

History ILWU Canada



I.L.W.U. History

Updated at September, 2013

1800-1867

- Friendly Societies and Labour Circles, the forerunners of Unions are formed.

1835

- Coal discovered in Nanaimo. First occupied by settlers in 1863.

1849

- October – The barque “Collooney” shipped 42,270 board feet of lumber to San Francisco from Vancouver Island; most likely Fort Victoria.

1850

- B.C.'s first strike. - Miners working at Fort Rupert struck the Hudson's Bay Company. All strikers were jailed.

1858

- Gold rush in Cariboo. - 22,000 men pass Ft. Langley.
- First coal loaded out at Departure Bay wharf and Newcastle Island in Nanaimo.

1859

- June 15 - Queen Victoria proclaims Queensborough (New Westminster) to be a harbor.
- The brig “Island Queen” is the first commercial passenger vessel to travel BC waters exclusively. Berthed in New Westminster.
- The Schooner “D.L. Clich” arrived in the port on November 30, 1859 and left with 60,000 feet cabinet wood and 50 barrels of cranberries on December 14, with the first New Westminster cargo destined for a foreign port, bound for San Francisco.
- Two wharves were built. The Government wharf which was 20 feet deep and 125 feet long and rented to the Steam Navigation Company and the Liverpool or Pioneer Wharf built by Harris and Company, which was 350 feet long with berths for vessels at both ends.

1860

- The San Francisco-based barque the “Vickery” was the first to load cargo at the port of New Westminster.

1860-1865

- 104 vessels ship 18,672 tons of cargo through New Westminster.

1861

- Edward Stamp started the first export mill in B.C. named Anderson Mill; it was built on the Alberni Canal on the west coast of Vancouver Island. The mill closed in 1864.

1862

- George Scrimgeour, Thomas Graham and Phillip Hich opened Pioneer Mills at the mouth of Lynn Creek in the winter of 1862. Purchased by John Oscar in 1864 and renamed “Burrard Inlet Lumber Mills”. Reorganized after Moody's death in 1875 and renamed “Moodyville Sawmill Company”, - the Mill closed in 1901 afterhaving been the largest source of income for B.C. in the previous 20 years. Burned down in 1916
- Printers in Victoria form a union.
- First ships loaded in Chemainus.

1863

- August – First shipment from Pioneer Mills was 25,000 feet of 3” planks for the New Westminster levee aboard a barge towed by the Steamer “Flying Dutchman”.
- Ports in Burrard Inlet shipped lumber to New Westminster and points beyond. Lumber was shipped to San Francisco, England and Australia.
- First export lumber loaded in New Westminster.
- The first Western Canada railway operated by the “New Vancouver Coal Mining Company” was formed to move ballast and coal in the Nanaimo area of Vancouver Island.

1864

- Pioneer Mills bought by Sewell Prescott Moody and re-named Burrard Inlet Lumber Mills. Their first foreign shipment was 277,500 feet of lumber and 16,000 pickets aboard the “Ellen Lewis” for Adelaide Australia.

1865

- The community of “Moodyville” was established around the Burrard Inlet Lumber Mills. Four deep-sea ships are loaded with lumber for export.
- Edward Stamp established his “British Columbia and Vancouver Island Spar Lumber and Sawmill Company” originally at Brockton Point and later moved to the foot of what is now Dunlevy Street.
- S.P. Moody acquired the mill.

1866

- Vancouver Island and the Mainland become one colony.

- 5 vessels loaded at Moodyville in North Vancouver.

1867

- Knights of St. Crispin begin organizing in B.C.
- Stamp's Mill loads 5 vessels with 650,000 board feet of lumber.
- Edward Stamp opened his second mill known as Stamp's Mill and renamed it Hastings Mill in 1874 and was demolished in 1928.

1868

- Victoria is designated as the capital of B.C.; Moved from New Westminster.
- Stamp's Mill loads 15 vessels. 18 additional vessels loaded at the second-steam powered mill at Moodyville.

1869

- 24 vessels loaded at Moodyville Mill. The population of Moodyville is 200. Stamp's Mill loads 21 vessels and employs 400 men.
- The Knights of Labour is formed. Originally called the Noble and Holy Order of the Knights of Labour founded by Philadelphia tailors. Its motto was “An injury to one is the concern of all”.

1880

- Dunsmuir coal wharf built in Departure Bay in Nanaimo.
- Charles Cates built a cargo handling wharf at the foot of Lonsdale Avenue in North Vancouver.

1881

- A land grant of 25,000 acres was given to the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) in exchange for extending its rail line from Port Moody to Granville (Vancouver).

1883

- March – Vessel “Duke of Abercorn” laden with steel for the CPR railway docked at the Government wharf in Port Moody that had a frontage of 403.5 meters set on more than 20,000 pilings. An adjoining warehouse was 64 meters long and 14.6 meters wide.
- The Trades and Labour Congress of Canada (TLC) was formed. Folded into the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) in 1956.

1884

- In 28 years prior to 1912:
 - 382 men killed in Nanaimo mines
 - 83 men at Wellington

- 180 men at Nanaimo
- 50 men at Extension (Ladysmith)
- 69 men at Cumberland.

1886

- July 27 – The “W.B. Flint” carrying a cargo of tea for New York arrived in Port Moody.
- The Granville settlement becomes chartered as Vancouver, a city with a population between 400 to 1,000 people. Two months later the “Great Fire” burns Vancouver to the ground.
- The first election is held and Alexander Maclean supported by the Vancouver Weekly Herald Newspaper is elected mayor.
- The CPR links rest of Canada to Port Moody, a city of 2500.
- CPR extension completed to Vancouver with a 6,000 acre bonus given to CPR.
- The Knights of Labour had over 700,000 members.
- The American Federation of Labour, (AFL) was founded. Made up of skilled craft unions in opposition to the Knights of Labour.
- First inbound cargo of tea from Japan arrives in Port Moody.
- First CPR dock and trestle bridge built at foot of Howe Street in Vancouver.
- First dock built at foot of Carrall Street in the Vancouver Harbour was called the City Wharf.

1887

- June 13 - the S.S. Abyssinia chartered by the CPR arrived from the Orient with a cargo of tea, silk and mail bound for London, England. This was the beginning of the Trans-Pacific, Trans-Atlantic trade using the new railway.

