

UNITED WAY WINNIPEG & LABOUR

A common cause and a rich history

Dear friends,

This year, United Way Winnipeg and Labour come together to celebrate an important milestone in our city's history – the centennial of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike.

This Atrium display reminds us not only of the importance of this historic event but of the deep, rich history that United Way Winnipeg shares with one of our founding Partners – Winnipeg's Labour movement.

United Way Winnipeg and Labour are connected by a firmly entrenched commitment to community, and we are united in our belief that there is strength in numbers. We embrace our diversity and focus on what unites us as a community. Through collaboration and cooperation, we look forward to working together to build a Winnipeg where everyone has a voice, and a chance to achieve their dreams.

We hope you enjoy this celebration of our long-standing partnership.

Sincerely,



Joan Hardy
Chair, Board of Trustees
United Way Winnipeg



Connie Walker
President & CEO
United Way Winnipeg



UNITED WAY WINNIPEG & LABOUR

Working hand in hand since early days

Sisters, Brothers, Friends,

On behalf of the Executive Council and staff of the Winnipeg Labour Council and the Canadian Labour Congress, we are honoured to salute the United Way Winnipeg – Labour partnership in recognizing the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike.

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike, we recognize that we have worked hand in hand since the early days of United Way Winnipeg, when it was known as the Community Chest. Together we have helped build stronger communities.

Everyday Winnipeggers are also union members who make contributions to their communities by volunteering or participating in United Way Winnipeg campaigns. We enhance our communities through these partnerships, making improvements to the quality of life that we all enjoy.

Our sincere wish is that this partnership continues to support and strengthen our community.

In solidarity,

Basia Sokal

President, Winnipeg Labour Council
United Way Winnipeg volunteer
CUPW

Bernie Wood

Canadian Labour Congress
Prairie Region
USW



Canadian Labour Congress
Congrès du travail du Canada



TURN OF THE CENTURY WINNIPEG

1915

The power of working people

Winnipeg was changing, as Canada was, with immigrants from countries other than the British Isles arriving in the thousands. Working in factories and warehouses, they settle in the North End and build vibrant communities.

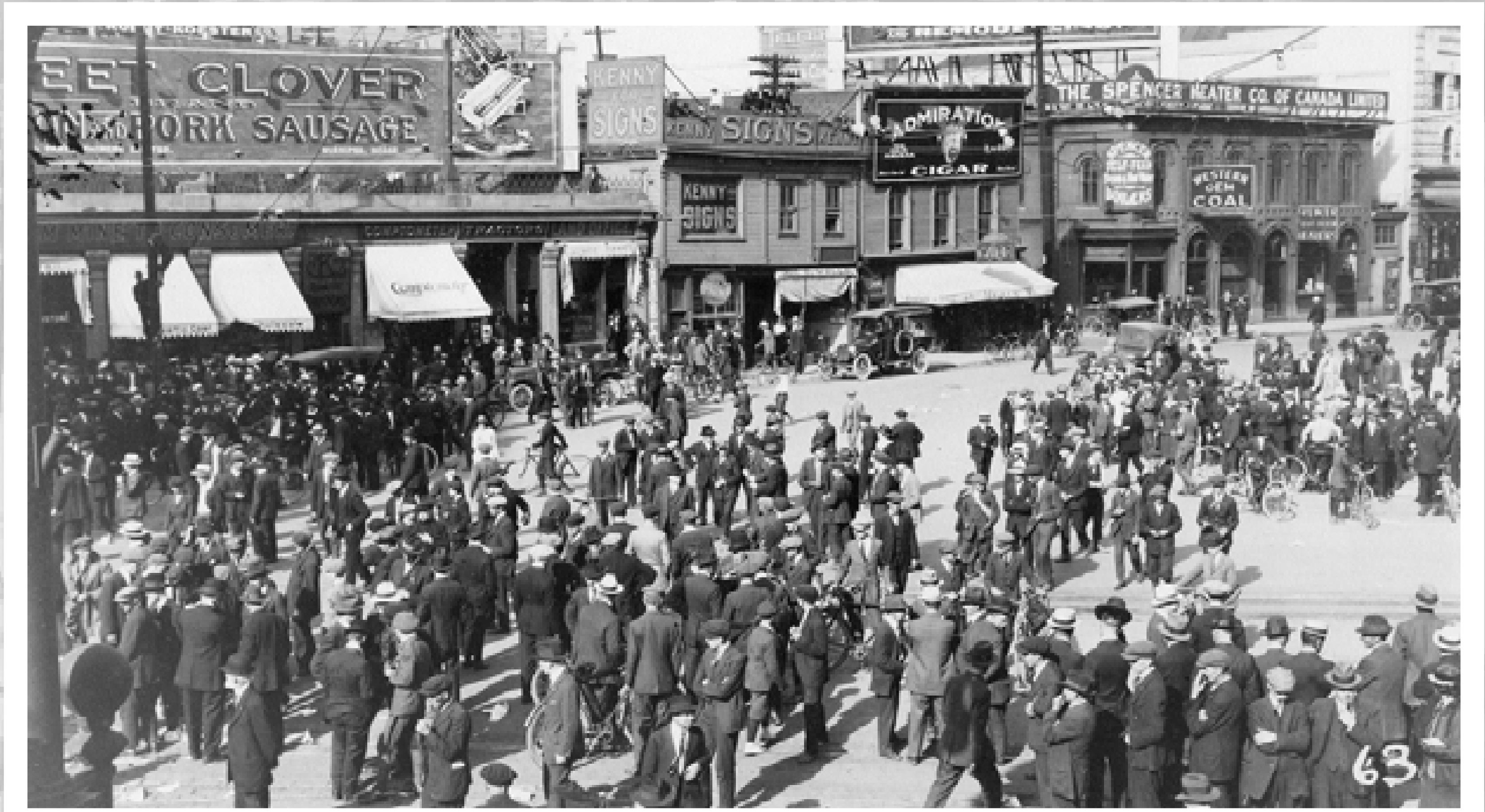
For over six weeks, Winnipeg becomes the site of one of the longest general strikes in Canadian history: one that would have a profound impact on the development of the modern labour movement and Canadian politics for decades to come.

