touches on areas of the city that was home for the working class, the ruling class and the site of the major demonstrations that took part in June 1919.

This is a bus tour with stops that takes about two hours. A guide will lead the tour and you can expect vibrant discussion.

Go to www.victoriapark1919.ca for details. Register by May 15 at commgroup@mts.net

Cost: \$10 for employed adults, no charge for students/seniors/unemployed

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 8 P.M.



AUUC Spring Concert



Ukrainian Labour Temple -
595 Pritchard Avenue
Tickets \$15
at the door

Featuring performing arts groups of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians: Festival Choir, Yunist Dancers and the Winnipeg Mandolin Orchestra.

For more information contact Brent Stearns at 204-488-1008.

More than a Dream

Many of us have, like John Lennon, imagined a world without war, greed, hunger or possessions. There are those rare individuals who insist that we should settle for nothing less, that human kind's true heart is to live in communities guided by understanding, compassion and social justice. This year May Works is dedicated to those individuals and organizations that have fought and continue to struggle for this ideal. They refuse to accept that social exclusion is inevitable. They name, and clearly understand the

together and allowing them to speak as one, the barrier set between employer and employee becomes more porous and flexible. The barrier may never collapse completely, but unions reduce its effectiveness, allowing for better wages and working conditions. Whether through our public healthcare system, OAS, CPP or even such basic services as clean water and sanitation, unions have fought to tear down the barriers keeping all citizens from accessing essential services and programs. Unfortunately all these public

“So much of the work done by all the organizations mentioned here would not be so effective were it not for a large group of fearless individuals -

obstacles that keep society from realizing its full potential, and they challenge those boundaries and restrictions relentlessly.

As individuals, our greatest struggles often occur at our jobs; collectively that struggle turns into one of an entire class. Capital's boundaries appear in many forms, but the most easily understood is class. Everyone knows the difference between the boss and the employee and few employees don't feel at some point in their careers, fear of and/or resentment for 'the boss'. That your life can be so controlled by the whim of one person or of some faceless entity, known as 'management', is unsettling. How do you gain a sense of control over your work life, over your ability to make a living?

Workers who are lucky enough to belong to a union are better protected and are able to participate in a more democratic workplace than non-unionized workers. By bringing many voices

services are now under attack by a powerful wave of privatization which is slowly but surely rebuilding the barriers unions fought so hard to tear down. The fight must never end until the dream is realized.

Non-unionized workers face higher obstacles than unionized workers, but they too have their champions. The dedicated people who work at organizations like the Workers Organizing Resource Centre (WORC), the Community Unemployed Help Centre (CUHC) and the MFL's Occupational Health Centre (OHC) offer resources, advice and advocacy services to all workers. Whether being unjustly denied Employment Insurance, requiring advice about workplace health and safety, including medical attention, or advising workers of their rights under Employment Standards or how to join a union, these organizations help workers understand their rights and support them as they fight to realize them.

those activists who take ideals and ideas to the streets, who educate, who march,

Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – Manitoba Office

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) focuses on nonpartisan research to back social movements, and in Manitoba their focus has been on urban and inner-city issues with particular attention to frontline research on urban poverty and labour concerns—the latter formalized by way of the Errol Black Chair in Labour.

As put by Molly McCracken, Director of CCPA Manitoba, “We hope our research will be used by social movements in order to advocate for change, so we work closely with agents and movements of social change.”

Research undertaken by CCPA Manitoba is therefore often responsive to community concerns in areas such as income assistance and criminal justice. McCracken believes a key role of the organization is to act as a bridge organization by ensuring government decision makers are aware of information that reflects the realities of urban and inner-city communities, and names the Alternative Municipal Budget, the Right to Housing Coalition, and the annual State of the Inner City Report as Winnipeg-focused projects informed by CCPA research..

McCracken argues that, “In a world where big business backs certain think tanks, we need progressive ideas to be part of public discourse,” and that is perhaps the most concise explanation of CCPA's mission.

The work these organizations do is in demand precisely because so many barriers exist between workers and the services they are supposed to have access to. All workers who pay EI should have easy access to funds if they lose their jobs, but the system has been changed over the past 25 years to the point where less than half of unemployed Canadians qualified for EI when the Great Recession hit in 2009. The CUHC advocates for workers who have been denied EI and it wins over 80 per cent of its cases, demonstrating that the system is rigged to prevent workers from collecting what is rightfully theirs. Other workers, such as those facing unfair dismissal, can also find it difficult to fight for their rights and WORC is there to fight on their behalf. The OHC provides quick and specialized medical assessments for workers injured on the job, helping move their case through Workers Compensation. Without OHC's assistance, many injured workers would be left on their own to negotiate an often hostile environment as they seek the help they need.