1888

- Knights of Labour organize the waterfront as an “industrial union.” They sign up 80 longshoremen. Population of Vancouver is 8800.
- Feb 17 – Vancouver’s oldest Union, the International Typographical Union Local 226 is issued a charter.
- The port of Union Bay, situated on Vancouver Island between Courteney and Nanaimo was a major shipping port for the Union Coal Company’s mines. Huge docks were constructed for seagoing freighters. Shut down in 1960.
- Percy and Ernest Evans and George Coleman established Vancouver’s first deep-sea dock at the foot of Columbia Street. The Evans, Coleman and Evans

was hit by a ship on June 1, 1899 that took out 25 feet of dock and sheared off the warehouse roof.

1889

- The first Vancouver dock “The City Wharf” located at the foot of Carrall Street was taken over by the Union Steamship Company and became known as the Union Wharf.
- John Hendry bought Hastings Mill and renamed it B.C. Mills, Timber and Trading.
- 400,000 tons of coal from the Nanaimo Colliery, the Wellington Colliery and the East Wellington Colliery were shipped to California, Oregon, Alaska, Hawaii, Japan and China from Departure Bay, Nanaimo.
- September - The “Titania” carried first shipment of canned salmon from Britannia Cannery in Steveston, to London England.

1890

- Longshore wage rates: \$0.35/hr dayshift and \$0.40/hr night shift working a 9 hr shift.
- Vancouver Longshoremen affiliate to the newly formed (1889) Vancouver Trades and Labour Council.
- The first shipment of raw sugar, 250 tons, arrived in Vancouver aboard the S.S. Abyssinia from the Philippines.
- B.C. Sugar Refinery opened and included its own dock known as Rogers Wharf.
- North Pacific Lumber Company built a mill and export wharf at what is now known as Barnett Marine Park in Burnaby. Destroyed by fire in 1946.

1891

- CPR’s “Empress of Japan” and “Empress of India” arrive in Vancouver to establish their Empress Line service.
- The Ross McLaren sawmills at Millside later known as Fraser Mills, built in 1889 finally began operation.
- Now 13,000 residents of Vancouver.
- Federal Labour Day holiday established.
- A cannery and wharf was built by the Great Northern Cannery Company at Sandy Cove in West Vancouver, now the 4100 block Marine Drive. Sailing ships brought tin from England and returned with canned salmon. The Cannery operated until 1950

1892

- International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) founded as the National Longshoremen’s association of the United States. Changed their name in 1895 after organizing in Canada.

1893

- Union Docks, Ocean Terminals & Balfour Guthrie built.
- First wharf built on Protection Island, Nanaimo Harbour 400 feet from coal seam.
- June 9 Canadian/Australasian service was inaugurated with the Steamer “Miowera”

1894

- First pulp and paper mill built in Alberni, B.C. by William Hewartson and Herbert Carmichael.

1896

- A separate Vancouver Longshore local withdrew from the Knights of labour with a membership of 80. The Union won a month long lockout / strike against Pacific Coast Shipping Company. The issue was over company interference with a walking delegate.
- The union did not win against Union Steamship Company after a one month lock out and the threat of the importation of strike breakers from Seattle, led by a notorious union smasher “King Seattle.” The union ended the lockout / strike by returning to work under the previous conditions.

1897

- Hamilton Powder Company ships first shipment of black gunpowder from its wharf in Departure Bay, Nanaimo. The company was bought by Canadian Explosives who moved the operations to James Island in 1913.

1897 - 1898

- Chemainus’ three Wharfs: the Long Wharf, the “T” Wharf and the Transfer Slip, were built in Chemainus, Oyster Harbour for the export of coal.

1898

- Fire destroys New Westminster but it is rebuilt in a few months.

1899

- First major cargo of grain and bagged oats shipped to South Africa to feed British horses during the Boer War.

1900

- Vancouver stevedores struck for six months when the employer insisted on taking over the dispatching. The Employer, Pacific Steamship Lines, brought in Japanese strikebreakers. Japanese

members of the Canadian Pacific Freight Handlers Union struck in support of the stevedores until strikebreakers withdrew.

1901

- Moodyville Sawmill Company, formerly pioneer Mills, closed.

1902

- Moodyville Sawmill Company sold to B.C. Mills Timber and Trading Co. headed by John Hendry

1903

- Longshoreman had left Knights of Labour in 1896. Union was smashed by CPR who used special police and scab labour. Frank Rogers was a member of the Fishermen's union at the time of his murder. He was being used as an organizer of longshoremen in their support of the CPR freight office employees who were on strike. A CPR special constable, Alfred Allan was charged with the murder along with a strike breaker, James F McGregor, who had boasted of shooting a man. After a three day adjournment of court they were found innocent.

1903-1912

- The ILA was established in 1910 in Prince Rupert as Local 38-41.

1904

- Victoria and Vancouver Stevedoring Company formed.

1905

- Longshore rates are \$0.15/hr working 13 hr days or \$0.25 to \$0.35/hr working 10 hr days.
- Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) was formed. Also known as the "wobblies" for their famous strikes. Their motto was "An injury to one is an injury to all". By 1923 they had 100,000 members.

1906

- North Vancouver Lumber Handler's Union, IWW Local 526 is formed with 60 members. George Walker is elected President, with Officers Pete Smith and Grant Campbell. Majority of Handlers were Native Indians. One of the organizers and founders of the Local was Fitzclarence St. John a black West Indies born man who came to B.C. at the turn of the century. He passed away in 1970 in North Vancouver B.C. at age 95. IWW also organized a similar local in Victoria at this time.

1907

- Strike of dock workers wins \$0.40/hr dayshift and \$0.45/hr night shift rates. The diversion of work by the company, however, starves the Union and it cannot hold itself together.
- Ray Dockerill organizes the Empire Stevedoring and Contracting Company to load ships in Chemainus.

1908

- Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Engineers founded.
- First Stevedores Union, the Vancouver and Victoria Stevedoring Union (V & V) of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) is broken.
- CPR builds their first major pier on Vancouver waterfront. Pier A was a 1584 foot pier with a 60,000 sq. foot warehouse. CPR Pier B was also started.