2019 marks the 100th anniversary of the Winnipeg General Strike. The conditions necessary were forged in the years leading up to it. Among them:

- A bustling city teeming with class conflict. This includes a history of the exploitation of Indigenous workers and workers of colour.
- No minimum wage, pensions, or income assistance
- Crowded housing with poor sanitation
- Outbreaks of typhoid, tuberculosis, flu and pneumonia
- No universal health care

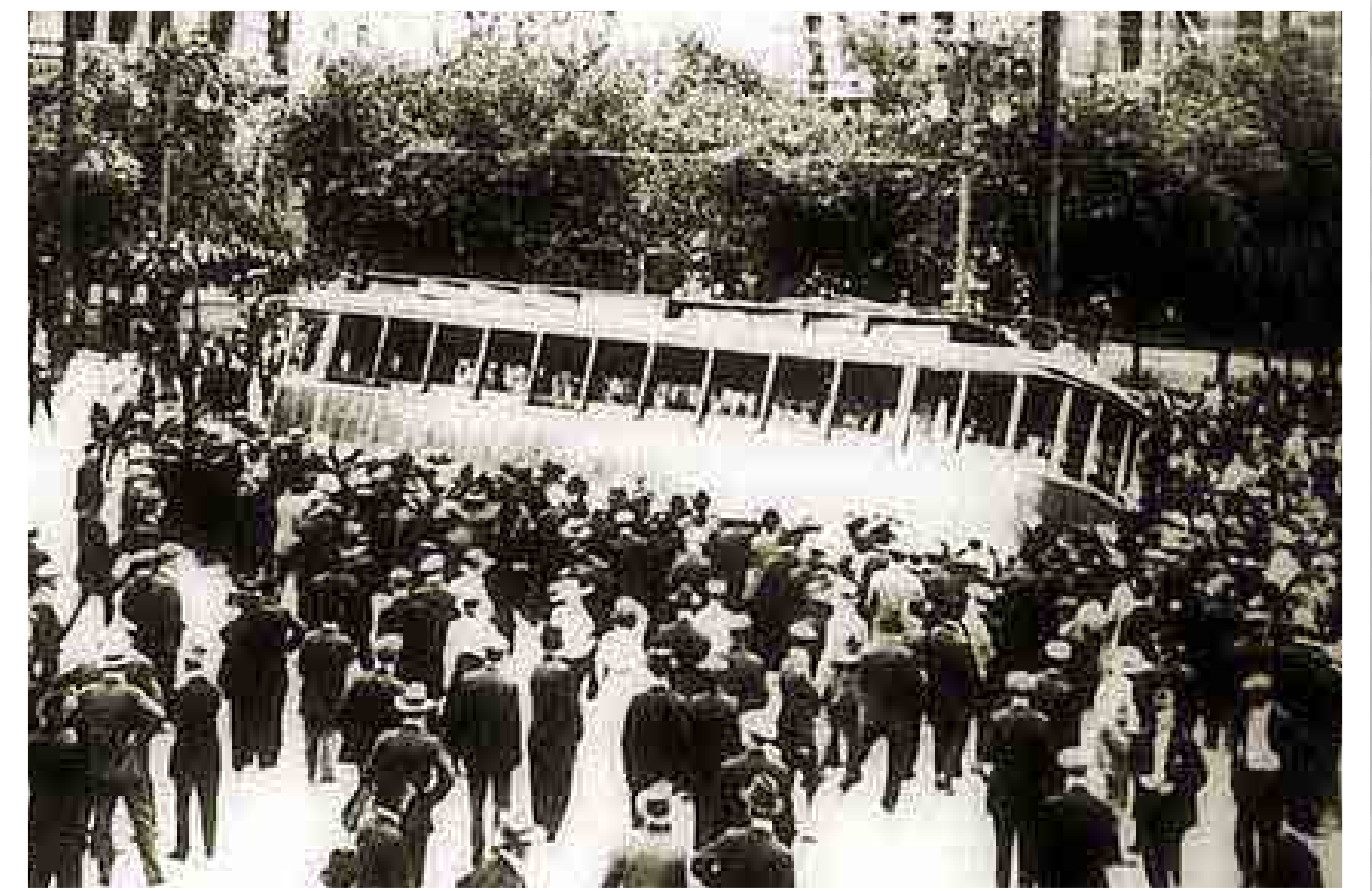
Many workers became active in labour unions and socialist politics to improve their conditions.

Workers demanded the right to collective bargaining and a decent, living wage – rights that the labour movement continues to defend today.



STRIKE!

General Strike called; 30,000 workers strike



After months of unsuccessful negotiations, and in solidarity with the Sisters, Brothers and workers bargaining for a fair share of the fruits of their labour, the Winnipeg General Strike was called.

The first to walk out were the "Hello Girls", Winnipeg's telephone operators, who walked out four hours ahead of schedule.

By 11:00 a.m., 30,000 union and non-union workers had walked off the job.

67 LABOR UNIONS JOIN IN GENERAL WALK-OUT; INDUSTRY PARALYZED

ALL NEGOTIATIONS ARE BROKEN OFF—ROBERTSON WIRES OTTAWA APPARENTLY CAN DO NOTHING, BECAUSE DISPUTANTS REFUSE TO ARBITRATE.