As important as the work of unions and worker advocacy organizations is, it is not enough to fuel a sustained attack against the barriers we all face, whether it be lack of access to our basic rights or exploitation on the job. We all need inspiration and information so we can understand how our world is changing and where to find allies. The United Jewish Peoples Order is dedicated to the philosophy of secular Jewishness. Inspired by the rich cultural influences found in secular Jewishness, this organization engages in dialogue and education around social justice issues such as economic disparity, elimination of racism, the Israeli - Palestinian conflict and Idle No More, to name a few. By stimulating informed debate, the UJPO helps Manitobans to understand these issues and inspires them to take action. It too reminds us that a better world is possible.

Another organization that reminds us that the status quo is not inevitable is the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives MB. (CCPA). This non-profit research institute's mandate is captured in the words 'policy alternatives'. Using a social justice, left-of-centre lens, the Centre delivers high-quality research challenging Margaret Thatcher's infamous declaration that 'there is no alternative'. She was of course referring to the neo-liberal wave that swept across the developed world and which so effectively fortified and expanded class barriers. By providing accessible and reliable analyses of public policy, based on academic and community sources, CCPA challenges the status quo, whether it be through mainstream media, public consultations and presentations or its many publications. CCPA's research feeds a wide audience, from government workers to community activists. It reminds us all that in fact, there is an alternative.

So much of the work done by all the organizations mentioned here would not be so effective were it not for a large group of fearless individuals - those activists who take their ideals and dreams to their work places, to their meeting halls and into the streets, who educate, who march, who organize, who push the envelope day after week after month and into years. Some of them have left us, but so strong was their voice that we fight on in their names: Joe Zuken, J.S. Woodsworth, Nellie McClung and more recently, Nick Ternette and Errol Black. Even now a new generation of warriors steps forward; young, mature, Aboriginal, non-Aboriginal, trade unionists, men and women from all sexual orientations who like their predecessors, refuse to settle for anything less than a just and peaceful world.

This May Day, let's take a moment to recognize and celebrate all the organizations and individuals who refuse to accept social exclusion as inevitable, and who won't let the dream die.

Lynne Fernandez holds the Errol Black Chair in Labour Studies at the CCPA Mb.

who organize, who push the envelope day after week after month and into years."

UJPO Winnipeg - Henry Schorr

From our 1925 beginnings, the United Jewish People's Order has represented a socially progressive view striving for peace and social justice. Over the years we have worked to promote human rights, universal health care and education, gender equality, the unionization of workers, affordable housing and environmental stewardship/protection.

We continue to champion the ideals of our founders to bring about a "nayer, frayer velt" (a newer, freer world) and participate in contemporary forms of these ongoing struggles.

We are an independent organization committed to the furtherance of Jewish secular culture with the goal of remaining a progressive voice in the Jewish community and a Jewish voice in the progressive community.

We identify with the progressive current in Jewish history and with its strong tradition of social action. We address issues of local, national and

global concern and offer diverse programming that fosters awareness, respect and debate.

We offer a welcoming and inclusive community for all who are interested. Many of our members do not feel comfortable in mainstream Jewish organizations and/or are from intermarried, single-parent or lesbian and gay households.

We support serious negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians with a view to ensuring equality, peace, justice, security and prosperity for both peoples. We campaign for an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and its siege of Gaza. We have organized and sponsored peace and solidarity tours to the region.



Community Unemployed Help Centre



COMMUNITY UNEMPLOYED HELP CENTRE

Since 1980, the Community Unemployed Help Centre (CUHC) has been a non-profit community-based organization providing information and representation to workers regarding Employment Insurance and Employment Income Assistance. CUHC also engages in public interest advocacy and has helped push for legislative changes on behalf of workers' groups.

Neil Cohen, Executive Director, notes the "unique nature of the services [CUHC provides] for workers. Centres providing advocacy services for unemployed workers are few and far between." CUHC serves hundreds of individuals every year, and also works with other organizations to enhance service options for the public.

"We work collaboratively to try filling gaps, to ensure workers—particularly unemployed workers and people in poverty—have access to information and representation they may require to get benefits to which they are entitled." As part of its commitment to accessibility, CUHC has never charged service fees in its 34 years of existence, and Cohen says in recent years the legal community is coming to recognize the importance of access to justice.

"People who come to us are not simply having trouble changing EIA status: there are housing issues, landlord/tenant issues, child protection and custody, a whole range of challenges. We provide specialized services, but also help people navigate through various systems." Recent changes to legislation and program delivery, Cohen says, make the role of CUHC more important than ever.

Funding sources: province of Manitoba, United Way of Winnipeg, Manitoba Law Foundation, and donations from unions and other labour bodies.