1909

- January 7 – the first export of grain from Vancouver. 50,000 bushels of prairie wheat went to Australia.
- March 29 – Longshoremen strike for \$0.35/ hour for day work and \$0.40/ hour for night work.
- Woodfibre - The Mill Creek Sawmill existed on the site prior to 1910. In 1910 the B.C. Sulphite Fibre Co. Ltd. constructed the Mill Creek pulp mill. Whalen Pulp and paper Mills purchased the site in 1917. In 1921 the town of Mill Creek changed the name to Woodfibre. Its population was 500, went into receivership in 1923 when B.C. pulp and Paper Co. Ltd. took over the assets.

1910

- ILA chartered local 38-41 in Prince Rupert and local 38-46 in Victoria.
- A new steamship line, founded by the CPR's rival Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad, now CPR, began connecting Vancouver with Prince Rupert.

1910 - 1912

- The City of New Westminster invested \$500,000 to built new riverside harbor facilities. The Federal Government added \$200,00 in 1912.

1911

- Ship Owners of B.C. formed - Original charter members were: The Grant Trunk Pacific Railway Company, The Lincoln Steamship Company, The Coast Steamship Company, The Northern Steamship Company, The Boscowitz

Steamship Company, The Canadian Mexican Steamship Company, The Canadian Pacific Railway Company, The Union Steamship Company, The Bermuda Steamship Company, and the Evans, Coleman and the Evans Company. Later became the Shipping Federation of B.C., then in 1963 the B.C. Shipping Federation and now the B.C. Maritime Employers Association.

1912

- March 30 - the IWW affiliates with the ILA and charters Local 38-52 in Vancouver. Tom Nickson, President of the V & V Union (ILA) and Gordon Kelly of the Lumber Handler Union, (IWW) merge and are elected officers. The new local has 60 charter members.
- ILA starts organizing longshoremen in other ports; Vancouver Lumber Handlers Union joins ILA and becomes Local 38-52.
- Stamps Mill loads 15 vessels. Some companies pay Ship work \$0.35/hr and \$0.40/hr overtime and others pay \$0.65/hr and \$0.90/hr overtime. Dock work pays \$0.25/hr. Most longshoremen work 10 hour days.
- Empire Stevedoring, headed by Col. Walker R. Dockhill and the Vancouver and Victoria Stevedoring Company (V & V), headed by Capt. David Baird with the followings shipping companies form "The Shipping Federation of BC."
 1. The International Stevedoring Co. of Seattle
 2. V&V (subsidiary of Empire Stevedoring)
 3. Washington Stevedoring Co. Seattle and Tacoma.
 4. Grays Harbour Stevedoring
 5. Pacific Stevedoring, Prince Rupert
 6. Consolidated Mining and Smelting Co., CPR
 7. Pacific Coast Terminals (CPR).
- The Vancouver Coastwise dispatch is located on Main Street .The deepsea dispatch is located at the Old Knox church. The Auxiliary (Casual) Hall was located on Cordova Street. The Bows and Arrows Hall was located at Hawks and Cordova.
- Other IWW locals merge with ILA.
- The Canadian "Robert Dollar Steamship Line" was established to run the fleet of Dollar Steamship Lines of California from his sawmill on Burrard Inlet.

1913

- ILA constitution also contains the Working Agreement between "The Marine Association of British Columbia" and the

- I.L.A. on behalf of all locals in Vancouver.
- Act of Parliament created Vancouver Board of Commissioners.
- First Vancouver Harbour Commission formed by Dominion Government. First Commissioner was Frank Carter-Cotton.
- New Westminster Harbour Commission established. Changed to Fraser River Harbour Commission in 1965 and to Fraser River Port Authority in 1999.

1913 – 1914

- CPR Pier D was built at the north foot of Granville Street.

1913 – 1915

- Ogden Point dock was built by Federal Government in Victoria. It had Pier A and Pier B with four shipping berths. Updated to handle cruise ships at a new Pier B in 2003.

1914

- Great Northern Pier built at the foot of Main Street. First Aid Attendants act as security guards.
- Great Northern Dock built between Ballantyne Pier and the B.C. Sugar Dock by the Great Northern Railway.
- Lapointe pier and Dominion #1, Vancouver's first grain elevator built at the foot of Woodland Drive. Nicknamed "Stevens Folly" because it was advocated by H. H. Stevens, a Federal MP who had the elevator built with Federal money and it sat with little use for years.
- First Grand Trunk Pacific Railway train to arrive on Prince Rupert waterfront. The railway was awarded to C.N. Rail in 1923

1916

- Federal Government builds 1,250,000 bushel capacity Terminal named the "Pacific Coast Terminal Elevators" in the area now occupied by Vanterm.
- The Canadian Robert Dollar Company constructed the Dollar Mill and export Pier at Roche Point on Indian Arm and operated until 1942.
- B.C. Mills Timber and Trading Co., formerly Moodyville Sawmill / Pioneer Mills burns down.

1917

- Federated Labour Party formed. Longshore Business Agent (BA) Gordon Kelly is also elected President of the Vancouver Trades and Labour Congress.
- Ship work pays \$0.60/hr and \$0.90/hr overtime. Dock work pays \$0.45/hr and \$0.65/hr overtime. Strike for \$0.60/hr and

\$0.75/hr overtime for dock work against CPR is won.

- Samuel Gompers is elected president of American Federation of Labour (AFL) and vows to destroy socialists.
- The B.C. Workers Compensation system established.

1918

- July 27 - Ginger Goodwin, Secretary, Western Federation of Miners is shot in the neck by a Special Constable of the Province.
- August 2 - Ginger Goodwin is buried. During the 24 hour strike that followed the Longshore Hall, defended by 600 longshoremen, withstood repeated assaults by a mob of 10,000 rioters. The Labour Temple at Dunsmuir and Homer was put under siege by a mob of returned veterans and George Thomas, a longshoreman, was beaten. Longshore BA, Pete Sinclair was illegally arrested on the job under the Conscriptio Act. Sinclair was over age, and after a two day strike was released.
- 6 month longshore contract increased wages from \$0.65/hr to \$0.80/hr deepsea and \$0.90/hr to \$1.15/hr overtime. There was an 8 hr work day with a 2 hour callout guarantee and travel time was included in the contract.
- Gordon J. Kelly (President ILA 1912) dies and is buried in the Mt. View Cemetery, 5455 Fraser Street.
- ILA book covering "Wage Scales and Working Rules" no name of employers.