MAY 15

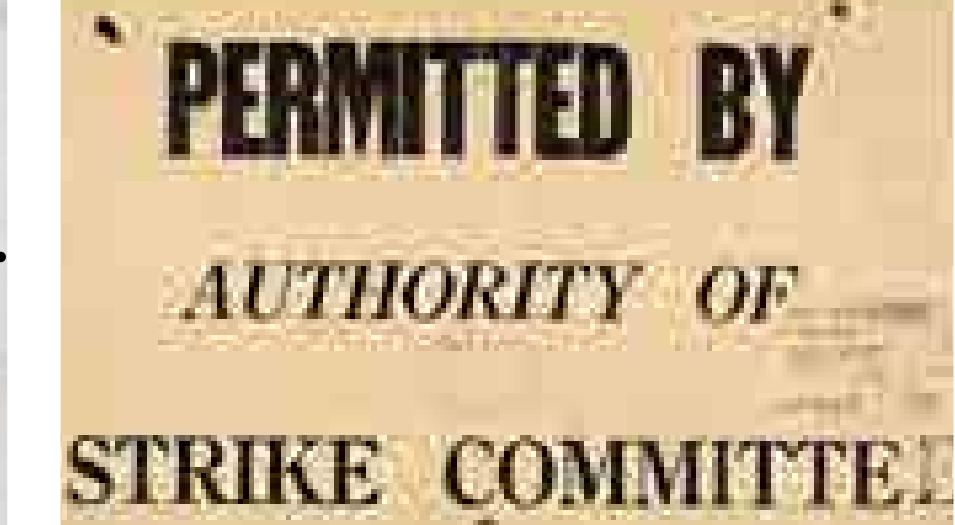
MAY 6

Because employers won't bargain with the Building Trades Council and the Metal Trades Council, the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council resolves to poll affiliates on a general sympathetic strike.

The Winnipeg General Strike begins. The first to walk out were the 'Hello Girls,' Winnipeg's telephone operators, who walk out four hours ahead of schedule, when 500 telephone operators ended their shift at 7:00 am on May 15th and those who were supposed to replace them refused to go to work. By 11 a.m., 30,000 union and non-union workers have walked off the job.

MAY 17

The Strike Committee requests meeting with the city to discuss maintenance of essential services. The Strike Committee goes on to issue authorization cards for essential services such as milk deliveries.



MAY 30

City police are ordered to sign anti-union pledge. They refuse but promise to uphold law and order.

JUNE 4
JUNE 5

Anti-strike Veterans parade.

MAY 1

After months of negotiations, all unions belonging to the Building Trades Council go on strike.

Metal Trades Council workers call a strike.

MAY 2

Overwhelmingly, Winnipeg workers vote in favour of a strike. 8,667 for, 645 against. A general Strike Committee is formed with representation from every union.

Winnipeg's business community forms the Citizens' Committee of 1000 to oppose the strike.

MAY 16

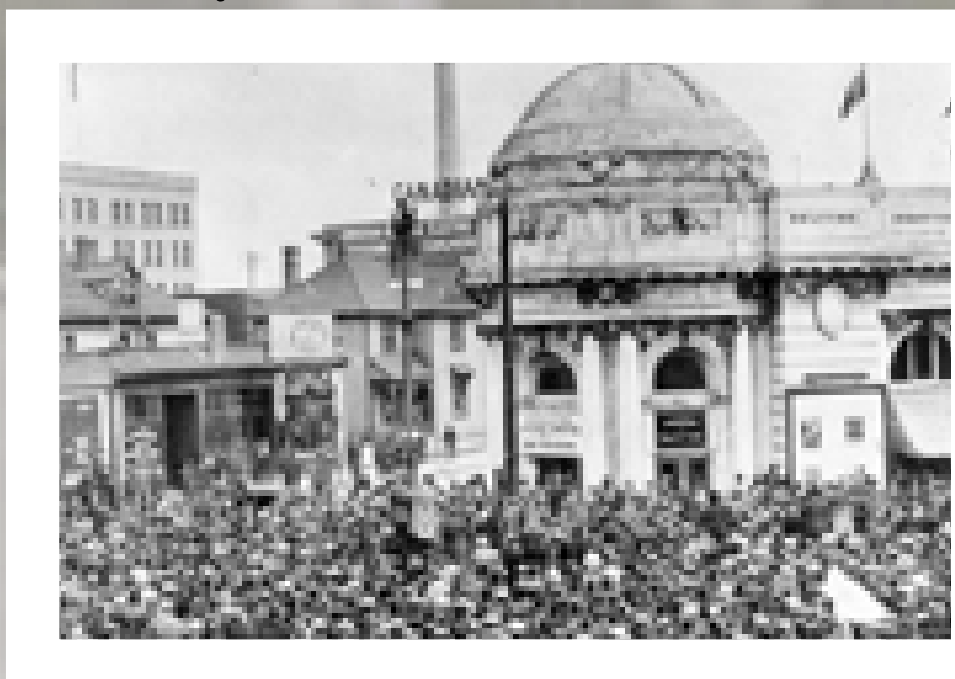
Postal employees are ordered to return to work. The province and city issue similar orders to their employees. A meeting of 5,000 strikers at Victoria Park rejects these ultimatums.

Thousands of returned soldiers take part in a march in solidarity with the strike.

MAY 31
JUNE 1
JUNE 3

The federal government amends The Immigration Act to allow for the deportation, without trial, of anyone not born in Canada accused of sedition.