Green Action Centre

If you ever feel overwhelmed by the variety of instructions on living a more environmentally sustainable life, Tracy Hucul of Green Action Centre (GAC) has some relieving words.

"A lot of environmental messages make people feel nothing they do can make a difference," she says. "We want you to know that any step you take is a good step, you don't have to be doing everything." Start with a small green action, these things add up!

The annual Commuter Challenge is the most prominent activity coordinated by GAC. It is a friendly competition aimed at getting people to reduce the environmental impact of their daily travel. As Hucul explains, "If you drive, try taking the bus. If you take the bus, try riding a bike, walking, skateboarding, whatever it is."

Hucul notes that adjustments such as those promoted by the Commuter Challenge come with added personal benefits such as healthier workplaces, greater mental clarity, and an increased sense of independence.

GAC also features an Environmental Speakers' Bureau which focuses on public education. "It's highly successful," says Hucul, "We're always in demand, and offer about 10-12 different presentations." Along with lobbying the city to make its traffic and waste programs more sustainable, GAC is currently expanding its reach beyond the city perimeter: speaking events have been booked in communities such as Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Thompson, and The Pas.

University of Winnipeg Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies



This off-campus department is designed to make university

education accessible to inner city residents who would never attend the main university campus. The environment is thus quite distinct, but that is not to say the education is of any lesser quality than what is available on campus. The faculty publishes a great deal of relevant research, and department chair Jim Silver says the research is linked with the educational goal of ensuring students at different starting points will cross the same finish line when they complete university studies.

Curriculum is designed to be relevant to the lives of students who have grown up in the inner city or lived in poverty, and explicitly looks at things through the lens of decolonization. Course topics include aboriginal people and colonialism, women in the inner city, housing, community development, and more.

"We do a lot of outreach through women's centres, community organizations, and adult learning centres," Silver explains, which not only helps attract students but allows the program to keep current with issues that matter to those new students. "We also keep the program small, warm, and friendly. We want to know all our students by first name and understand a bit about their backgrounds."

The potential of education to transform lives is mirrored by the department's involvement in making over one of the most notoriously negative symbols of crime and violence on Selkirk Avenue.

"We're involved in the redevelopment of the old Merchants Hotel," explains Silver. "A community coalition...now owns the hotel and six adjoining lots which are being redeveloped. There will be 30 student housing units, along with space for our classes and CEDA's [north end high school program] Pathways to Education." The hope is for the new facility to be in operation by fall 2015.

Save Our Seine

"The Seine River, particularly in the St. Boniface area, had become a cesspool... basically a dumping ground for waste, it was just ugly." That is the assessment of Denis De Pape, vice-president of Save Our Seine (SOS). "Within seven years, though, we had it cleaned up to the point where people could actually canoe all the way up to where the Seine meets the Red River." That, says De Pape, is the group's most significant accomplishment, but they have since proven to be a highly effective environmental advocacy group.

SOS successfully raised the funds to purchase Bois-des-Esprit from a developer in 2006, preserving 117 acres of urban forest. They were later key in prompting the largest remediation of a petroleum-contaminated site (340 tonnes of tarry

material) in Winnipeg history. SOS also installed the first water level and flow monitors along the Seine.

They partner with the Riel School Division to run the "Adopt A River" program, which equips students with skills to assess aquatic health in their community. During the summer, SOS employs local youth to clean the river and surrounding area, keeping it from slipping to its previous state.

SOS currently focuses on expanding the municipal trail system, increasing access to healthy natural spaces within the city, and advocating for environmentally responsible planning for future development along the Seine.

"The work these organizations do is in demand precisely because so many barriers exist between workers and the services they are supposed to have access to."

Winnipeg Labour Council



The Winnipeg Labour Council (WLC) is a central social and political advocate for unions in the city, with 75 affiliated

locals representing around 46,000 Winnipeg workers. The WLC positions itself within a broader democratic labour movement and takes the lead in organizing the annual May Day march in Winnipeg.

WLC President Dave Sauer points to his parents, punk rock, and his early union work as having informed his commitment to organizing around labour issues. Regarding the WLC, Sauer says, "We mainly focus on civic issues [but] are affiliated with the New Democratic Party...so we do work on provincial and federal issues for our members. It's about what is important in the political sphere, but also building bridges and developing community

partnerships around shared issues." These partnerships have been established with environmental organizations, First Nations groups, student organizations, and numerous others.

WLC spends much effort encouraging its membership to directly contact elected officials, and in recent years WLC-endorsed politicians have meaningfully changed the tone of discussion in municipal politics. Sauer cites decisions around the U-Pass, a waterpark at The Forks, and commercial pesticides as past successes—but adds that the work is never done.

