

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WOMEN'S TRADE
UNION HISTORY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
1935 - 1950

Prepared By: Sara Diamond

INTRODUCTION

This is a bibliography of sources for research into the history of women in the B.C. trade union movement. It covers a fifteen year period: 1935 - 1950. These years were chosen because they represent a time of dramatic changes both in the position of women within production and of the ideology and strength of the organized labour movement in the province.

Some of the themes which emerged during these years include : the development of a permanent sector of female labour; the evolution of industrial organizing, that is, the organization of both skilled and unskilled workers within a particular plant or industry; the political struggle between the Communists and the CCF for the leadership of central unions in the province; the integration of women into trade unions in both industrial and service sectors.

During the Depression, women as well as men suffered the extreme shortage of jobs. Trade union attitudes in part reflect an antipathy to women working, whether they were married or single. As the War began and men were conscripted, women's labour became of central importance to sustain the War Effort and fill vacant industrial jobs. Women moved into industry at a time when there was massive organizing, and soon became members of unions in the shipyards, forest industry,^{and} manufacturing sector, as well as in traditional female job ghettos. Unions encouraged women to join, often to insure that female labour was not used to undercut previously gained wage levels. In the post-War period women were again pushed out of the labour market, as returning veterans were given their jobs in industry. Despite this many women continued to work: again in more traditional female job areas where they were often non-unionized. Some important struggles did occur in which women tried to keep jobs or conditions won during the war. As well, unionization began in the public sector and in some private industries in which women were predominate. Women organized auxiliaries in order to support the unions in which their husbands were active.

The bibliography is annotated to permit the readers to develop a sense of the historical period. This should facilitate a choice of research topics and sources.

The material in this bibliography is located in the Lower Mainland Area. There is additional primary material in the Public Archives of British Columbia, located in Victoria. Permission is needed to use trade union archives.

The preparation of this work was made possible by a grant from the B.C. Department of Labour for student summer projects. Thanks are due to Professor Robert MacDonald, UBC and Professor Mary Lynn McDougall, SFU, both historians. As well, the UFAWU and the UFAWU Women's Auxiliary, in particular Susan Radosevic, the B.C. Federation of Labour Women's Committee and archivists at the VCA and UBCSC, were most helpful.

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Sara Diamond, SFU
1978

LEGEND

1. ABBREVIATIONS FOR SOURCES

VCA Vancouver City Archives

VPL Vancouver Public Library

UBCSC University of British Columbia Special Collections

UBC University of British Columbia Library

SFU Simon Fraser University Library

CUPW Canadian Union of Postal Workers Files

BCGEU British Columbia Government Employees' Union Archives

PABC Public Archives of British Columbia

UFAWU United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union material - Women's Aux.

PC Private Collection

Other Sources Will Be Indicated

2. ABBREVIATIONS FOR ORGANIZATIONS

AFL American Federation of Labour

BCGEA B.C. Government Employees Association

CCF Co-operative Commonwealth Federation

CCL Canadian Congress of Labour

CDL Canada Department of Labour

CIO Committee for Industrial Organization

CPC Communist Party of Canada

HFWU Halifax Federated Workers Union

HREU Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union

ILGWU International Ladies; Garment Workers Union

ILO International Labour Organization

IUMMSW International Union of Mine Mill and Smelter Workers

IWA International Woodworkers of America

LPP Labour Progressive Party

MLA Member of Legislative Assembly

NSS National Selective Service

NWLB National War Labour Board

OPIEU Office Professional Industrial Employees Union

OSEU Office and Store Employees Union

OTEU Office Technical Employees Union
RCWU Relief Camp Workers Union
SWOC Steelworkers Organizing Committee
TLC Trades and Labour Congress
TURB Trade Union Research Bureau
UGWU United Garment Workers Union
UFAWU United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union
VDTLC Vancouver and District Trades and Labour Council
WA Women's Auxiliary
YWCA Young Women's Christian Association

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BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WOMEN'S TRADE UNION HISTORY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
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 - c) Unions - p. 31.
5. B.C. WOMEN'S LABOUR HISTORY PROJECT: GUIDE TO TAPES IN SFU SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
6. UPDATE OF BIBLIOGRAPHY, MAY, 1979.

1. GENERAL SOURCES

a) Trade Union HistoryA Ripple, A Wave; United Fishermen and Allied Workers' Union

History of the formation of the UFAWU, up to present struggles. Deals with racism and effects on union: Native, Chinese and Japanese workers. Describes cannery conditions before and after unionization. Role of women in union struggles, such as the 1937 strike at Namu in which women supported Native and Japanese fishermen.

SFU, UBC, VPL

Annotated Bibliography of the Labour Movement in Vancouver

VCA Annotated Guide

Outlines holdings in the VCA. Women and labour: VDTLC; Vancouver Typographical Union; International Typographical Union; Sheet and Metal Workers Sign Painters 726; Workmen's Compensation Board; mentioned.

VCA

British Columbia Employees' Union Library and Archives

Their collection includes the Provincial (see section 4. Women in the Immediate Post-War Period), the BCGEA's newsletter and material from union conventions and negotiations. The collection is not open to the public (permission needed).

BCGEU

B.C. Shipping Federation, Add. MSS 279

Contains some material on women's support to longshore workers. Pertains to 1935 strike.