MAY 13



MAY 25

JUNE 6

WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE TIMELINE

JUNE 9

Winnipeg's Mayor Charles Gray fires the entire city police force for refusing the City's demand to renounce the union and the strike, and hires 'Specials' to replace them. 'Specials' were recruited and paid for by the Citizens' Committee of 1000 and were armed with baseball bats.



JUNE 18

It's announced that arrested strike leaders will be held for deportation proceedings and will also be denied bail.

JUNE 25

The Strike Committee announces the end of the strike and calls upon workers to continue the struggle in the political arena.

JULY & AUGUST

The Strike Committee reorganizes as the Defence Committee to support the strike leaders facing trial.

NOV 20

Winnipeg Civic Election: Three Independent Labour Party members elected to City Council and three to School Board.

1925

A.A. Heaps is elected to the House of Commons as a member of the Independent Labour Party.

Metal-trades employers propose a settlement to the strike. At the same time, the Royal Northwest Mounted Police (RNWMP) raid labour halls and strike leaders' homes, arresting ten leaders of the Central Strike Committee.

JUNE 16

JUNE 17

In what would come to be known as "Bloody Saturday," a silent protest of the arrest of the strike leaders is attacked by Mounted Police and 'Specials', resulting in the wounding of 34 people, two deaths, and 84 arrests.

JUNE 21

The Winnipeg General Strike ends at 11 a.m.

JUNE 26



A parade of 8,000 workers walks in support of the arrested strike leaders. A national campaign is launched to raise funds for their defence.

SEPT 2

J.S. Woodsworth is elected to the House of Commons as a member of the Independent Labour Party.

1921

WINNIPEG GENERAL STRIKE TIMELINE

1919

LABOUR CAFÉ

Soup kitchens to power the movement



Helen Jury Armstrong, a vocal union activist and ardent feminist, played a vital role in organizing women during the Winnipeg General Strike.

With upwards of 30,000 workers without income during the Winnipeg General Strike, it immediately became clear there would be a need to support individuals, families and single income households.

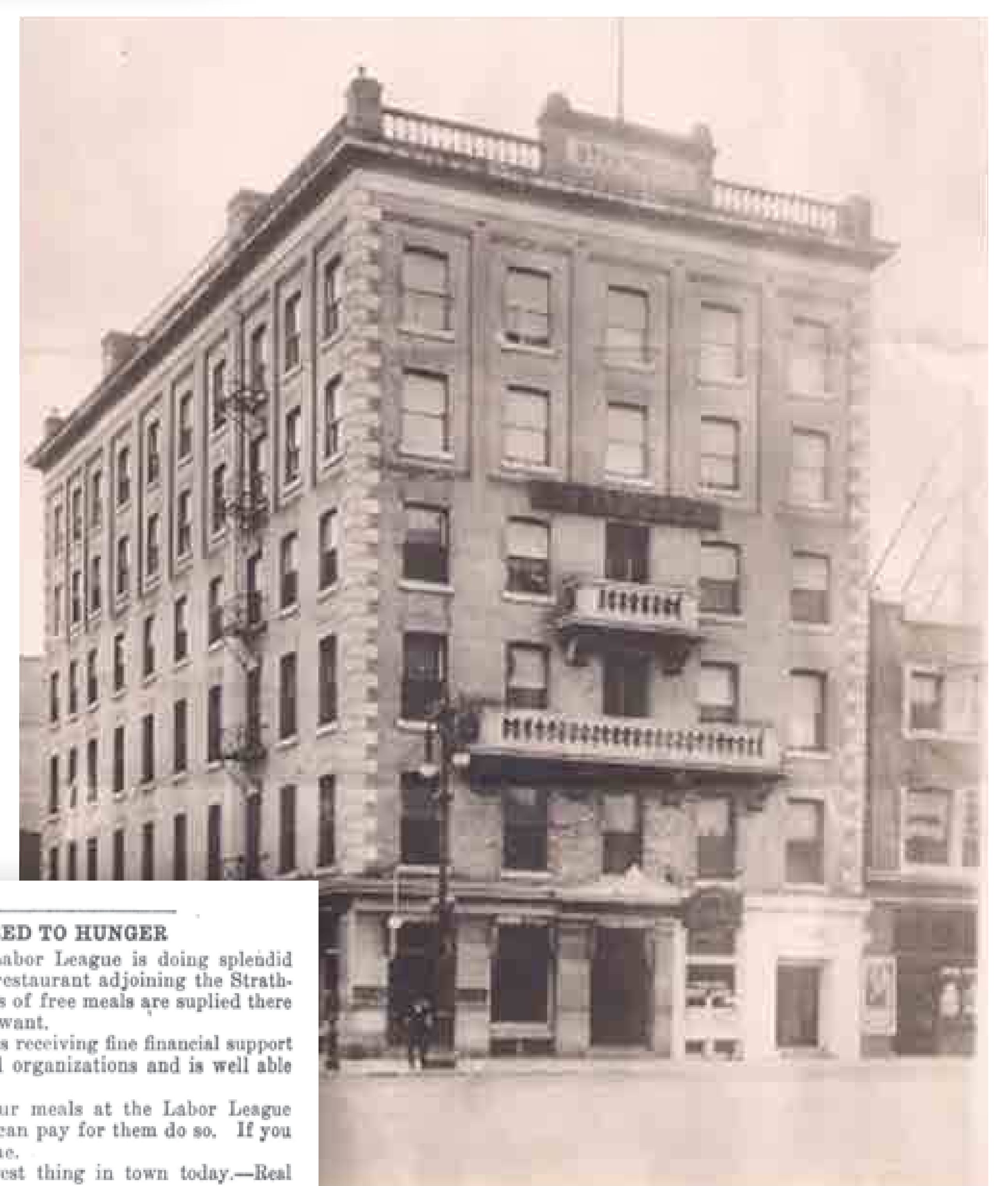
Helen Armstrong, Chair of the Women's Labour League put together teams of volunteers who would create a soup kitchen which would serve between 1200 to 1500 meals a day.