"It's all about the membership," Sauer concludes, "[Members are what] keep us motivated." Current WLC concerns include First Nations' rights, improving transit safety and service, Canadian newcomers' issues, and identifying labour-oriented candidates for upcoming municipal and provincial elections with an eye on continuing to improve the lives of working people in Winnipeg.



Canadian Dimension - Cy Goncik



I became interested in labour-related issues when I learned that so much of what makes social life liveable, was the result of the collective struggles of organized workers, from public health, democracy,

social programs, the opportunity for ordinary people to access education and live rewarding lives - much of what we now call the welfare state, but a lot more. Later, when I became aware of institutionalized racism, sexism, climate change, poverty, the drudgery and self-denial of work in this society, and the ugliness of imperialist war, it became clear that only through the political development and organization of the working class, could the system behind these realities be challenged and overcome.

Canadian Dimension has been one of longest-lasting and reliable voices for the rights of organized and unorganized working people across the country for over 50 years - but remains just as important in keeping alive the promise of a different kind of society and pushing the envelope around the potential and possibilities of creating the kinds of movements to help us get there.

With the deepening of austerity, the expansion of precarious work and renewed efforts by governments (and parties) of all stripes to intensify our reliance on private markets, Canadian Dimension remains an important space to give voice to the different components of those resistance streams that will help build towards a socialist movement.



TRIBUTE TO NICK TERNETTE



On February 3, 2013, Winnipeg's progressive community lost one of its most beloved and important voices as Nick Ternette succumbed to illness.

For decades, activists and political figures in Winnipeg quickly became familiar with Nick. His distinctive presence and unmistakable voice were a constant fixture in debates, elections, and rallies. His energy for political action was legendary, and Nick was known for being the first one to show up and last one to leave at marches, protests, and rallies because he would stay engaged in conversation until everyone else ran out of steam.

Born in Germany just before the end of the Second World War, Nick moved to Winnipeg with his parents as a young boy. A well-known story about Nick is the day his father observed some of the other children in Wolseley taunting Nick for his accent and the hat he wore. His father told the distressed boy that the maltreatment would not stop: he simply had to develop a thick enough skin to ignore what other people thought of him. Nick took that advice to heart and regularly cited the moment as one of the most important and inspirational lessons of his life.

He ran for public office roughly twenty times, including five mayoral runs, but was open about the fact he never expected to win. Nick was more interested in leveraging the spotlight of an election campaign to advocate for direct democracy that would improve the lives of impoverished and otherwise marginalized residents of the city.

For a number of years, Nick hosted a community television program devoted to political debate, which is actually how he met his wife, Emily. "I answered a classified ad, believe it or not, but not a dating ad!" laughs Emily. Nick had put out a call for crew members for his TV show, and Emily came aboard to work behind the scenes. The two of them soon became a couple, and married in 1993.

Nick made clear on their second date he was not looking to raise a family. "He was married to his activism, always planning something or going to meetings," says Emily, who accepted that a healthy relationship depended on understanding that activism and organizing would always be Nick's top priority.

Nick valued truth and transparency, and his arguments would always be supported by facts. As Emily remembers, "Nick never talked or wrote about anything without doing his research first, and he wrote a lot: hundreds of letters to editors, op-ed pieces, columns, and the like. He would go to the library and look stuff up if he didn't know enough about a subject to back up his opinion."

As a socialist and peace activist, Nick spent his adult life pushing politicians to disentangle themselves from frivolity and become more responsive to the daily challenges faced by people living in poverty. Though never satisfied with the state of the city, he never let his frustration stop him from pushing for changes he believed would create a more equitable world.

Even in later years, after losing his legs to a bacterial infection, Nick's energy was so high that he continued packing food hampers for Winnipeg Harvest twice a week and helped get that organization's paper (The Better Times) off the ground.

Nick did not live to see the publication of his autobiography, but knew before he died that Rebel Without a Pause would see a public release and it happened in the fall of 2013.



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of yesterday's struggles.

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Quite Early Morning

Quite Early Morning

Don't you know it's darkest
Before the dawn
This thought keeps me
moving on

If we could heed these early warnings
The time is now quite early morning
Some say that humankind won't long endure
But what makes them feel
So dog-one sure?

I know that you who hear my singing
Make those freedom bells go ringing
And so we keep on while we live
Until we have no more to give

And when these fingers can strum no longer
And the old banjo to young ones stronger
Don't you know it's darkest
Before the dawn
This thought keeps me
moving on

Through all this world of joy and sorrow
We still can have
singing tomorrow

SONGWRITERS: PETER SEEGER

LYRICS: © THE BICYCLE MUSIC COMPANY



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