1919

- ILA agreement with Northwest Waterfront Employers' Union and Pacific Coast District of the ILA covering Oregon, Washington and British Columbia.
- Signing for Shipping Federation of British Columbia, were David Baird and A.M. Dollar.
- Signed for Local 38-46 Victoria, F. Varney, For Local 38-52 Vancouver Lumber Handlers, Albert Hill and Peter Sinclair.
- International Labour Organization (ILO) is founded.
- Winnipeg General Strike May 15 – June 26. Sympathy strike in Vancouver B.C. from June 4 – June 26. Longshore BA Bill Pritchard jailed.
- One Big Union, OBU was formed in opposition to the AFL to unite all workers on a class basis instead of by craft or industry.

1920

- ILA Local 38-22 chartered in Port Alberni.
- November 1 - Independent Lumber Handler's Association (ILHA) and Bows and Arrows formed into District WWA by Employers.
- December 10 - 625 former members blacklisted.
- Provincial government established hiring office for Longshoremen.

1920-1930

- In 11 years 66 longshoremen are killed in Vancouver, mainly because of gear failure.
- Lumber is the largest export, mostly 40', 60', 90', x 24"x24" timbers.

1921

- J.S. Woodsworth, leader of the CCF, works as a longshoreman.
- Casuals allowed in basement of Knox Church.
- 2,140,000 tons shipped out of the Port of Vancouver.
- Construction started on Ballantyne Pier. The 1200 foot dock and warehouse was finished in 1923. Number 1 and 3 jetties were completed in 1924.
- The first bulk shipment of grain left Vancouver aboard the "S.S. Effington on January 7, bound for the United Kingdom.

1922

- I.L.A. Constitution contains Wage Schedule.

1922 – 1923

- The first two private grain elevators built at the foot of Salisbury Street. They are now known as UGG.

1923

- October 6 - contract at end. Scabs housed on the Empress of Japan at CPR docks.
- October 8 - 1300 of 1400 members endorse strike action.
- October 16 - Shipping Federation sets up their own dispatch hall says "make no peace."
- November 2 - Federal Department of Labour would mediate.
- November 17 - Vancouver and District WWA formed by employers.
- December 10 - Union busted, strike ended. 375 rehired.
- Independent Lumber Handler's Association, (ILHA) formed. The Lumber Handler's Association (LHA) was formed as a company union.
- Federation expanded to include all docks.
- ILA Vancouver, with 1400 members, was

broken when CPR led a strike against the Union (they represented the "American Plan" of an Open Shop). The reason for the strike (October 8 – December 10) was the employer's refusal to bargain at all with the ILA at the end of the contract and their demand for a \$0.05/hr increase was refused. The Employers refused to bargain collectively (allowed until 1943).

- The Employers' demands were:
 1. Never to deal with the ILA.
 2. Employer was to control the hiring hall.
 3. All scabs to be assured of steady work.
 4. Ex strikers could get their jobs back if they signed a "yellow dog" contract (i.e. never to join a union) and only if and when they were needed.
 5. There was to be no change in wages.
- 1400 union men were deregistered. The strike focused against the CPR which housed the scabs on the Empress of Japan. 350 "Provincials" with shotguns and motor launch and armed CPR detectives protected the scabs.
- 625 out of 1000 union men were blacklisted and eventually 400 were rehired.
- Vancouver and District Waterfront Worker's Association (V&D WWA) formed.
- The Vancouver & District Waterfront Workers Association, a company union, the North Shore Bows & Arrows and the Independent Lumber Handlers Association receive charters.
- The Vancouver Trades and Labour Council told the Minister of Labour of the company's abuse to no effect. Lumber Handlers Union, (LHU) formed North Shore.
- Marine Checkers and Weighers established.

1924

- Columbia Grain Elevators built at 2700 Wall Street.

1924-1926

- Terminal Dock and Warehouse was built.

1925

- Shipping Federation of B.C. "Wage Schedule, Rules and Working Conditions." No reference to a union agreeing to the book.
- Vancouver Terminal Grain Company built first privately owned terminal elevator in Vancouver. Later known as Pacific Elevators.
- UGG acquires control of Burrard Elevator Company and enlarges the facility in 1931.

- The Panama Pacific Grain Terminals Elevator Co. Ltd built a grain terminal on Pier North B at Odgen Point in Victoria. After sitting idle for almost 20 years it closed in 1976.

1926

- Shipping Federation built hall at 45 Dunlevy where they had the gang dispatch. Longshore dispatch at Orange Hall at Gore and Hastings.
- Vancouver Harbour Commission built two grain elevators and leased them to private companies.
- Dominion Government built a grain terminal in Prince Rupert and leased it to Alberta Wheat Pool. Demolished in 1987.
- Vancouver National Labour Council organized.

1927

- All Canadian Congress of Labour formed.
- July 4 – CPR's piers B and C officially opened. Now known as Canada Harbour Place.
- CPR builds and rebuilds their 765 meter long Pier B-C.
- "Japan Wharf" - 500 feet long wharf in North Vancouver at the foot of St. patricks Street. Leased to Canadian Transport to ship export lumber. During the Second War, the name was changed to the West Indies Dock, then Cassiar Asbestos Dock, also know as Pier 94.

1928

- "Wage Schedule, Rules and Working Conditions of the Shipping Federation of B.C." Vancouver B.C.
- Alberta Wheat Pool began operation. Now Cascadia.
- Fraser River Elevator Company built grain terminal in New Westminster. Leased to Searles Grain in 1933. Last loaded cargo in 1961 and demolished in 1970 to form part of Fraser Surrey Docks.
- Pacific Coast Terminals Co. Ltd. was formed from the Fraser River Dock and Storage Co. of New Westminster. Government assistance was provided to enlarge the port facilities and build a storage plant and dock at the foot of 10th street at the old Royal City Mills site and previously as the Fraser River Fish Company site. The site was torn down in 1968.
- Midland and Pacific built the first grain facility in North Vancouver. Changed name to Burrard Terminals in 1972. After an explosion in 1975, was rebuilt and

renamed Pioneer Grain Terminal.

- Columbia Grain Elevator built facility at the foot of Nanaimo Street in Vancouver.

1929

- Workers Unity League, (WUL) founded. Disbanded in 1935.

1930

- The CN Dock was built at the foot of Main Street in Vancouver and originally called the Canadian National Steamship Terminal. The Canadian National Timber Pier, the new 1,000 feet long pier was completely destroyed by fire in 1931 and rebuilt shortly after.
- Midland Pacific opened in North Vancouver - now Pioneer Grain.