The first kitchen, affectionately called the "Labour Café," was set up in the Strathcona Hotel with the support of the Rosenthal family who owned and ran the Hotel. The Hotel was right in the heart of the strike at Main and Rupert, where the Manitoba Museum now stands.

Women and children ate for free, and men were asked to pay what they could. These soup kitchens became a vital lifeline for many families that had no other option.

The Labour Café became a rallying point and an important hub of strike information. Helen Armstrong's team of young "runners" brought updates from the Café to other strike leaders. The Women's Labour League distributed pamphlets there.

The YWCA became a key support in keeping the kitchens going through the strike and beyond.



NO NEED TO HUNGER

The Women's Labor League is doing splendid work through their restaurant adjoining the Strathcona Hotel. Hundreds of free meals are supplied there daily. No one need want.

This institution is receiving fine financial support from individuals and organizations and is well able to carry on.

Strikers, get your meals at the Labor League Restaurant. If you can pay for them do so. If you can't you are welcome.

This is the biggest thing in town today.—Real Brotherhood.

THE FIRST AGENCY PARTNERS

Collective giving for a better Winnipeg

From the early days of the Federated Budget Board and the Community Chest, there were thirty organizations that were supported by the collective call to give:

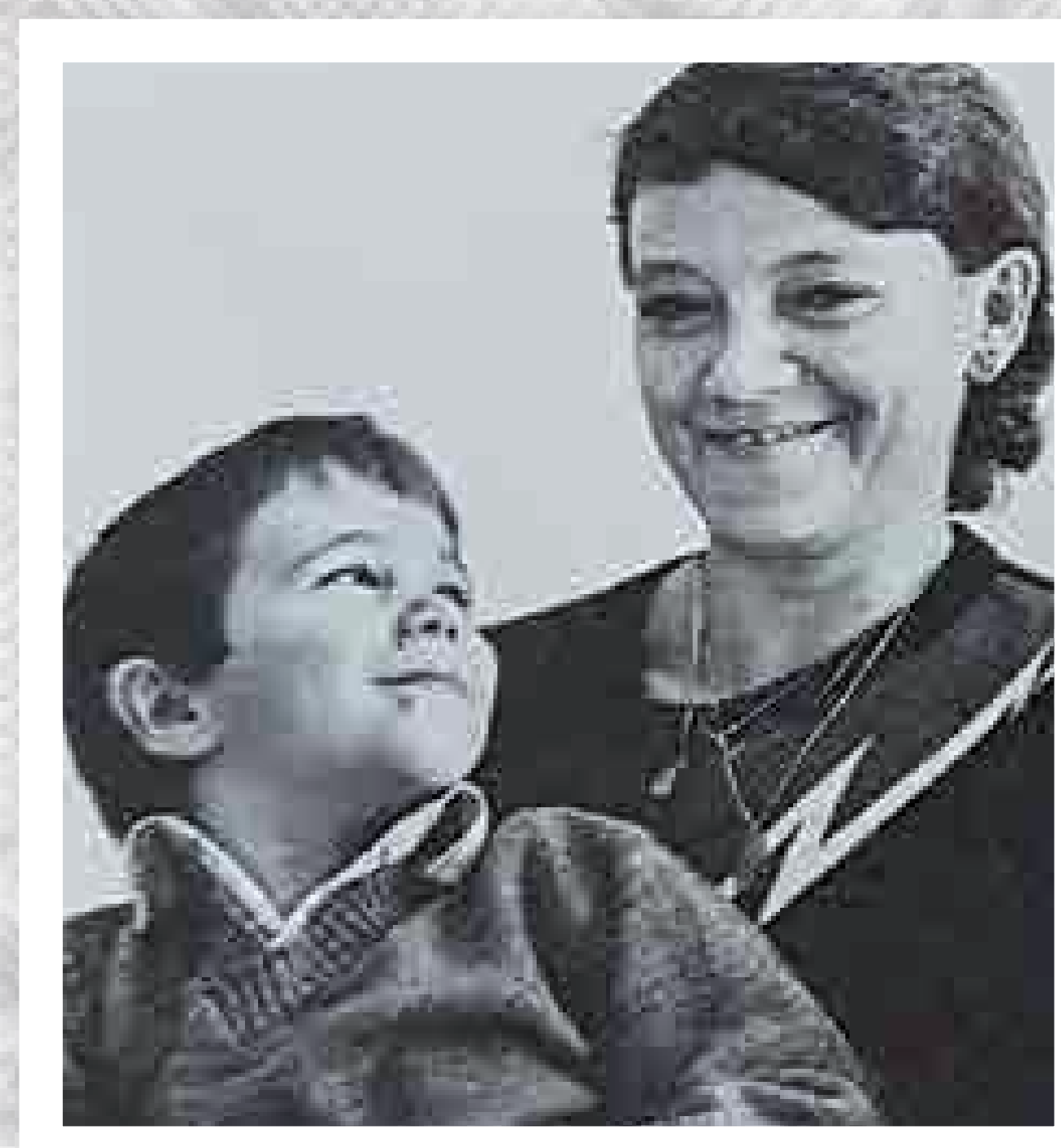
- Anti-Tuberculosis Society
- Benedictine Orphanage
- Boy Scouts Association of Winnipeg
- Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)
- Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg
- Children's Home of Winnipeg
- Children's Hospital
- Convalescent Hospital
- Federated Budget Board
- Fresh Air Camps for Children
- Winnipeg General Hospital
- Home of the Good Shepherd
- Jewish Old Folks' Home
- Jewish Orphanage
- Joan of Arc Home
- Kindergarten Settlement Association
- Knowles Home for Boys
- Misericordia Hospital
- Mothers' Association of Winnipeg
- Old Folks' Home
- Red Cross Society
- St. Boniface Orphanage and Old Folks' Home
- St. Joseph's Orphanage
- Social Welfare Association of Winnipeg

- United Hebrew Relief Association
- Victorian Order of Nurses
- Winnipeg Boys' Club
- Winnipeg Humane Society
- YMCA
- YWCA

Of these, nine organizations proudly remain United Way Winnipeg agency partners today:

- YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg
- Social Planning Council of Winnipeg (formerly the Community Welfare Council)
- Knowles Centre (formerly Knowles Home for Boys)
- CNIB
- Jewish Child and Family Service (formerly Children's Aid Society of Winnipeg, United Hebrew Relief, and the Jewish Orphanage)
- New Directions for Children, Youth, Adults and Families (formerly Children's Home of Winnipeg)
- Marymount (formerly Home of the Good Shepherd and Sisters of the Good Shepherd)
- Canadian Red Cross (formerly Red Cross Society)
- Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg (Winnipeg Boys' Club)

Today United Way Winnipeg supports 100+ agency partners and programs with secure, stable and ongoing funding.



1932

THE COMMUNITY CHEST OF GREATER WINNIPEG

The Community Chest's first campaign in 1923 was successful, as was each successive campaign throughout the remaining 1920s. However, the stock market crash of 1929 meant the campaign in the autumn of 1930 fell far short of its target.

For the next two years, the Winnipeg Foundation increased its contributions to help make up the shortfall for the charitable organizations.

This early collaboration would continue for the next decade, as Peter Lowe from the Winnipeg Foundation served on the budgeting, executive, and general committees of the Community Chest, learning first-hand the "strengths and weakness of our community agencies and services as they related to enlightened social practices."

The Community Chest movement and model spread through the 1930's, growing to over 1000 cities across the continent by the late 1940's. The Red Feather was adopted as a symbol of the