1931

- Longshoremen made \$0.83/hour for dock work and \$0.87/hour for ship work.
- Article 9 of the Trades and Labour Congress "Principles" stated that an "Asiatic" was a member of a race which cannot be properly assimilated into the national life of Canada.

1932

- The Cooperative Commonwealth Federation (CCF), forerunner of the NDP was founded in Calgary.

1933

- Alberni & District Waterfront Worker's Association formed.
- Last sailing ship in Chemainus, loaded logs with a swinging boom.
- ILA & ILHA (Bows & Arrows) & Victoria & District Waterfront Workers Association, (V&D WWA) Milton Reid President amalgamated.

1934

- October – A new contract between the Shipping Federation and the Longshoremen's Union cut wages back to 0.76 cents per hour for dock work and 0.80 cents per hour for ship work.
- Victoria & District Waterfront Worker's Association, and Victoria Riggers and Stevedores formed Victoria Riggers & Transport Workers.
- April 1 - The LWTWC (Longshore and Water Transport Workers of Canada) was formed in conference. This was the ILWU Canada of its day and by 1935 consisted of the following affiliates:
 - Local 1 – CL&FHA (Coastwise Longshoremen & Freight Handlers

Associaton

- Local 2 – LWTWC (Longshore & Water Transport Workers of Canada-Nanaimo)
- Local 5 – SIU (Seamen's International Union)
- Local 6 – SL&FWA (Ship Lining & Fitting Workers Association)
- Local 7 – PWWA (Progresssive Waterfront Workers Association-Chemainus)
- Local 8 – VELWL (Vancouver Export Log Workers)
- Local 9 – VRTW (Victoria Riggers & Transport Workers)
- Local 10 – PRDWWA (Powel River & District Waterfront Workers Association)
- Strike in U.S., 2 longshoremen killed in San Francisco.
- Canadian Waterfront Worker's Association, (CWWA) was secretly chartered by the Companies and the Province under the Societies Act on July 24 in anticipation of breaking the Union. Dues were set at 2.50 a month and any by-law changes to the Association had to be authorized by the Shipping Federation.
- October 10 – 3 yr contract signed, Ship \$0.80/hr and \$1.26/hr overtime, Dock \$0.76/hr and \$1.14/hr overtime. Same as 1923 rates. Ivan Emery replaces Milton Reid VDWWA.
- A contract "The Agreement, Working Conditions, and Despatching Regulations as agreed to by The Vancouver & District Waterfront Workers' Association and the Shipping Federation of British Columbia, Limited.

1935

- Powell River casuals on the dock organized and locked out May 16. Prince Rupert locked out May 17.
- Longshoremen take "May Day" off and staged a 24 hour "Holiday".
- Export Log Workers Association, The Grain Handler's Union, and Progressive Waterfront Workers Association of Chemainus established. The entire west coast is organized with the main issue being a Union dispatch.
- June 4 – "after refusing to load paper from Powell River to the vessel "Anten" at Ballantyne pier." Vancouver is locked out by four companies and the collective agreement is unilaterally terminated by the employer. Vancouver Mayor Gerry McGeer stated "longshoremen are communists." Strike vote on second ballot reduced to

60% from 75%.

- June 15 All Canadian vessels declared hot.
- June 20 Longshore president Ivan Emery and BA Oscar Salonen arrested.
- Vancouver and District Labour Council condemned ban of picketing.
- "On To Ottawa Trek" June – July. Dominion Day Riot in Regina.
- Battle of Ballantyne Pier.
- July Vancouver Longshoremen's Association formed by the returned strikers (715 members), 67 B.C. longshoremen already arrested.
- September 10 - Federal Labour Department Justice H.H. Davis pro-employer report.
- December 9 - Strike called off.
- The ILA in New Westminster was broken and the company union Royal City Waterfront Worker's Association (RCWWA) was formed.
- The 1935 strike could have been settled in September as the ILA and the ISU agreed to the new contract but Justice H.H. Davis of the Ontario Supreme Court exonerated the Shipping Federation.
- Both company unions totaling 715 men signed a 5 year agreement: Ship \$0.90/hr and \$1.35/hr overtime, Dock \$0.86/hr and \$1.29/hr overtime. Also applied to North Vancouver Longshoremen's Association, (NVLA) with 65 members.
- CIO formed within AFL. Split with AFL and formed the Congress of Industrialized Organizations in 1938. oined AFL to form the AFL-CIO in 1955.

1936

- Burrard Coastwise Longshoremen's Association, (BCLA) signed a separate two year agreement.
- ILA charter issued to 75 coastwise longshoremen.
- The Federal Government created the "National Harbours Board", centralizing all of the former local control in Ottawa.

1937

- ILA charter to 75 coastwise longshoremen.
- New Westminster longshoremen reject the Company union, Royal City Waterfront Workers Association (RCWWA) and after dissolving ILA local 38-1-27, receive an ILWU Local 1-58 charter.
- Four (4) year agreement Canadian Waterfront Workers Association, (CWWA); President Charles E. Bailey, VLA President Joseph Boyes and Secretary H. Burgess. Wages ship \$0.95/hr and \$1.42/hr overtime, dock \$0.91/hr and \$1.37/hr

overtime.

- North Vancouver Longshoremen's Association formed.
- Shipping Federation signs a new four (4) year agreement with CWWA and VLA including North Vancouver Longshoremen's Association.
- Longshoremen on West Coast of U.S. split from ILA to form ILWU.
- Completion of Nanaimo Assembly "C" berth finished in 1965.
- Charter issued to a Local in Vancouver and initially dated September 21, 1937 as ILA Local 38-125. Later renumbered and Chartered as ILWU Local 11, District 1, and then disbanded around June or July 1938.

1938

- Burrard Coastwise Longshoremen's Association formed. Wages \$1.00/hr and \$1.35/hr overtime. BCLA President T. Laughton, Secretary A. Nicol
- ILWU chartered (1-11) in Vancouver.
- 1st International ILWU Convention ILWU 1-11 Vancouver delegate Paddy Hunt, New Westminster delegate J. W. Milikan.
- July 27 – CPR Pier D burned down and never replaced.
- Nanaimo Assembly Wharf built with rail access and two ship berths. Third berth built in 1964.