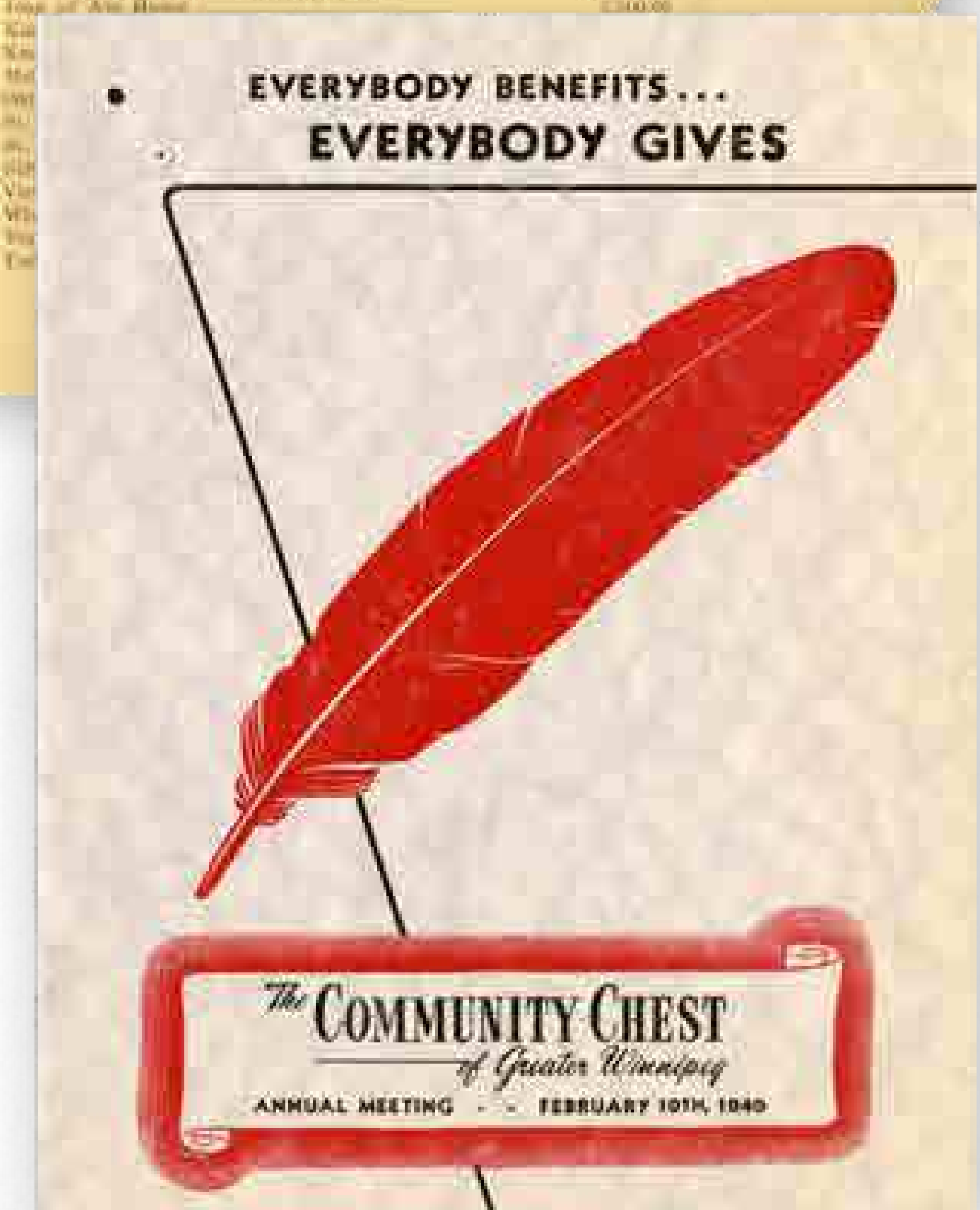
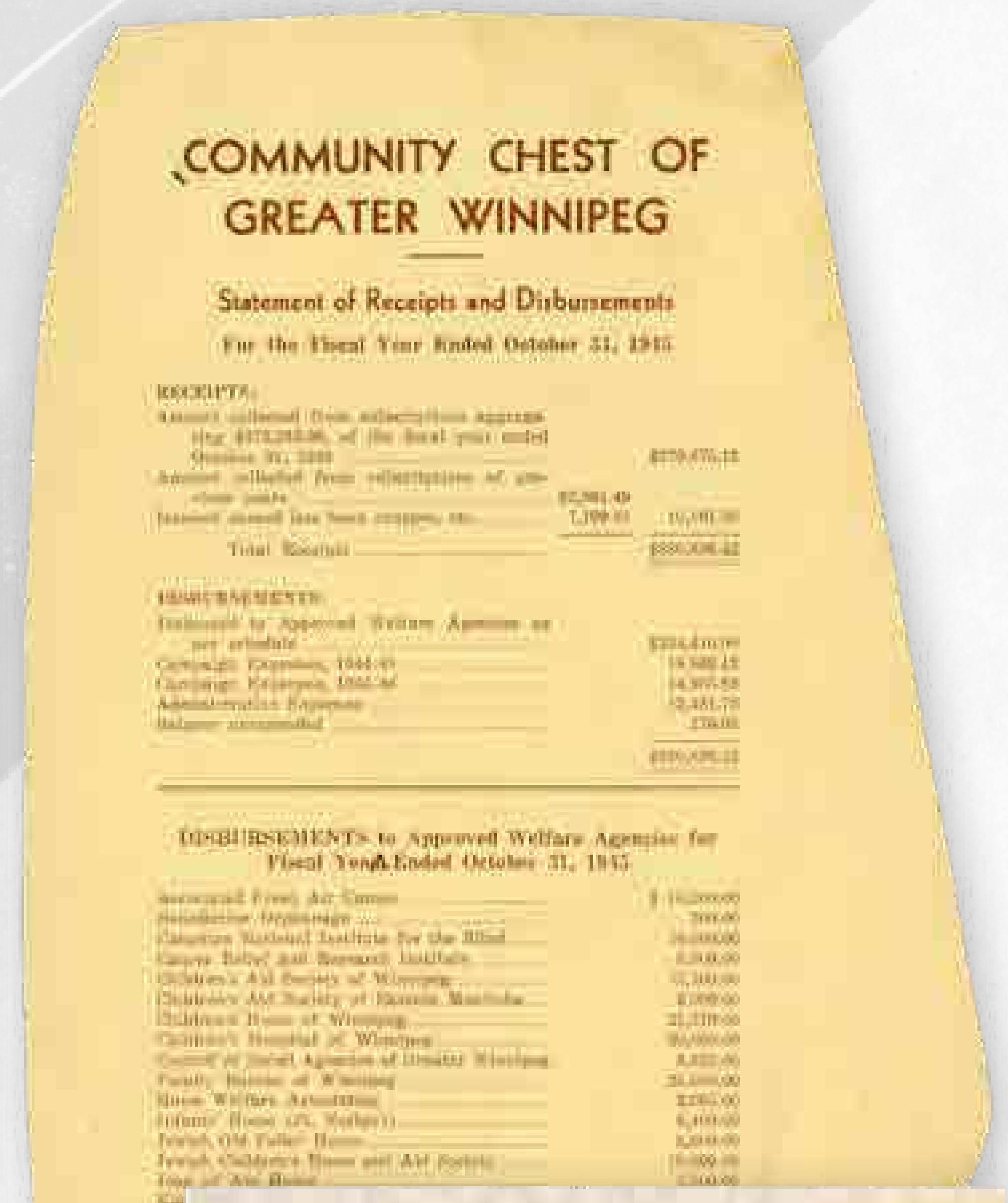
campaign, signifying donors and service to the community.

In Winnipeg the Red Feather was adopted in 1946, and by 1948 every piece of literature carried the Red Feather logo and message. Canvassers sometimes wore red feathers to show they were part of the Community Chest.

Community Chest Agency Partners were known as Red Feather Service Agencies. Red Feather fundraising events continued right into the "United Way" years.

The now-familiar fall campaign was well established by 1948. In the 1950's payroll deductions became popular, even as residential door-to-door canvassing campaigns remained a core component of the Community Chest.

Labour remained at the heart of the Community Chest and part of every campaign. Thousands of Labour volunteers and their families supported the Community Chest as canvassers.



1965

A UNITED WAY

Winnipeg Labour Council and Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce unite to form our United Way

By the early 1960's, concern resurfaced about the increasing number of separate fundraising campaigns in the city.

The Winnipeg and District Labour Council and the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce set up committees to study the problem. Although working independently, both groups arrived at the same solution: the formation of a more inclusive united appeal than the Community Chest represented.

Art Coulter was a vital part of the Community Chest and an outstanding trade unionist of his day. As Executive Secretary of the Winnipeg and District Labour Council, Brother Art was committed to finding a more effective and united approach to raising funds to help meet these needs.

His efforts led to the Winnipeg and District Labour Council's initiative to involve the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce in a partnership to study the implementation of a united appeal.

At a public meeting in June, 1964, the citizens of Winnipeg endorsed a

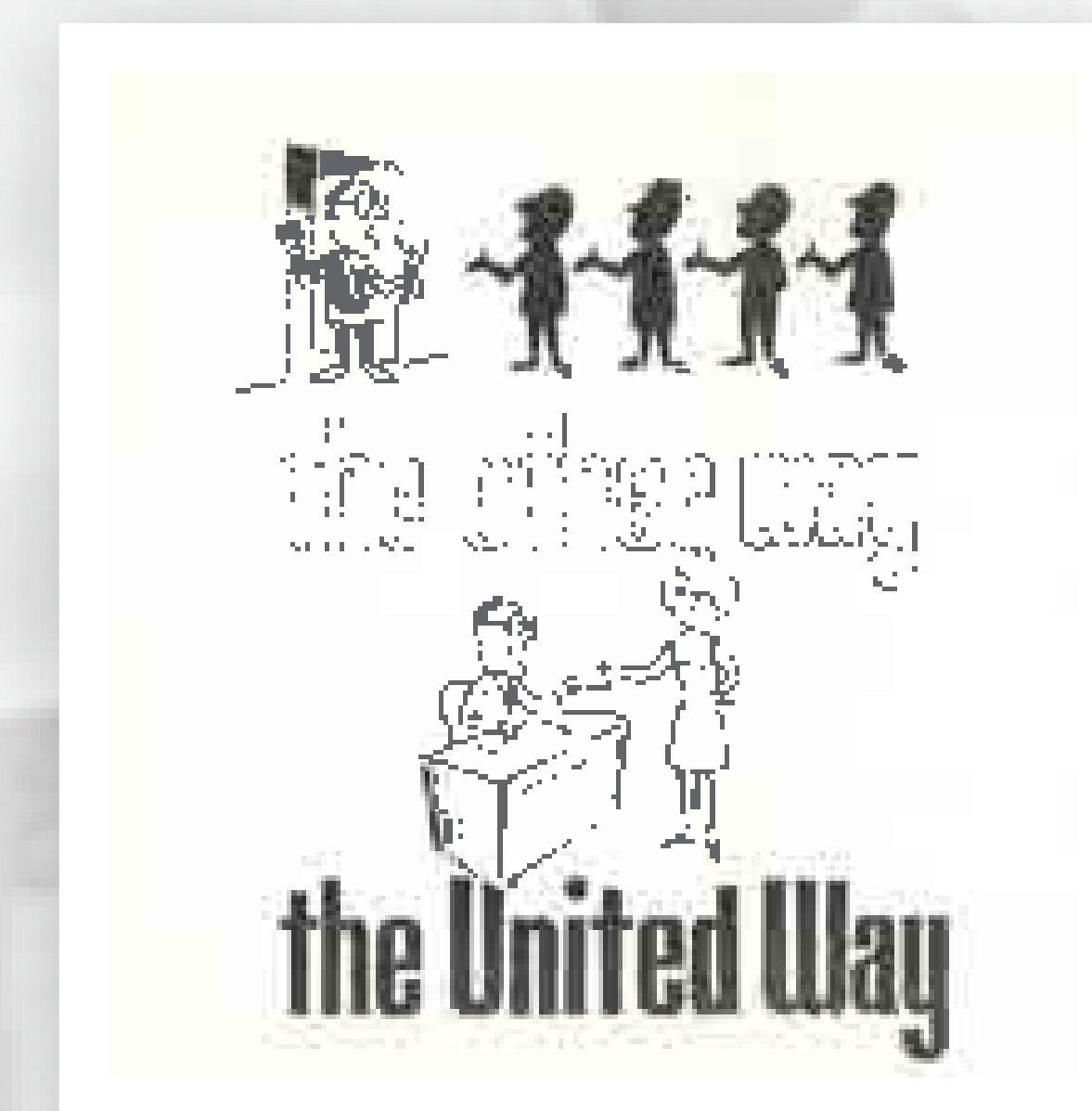
recommended action that a United Way be established.

On May 15, 1965, Bill #87, the act to incorporate the United Way of Greater Winnipeg was enacted, stating that United Way is for the purpose of raising money for "non-profit benevolent, character-building, health or welfare organizations," and that "the United Way is to promote the orderly, efficient and economic development of public and private social services."

"The United Way of Greater Winnipeg," as it was then called, became the most inclusive federated group of agencies the city had ever known.

Winnipeg was the third North American city to change its federated fundraising organization's name to United Way (after Los Angeles and Denver) and the first to conduct a "United Way" campaign.

In 1965, United Way of Greater Winnipeg raised \$2.8 million to fund 46 agencies.



United Way Winnipeg's first campaign chair, William Palk, with George Richardson.

2019+

A UNITED FUTURE

United Way Winnipeg and Labour, Stronger Together

As we look to the next 100 years, the relationship between Labour and United Way Winnipeg will only grow stronger.

The values of those early trade unionists, whose number swelled to 30,000 on Main Street in 1919 to build a better society, are alive and well today in both the Labour Movement and United Way Winnipeg and our 100+ agency partners and programs.

Their courage and work, through the Winnipeg General Strike and after, to support those in need and build structures that create sustainable and stable community-based charitable organizations, are a testament to their solidarity and love of this great city.

The model of collective giving and pooled resources rests on the Labour principle of solidarity, and that will also grow stronger in the next 100 years. Union members are part of this city as both workers and citizens. They are passionate and caring, and are building a better tomorrow just like their parents and grandparents did 100 years ago.

In 2019, the Winnipeg Labour Council and the Canadian Labour Congress in Manitoba will jointly present the Art Coulter Labour Community Service Award to acknowledge outstanding Labour activists who have made a difference in the community through United Way Winnipeg.



Canadian Labour Congress
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United Way
Winnipeg