1939

- Half of 1900 coastal longshoremen still blacklisted. Second ILWU Convention in San Francisco recommended lifting the Vancouver and New Westminster Charters.
- Canadian Committee for Industrial Organization.

1940

- Canadian Congress of Labour formed. Folded into CLC (Canadian Labour Congress) in 1956.
- Harry Bridges, ILWU International President lifts the two ILWU Canadian charters as the union is "too company."
- Within a "negative climate." Unemployment Insurance passed by Federal Government.
- 3rd International ILWU Convention affirmed resolution to organize British Columbia.

1941

- 4th International ILWU Convention designates B.C. as District 5 ILWU.

1943

- Brings together 6 independent unions:
 - (1) NVLA
 - (2) CWWA
 - (3) VLA

- (4) ILWU Vancouver
- (5) ILWU NW
- (6) ILA Vancouver
- Royal City Waterfront Workers Association and the Chemainus & District Longshoremen's Association formed.
- Port Alberni's last sailing ship leaves.

1944

- Chemainus local chartered as ILA Local 38-64.
- September – Port Alberni chartered as ILWU Local 503.
- Western Box in Calgary chartered as ILWU Local 504.
- Vancouver and New Westminster receive ILWU charters.
- March – 1st Local ILWU charter 501. President, Joe Thompson, Secretary, A.T. Smith, BA, Harry Chawner.
- July – New Westminster becomes chartered ILWU 502.
- September 30 – B.C. Federation of Labour is formed succeeding the original B.C. Federation of Labour which disbanded in 1920.
- The original Lynn Terminals was the dock and site of the 17th Royal Canadian Ordnance Depot. It was built to handle tanks, heavy artillery, and other military hardware. Lynnterm became a marine Industrial estate in April 1963. The wooden deepsea dock was demolished in 1975 to make way for the new Lynnterm, with its 96 acre break-bulk site and 2400 feet of berthing facilities.

1945

- B.C. council of longshoremen becomes B.C. District Council (BCDC) consisting of locals in Vancouver, Port Alberni, Pr. Rupert and New Westminster.
- Family Allowance legislation passed by Federal Government.
- March 6 – S.S. Greenhill Park exploded at Pier B. Six (6) longshoremen died. Cargo included, 8 railcar loads of rocket flares and 94 tons of sodium chlorate.
- April – Prince Rupert chartered as ILWU Local 505.
- November – Marine Checkers & Weighers Chartered as ILWU Local 506.
- 6th International ILWU Convention.
- World Federation of Trade Unions, (WFTU) formed out of the new UN Charter.

1946

- Grainliners chartered as ILWU local 507. First contract with BCDC.
- First I.L.W.U. contract ran from 1946 to

1949.

- District Council of B.C., (BCDC) chartered by International Union April 1946. Composed of ILWU Locals 501,502,503,506,507,508 and 509

1947

- There was a major fire at the Port Alberni Assembly Wharf which had 3 deepsea berths. The vessels, "S.S. San Pep" caught fire alongside the berth.
- Chemainus receive charter as I.L.W.U. local 508.
- 7th International ILWU Convention.
- Canadian ILWU membership 1400 members.

1948

- 5 Deepsea Locals negotiated together.
- ILWU expelled from CIO in U.S.
- McKay Stevedoring and Contracting Company contracted to load lumber on the "S.S. Bell" at Port Alberni. Changed name to Western Stevedoring in 1950.

1949

- International Confederation of Free Trade Unions came into being on December 7, 1949. Dissolved in October 2006 and merged into International Trade Union Confederation, (ITUC).

1950

- Pulp & Paper Mill Built at Harmac.
- The Port Mann Dock, a huge dock built for large ocean going vessels was built by the Canadian Pacific railway. Old remaining pilings show it north of the port Mann Bridge near Douglas Island. Problems with berthing led to the building of Fraser Surrey Docks.
- The ILWU was expelled from the CIO along with 10 other unions, because of positions on national and international politics adopted by the rank and file. In 1988 the ILWU was invited to re-affiliate with the AFL-CIO and the invitation was accepted at the 1988 International Convention held in Vancouver.

1951

- Old Age Security passed by Federal Government.
- New Westminster 502 began a Longshoremen's Credit Union.
- First aid men organized by ILWU local 507.

1952

- First aid men receive charter as ILWU

Local 510.

- Harmac Pulp wharf was opened.

1953

- Deepsea locals negotiate first pension plan.
- New Westminster warehouse organized as ILWU Local 511.

1954

- Vancouver warehouses organized into Local 512.
- Coastwise I.L.A. Local 38 – 163 receives charter as I.L.W.U. local 509.

1955

- November – The world's first container ship "Clifford J. Rogers" was delivered to Vancouver and ran between Vancouver and Skagway, Alaska. It carried six hundred seven-by-seven-by-eight-foot containers.

1956

- Canadian Labour Congress formed with merger of the "Canadian Congress of Labour" and the "Trades and Labour Congress of Canada".
- Victoria received charter as 504.
- Construction of Centennial Pier started west of Ballantyne Pier. Completed in 1958 with four dock cranes and a 200,664 square foot warehouse. Berth 5 opened in December 1964 and Berth 6 added in 1970.

1957

- Hooker Chemicals, now known as Oxy, built a wharf in North Vancouver just east of the Ironworkers Memorial Bridge to handle salt ships

1958

- One month strike (August 22 – September 22) except Prince Rupert and Coastwise Local 509. Issue: adequate jointly controlled pension plan with trustees. Gains:
 1. 8-hour day reduced from 9 hours
 2. 4 hour guarantee
 3. wage increase by \$0.45/hr
 4. Pension plan employer contribution \$0.16/hr per employee, benefits \$3.00/month per year of service.
- The Union received all its demands and achieved one contract for Locals 501, 502, 503, 504 & 508.

1959

- January – 1st Canadian Area Convention.

- B.C. District Council became Canadian Area with autonomy within the ILWU, 2100 members. Craig Prichett the first President.
- Vancouver Wharves. Dredging started in September 1959 with 700,000 cubic yards of gravel covering 41 acres and the construction of a 90 feet by 750 feet dock started in February and completed and opened in April 1960.
- Northland Strike ended in victory when the injunction against pickets was replaced by an "Observer" picket line of 600 workers and families from all sections of the Trade Union Movement.
- Northland Navigation strike and lock-out in Vancouver ended in victory for the Marine Engineers and Longshore Workers.

1960

- The Canadian Area negotiating team won the Mechanization & Modernization (M&M) clause, 2-year guarantee, guaranteed Work Program of 1820 hours/year.
- Canadian area membership was 2500.
- Neptune Bulk Terminals was built in North Vancouver by the National Harbours Board.
- Pacific Coast Terminals expanded from New Westminster to open a new bulk commodities terminal in Port Moody. Now owned by Sultrans
- White Pass and Yukon developed docking facilities adjacent to Pier 94, or Cassiar Asbestos dock, to service the container ships the "Clifford J. Rogers", the "Frank H. Brown and the Klondike"
- Top loading of fill started for the building of Neptune Terminals. It opened 1967 official opening in 1968 as a multi-purpose bulk loading terminal. Handled first unit coal train from Luscar, Alberta in February 1970.
- The ILWU Canadian Area moved to certify all of the longshoremen in Tahsis, B.C. After successful raiding charges by IWA, and the CLC, the members were all fired and in 1961 absorbed into the longshore locals on a per capita basis.

1961

- Lower Mainland Pensioners Club formed by Convention.
- Nanaimo Harbour Commission is formed. by the Federal Act of Parliament on December 9, 1960

1962

- Canadian area membership was 2200.
- Waterfront Foremen receive charter as ILWU Local 514.
- Negotiations start with the intentions of

- negotiating one contract for longshore.
- Supercargoes Local 516 amalgamated with Local 506 and withdrew within a year.

1963

- Port Simpson Indian band chartered as ILWU local 515.
- Deepsea and warehouse locals receive wage parity at the end of two similar 3 year contracts with the Shipping Federation and the Wharf Operators. Both had first M&M agreement of \$7200.
- Ships berth finished at Harmac Pulp Mill.

1964

- Vancouver Harbour Board employees receive charter as 517.
- CPR employees get charter as 518.
- Fraser Surrey Docks established as a multi-purpose terminal with rail service, warehousing and 7 deep sea ship berths.

1965

- ILWU asserts jurisdiction in Squamish. Attorney General Robert Bonner personally brought contempt of court charges against the Union, resulting in \$11,500 in fines.
- First time International union convention in Vancouver.
- Canadian area membership was 3000.
- The Canadian Labour Standard Code was adopted by Parliament to govern employment relations in Federal Industries.

1966

- Pensions Act passed by Federal Government.
- June – ten ILWU Presidents spent three weeks in prison because longshoremen refused to work the Queens Birthday on May 24. They were charged \$500 or 90 days. They went to jail for 23 days when Federal Minister of Labour Jack Nicholson intervened and promised holidays before Parliament. In November Statutory Holiday Act passed. Won the right to receive all Statutory Holidays.
- Locals 501, 506, 507, 509, 510 and 518 amalgamated to form Local 500
- Local 511 merged into Local 502.
- First industry wide longshore contract negotiated.
- 190 Foreman of ILWU Local 514 on 23 day strike for recognition.
- April 15th – Freighter "Archangel" loading lumber listed and workers fell into the ocean and onto the dock in Port Alberni. One (1) longshoreman was killed and five (5) injured
- 300 ton stiff leg crane built at Centennial

Pier.

- BCMEA formed from Shipping Federation.
- Saskatchewan Wheat Pool officially opened June 14 1968 and was built on the old Moodyville dock site.

1967 - 1967

- Started filling in foreshore for eventual Neptune Terminals.

1967

- 3200 members in Canadian Area.

1968

- Medicare introduced by Federal Government.
- Saskatchewan Wheat Pool opened. Construction started in 1966.
- Neptune Terminals opened as a multi-purpose bulk loading terminals.

1968 - 1971

- Seaboard Terminals built in North Vancouver.

1969

- Longshore Negotiations started.
- Opening of the new Centennial Pier. Vancouver's first multi purpose container facility. Now Centerm.

1970

- After 2 strikes and 3 contract votes, new leadership, and new negotiators. 8 hour guarantee, 35 hour weekly guarantee for 26 weeks, wage increase of \$1.15, new manning as "all the men necessary, no unnecessary men," increase in M & M from \$7,200 to \$13,000, 7 day week implemented with shift differentials, smaller gang sizes. New Area Officers were elected after special convention.
- First container clause in Longshore Contract.
- 3200 members in Canadian Area.
- Westshore Terminals coal terminal officially opened June 15 at Roberts Bank in Tsawwassen.
- Neptune Terminal handled first coal unit train from Luscar, Alberta in February.
- May 4th the "Snow White", the first vessel from Japan left Roberts Bank

1971

- Testers and samplers receive charter as ILWU Local 518.
- Fraser Wharves Ltd. established an auto terminal with a 150 metre long berth in Richmond.

1972

- Government Intervention, West Coast Operations Act. Bill C-231.
- Cattermole Timber and Star Shipping combined to build Squamish Terminals.

1973

- 20-year Port Plan by Pacific Coast Maritime Council (PCMC) 15 Unions involved in Port Activity.

1974

- West Coast Grain Handling Operations Act.
- First Local 514 certification after many court cases.

1975

- West coast port operations act, government back to work legislation against foremen on May 13th and Longshoremen on May 30th.
- St. Lawrence Port Operations Act.
- Vanterm a container, roll-on-roll-off and general cargo berth opened.
- Lynnterm opened as a new forest products dock in North Vancouver.
- June 24-Grain Workers Union Local 333 were chartered as ILWU Local 333. Voted to withdraw from ILWU on November 30, 1976.
- October 3 – Fire and explosion at Burrard Terminals, four (4) members of ILWU Local 333 were killed and thirteen injured.

1976

- Port of Halifax Operations Act used to break shipping strike.
- AIB anti-inflation act until 1979.
- One million Canadian workers walk out in a day of protest against wage and price controls.
- Fairview Terminals, a new general cargo dock of 18.6 hectares opened in Prince Rupert.

1977

- Annacis Auto Terminals was built with two shipping berths to handle the import of Japanese autos.
- Fairview Terminals completed at Prince Rupert and expanded in 1990. Destined to triple its size as a new container port to 150 acres and handle 1.2 million teu's by 2009.
- CPR Ship Workers Association (CLC Local 1552) transferred to ILWU Local 500 on June 1, 1978.

1979

- Fibreco, a woodchip exporting terminal officially opened August 1979. It was built at the foot of Pemberton Street in North Vancouver.
- Dow Chemicals opened a Wharf facility next to Lynnterm to handle cargoes of caustic soda, ethylene glycol and ethylene dichloride.

1981

- Ridley Island Terminals opened to handle B.C. Northeast coal from the Quintette and Bullmoose mines. Completed in 1984.

1982

- West Coast Ports Operations Act passed by Federal Parliament.

1983

- Operation "Solidarity" saw a wave of escalating strikes to protest provincial government regressive legislation.
- July 11 – Retail Wholesale Union (RWU) B.C. signed affiliation agreement with ILWU Canadian Area.
- July 11 – Retail Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU) Saskatchewan signed affiliation agreement with ILWU Canadian Area.

1985

- Prince Rupert Grain Co. opens new grain terminal.
- Old CPR Pier B-C is renovated and becomes Canada Harbour Place, a cruise ship terminal.

1986

- Maintenance of Ports Operations Act passed.

1994

- West Coast Ports Operations Act passed.

1995

- Ballantyne Pier rebuilt to serve cruise ships as well as forest products.
- May 1-Grain Services Union (GSU) signed affiliation agreement with ILWU Canada.

1996

- May – Empire Stevedoring changes name to Terminal Systems Inc., (TSI).

1997

- Delta Port, a container terminal opened at Roberts Bank with two container ship berths. Third berth scheduled to open in 1999.

1999

- March 12- the Canada Industrial Relations Board certifies ILWU Local 508 for all work on Vancouver Island, effectively eliminating Locals 503 and 504.
- The Vancouver Port Corporation was replaced with the Vancouver Port Authority

2000

- July 25 – the Canadian Industrial Relations Board certified ILWU Local 523 as the bargaining agent for Ridley Island Terminals the coal terminal in Prince Rupert.

2002

- January – Lynnterm acquired Seaboard International Terminals and designated the dock as Lynnterm West Gate.

2007

- Fairview Container Terminal officially opened September 12

2008

January 1 – Fraser River Port Authority, the North Fraser Port Authority, and the Vancouver Port Authority all combined to become the new Vancouver Fraser Port Authority, now known as Port Metro Vancouver

2010

An eight (8) year collective agreement was ratified that runs from April 1, 2010 through to March 31, 2018.

Acronyms of Longshore Organizations

ADWWA – Alberni District Waterfront Workers Association, 1933.

BCLA – Burrard Coastwise Longshoremen's Association, 1938.

CLA – Canadian Longshoremen's Association New Westminster, 1923 -1927.

CL& FHA – Coastwise Longshoremen and Freight Handlers Association. Affiliated as Local 3 of the Longshore and Water Transport Workers, 1934.

CWA – Checkers and Weighers Association, 1937/38.

CWWA – Canadian Waterfront Workers Association. Provincially chartered Union under the B.C. Societies Act in 1934. All by-law changes had to be authorized by the Shipping Federation. Voted to form Local 501 in 1944.

ELWA – Export Log Workers Association, 1935.

FRLU – Fraser River Longshoremen's Union, 1926.

GLU – Grain Liners Union (Empire Stevedoring grain liners).

ILA – Independent Longshoremen's Association, 1912. Formed ILA Local 38-57 in 1913.

ILA – International Longshoremen's Association, 1910 in Canada.

ILHA – Independent Lumber Handlers Association, 1923. "Bows and arrows" (Principally North Shore Native members) Formed after ILA broken.

ILWU – International Logshore Warehouse Union. Issued first Charter in Canada to Local 1-58 in New Westminster on October 13th 1937.

LHA – Lumber Handlers Association, 1923. North Shore company union.

LWTWC – Longshore and Water Transport Workers of Canada. Ten affiliated locals 1934,

L&WTW of C – Longshore and Water Transport Workers of Canada (Nanaimo). Affiliated as Local 4 of the Water Transport Workers of Canada, 1934.

NVLA – North Vancouver Longshoremen's Association, 1937. Previously North Vancouver Lumber Handlers Union IWW Local 526.

NVLHA – North Vancouver Lumber Handlers Union Local 526, 1906 Native group North Vancouver.

NWDLA – New Westminster and District Longshoremen's Association, 1935.

NWWWA – New Westminster Waterfront Workers Association. Affiliated as Local 2 of the Longshore and Water Transport Workers, 1934.

PRLA – Prince Rupert Longshoremen's Association, 1945.

PR&DWWA – River and District Waterfront Workers Association. Affiliated as Local 10 of the Longshore and Water Transport Workers of Canada, 1934.

PWWA – Progressive Waterfront Workers Association, 1935, Vancouver Island (Chemainus). Affiliated as Local 7 of the Longshore and Water Transport Workers of Canada.

RCWWA – Royal City Waterfront Workers Association, 1938, company union.

SIU – Seamens International Union. Affiliated as Local 5 of the Longshore and Water Transport Workers of Canada, 1934.

SL&&FWA – Ship Lining and Fitting Workers. Affiliated as Local 6 of the Longshore and Water Transport Workers of Canada, 1934.

V&DWWA – Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Association. Formed by the Shipping Federation in 1923.

VDWWA – Victoria and District Waterfront Workers Association. 1923. company union. Folded into CWWA by 1940.

VELW – Vancouver Export Log Workers. Affiliated as Local 8 of the Longshore and Water Transport Workers of Canada, 1934

VLA – Vancouver Longshoremen's Association, 1936. (Continuation of the "bows and arrows").

VR&S – Riggers and Stevedores, 1934.

VR&TWA – Victoria Riggers and Transport Workers Association. Affiliated as Local 9 of the Longshore and Water Transport Workers of Canada, 1935.

VWWA – Vancouver Waterfront Workers Association. Formed on September 13, 1941 with merger of CWWA and VLA. First meeting held in Shipping Federation Hall 45 at Dunlevy Avenue.



Fraser Wilson Mural

This mural depicting the mid - 40's B.C. Industrial scene was originally painted on the wall of the Pender Auditorium by Fraser Wilson in 1974.

The restored mural was re-dedicated by Fraser Wilson at the opening of the Maritime Labour Auditorium on January 22, 1988.

On February 30, 1989 the Maritime Labour Centre received a heritage award from the City of Vancouver in recognition of the restoration of the Fraser Wilson Mural.