VCA

Builders of B.C., Bennett, Bill, pamphlet of the L.P.P. (Labour Progressive Party)

This pamphlet describes the early period of trade union history in B.C, from the perspective of the Communist Party of Canada.

P.C., SFU, UBCSC

Canada. Department of Labour Economics and Research: 1921 - 1967:Union Growth In Canada

Statistical data on unionization.

SFU, UBC.

Canadian Congress of Labour: Docket I: 1941 - 1945; Docket II: 1945 - 1955. Press clippings.

Articles cover the struggle between the CCL leadership and the leadership of the Boilermakers' Union (Labour Progressive Party). Later issues include reunification with the TLC.

VCA

Canada's Unions, Lorimer, Robert, J, Lorimer Co., 1976.

Nationalist perspective on trade unionism in Canada.

Bookstores.

The Canadian Labour Movement 1902 - 1960., Abella, Irving

SFU

Canadian Labour Newspaper Collection, UBC

The following include material on women: Canadian Labour Herald (1937 - 1939); People's Weekly; CCF News for B.C. and Yukon; B.C. District Union News; B.C. Clarion; The Federationist; Main Deck June - Dec. 1943; Labour Statesman 1946 - 1969; The Fisherman 1937 - 1969; Communication Worker, July - October 1939; 756 Review; Pacific Tribune; People's Advocate; The People.

UBC Microfilm 6th Floor or UBCSC

Canadian Labour Newspaper Collection, SFU

The following include some material on women: Canadian Tribune; The People; People's Advocate; B.C. District Union News; B.C. Lumberworker; Labour Statesman

SFU 6th Floor Microfilm

Canadian Trade Union Philosophy: English Canada 1935 - 1967, Task Force on Labour Relations

Analysis of the different approaches of craft and industrial unionism. Compares coverage of issues in union newspapers, including women's issues: equal pay etc. Defines two trends in unionism: class collaboration and class consciousness. These unions cover women's issues: Canada Packinghouse Workers Union, United Steelworkers of America, United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers Union.

SFU

Faith, Sweat and Politics: The Early Trade Union Movement in Canada. French, Doris. Mc Lelland and Stewart.

Examines period before and up to 1930's. Descriptions of major struggles.

SFU

The Federationist

CCF paper. See particular time periods for content of issues.

SFU, UBC

The Fisherman

Paper of the UFAWU. Source of material on women workers in the fishing industry: cannery workers and women on the boats, Chronicles the development of the Women's Auxiliary of the union. Many articles on war production and women:

UFAWU, UBC

The Forge Glows Red: From Blacksmith to Revolutionary, McEwen, Tom. Progress Books, 1974.

Development of the CPC. References to women organizers in text.

SFU

Industrial Relations in Canada, Jamieson, Stuart, MacMillan of Canada 1957.

SFU

Labour Gazette, Canada 1920 -

Covers government policy on workers and unions. Material on women, different sectors of the labour force and specific strikes.

SFU, UBC, VPL

Labour History PSA

B.C. Teachers' Federation

Material on labour struggles and methodology.

Subscription.

Marine Retirees Association: A History of Shipbuilding in B.C.

An overview of the shipbuilding industry in B.C. beginning with early times. Interviewees speak of the unions which represented them, the conditions of production and personalities in the labour force. The unions in this sector represented B.C.'s fastest growing war industry (W.W.II). Material on the struggles between the CPC and the CCL for leadership of the

union during the War. Women were a significant addition to the workforce in the shipyards in this period. Post-war decline also explained. Material is primarily interviews with union members.

People's Co-op Books, Marineworkers and Boilermakers Industrial Union, Local 1

No Power Greater, Phillips, Paul; B.C. Federation of Labour sponsored history of trade unions in B.C.

Material covering organization of specific unions in B.C. Takes up differences between industrial and craft union strategy. Analysis of political forces involved in shaping labour movement. Material on women in war industry. Historical overview: 19th century to 1960's.

SFU, UBC, VPL

Oral History Phonotapes, UBC 1973

Tapes include interviews with women active in the B.C. labour movement: Ester Spooner, active in the IWA; Connie Pepper; Hilda Kristiansen. Other women active in working class communities.

UBC

Organized Labour and Politics in Canada; the development of a national labour code Coates, Daniel, Thesis.

SFU

The Poor In Vancouver Dwyer, John; Bibliography of UBC sources.

Includes material on women, children and ethnic and racial minorities.

UBCSC

Resources of Archival Material in Vancouver and B.C.; Chiu, Catherine S.K.; SFU Paper

SFU

Tough Timber, The Loggers of B.C., Bergren, Myrtle

The history of the IWA, concentrating on the Cowichan area where she lived. Detailed description of the organizing drives of the 1930's-1940's. Role of Women's Auxiliary in trade union support and struggle for safer conditions in the forest industry, Sympathetic to the C.P.C. and L.P.P. leadership of the 1930's and 1940's.

P.C.; VPL

Trades and Labour Council of Canada, Historical Review, 1873 - 1949.

Union Local Certificates, Add. MSS 60
1891 - 1958

Charters from various Vancouver union locals.

VCA

Vancouver and District Trades and Labour Council Minutes

Reel 2: 1919 - 1946 Add MSS 307

Reel 3: 1946 -

Valuable source of active unionists, information from craft unions, attempts to organize unorganized, including women.

VCA

The Vancouver Postal Worker; History of Women by Marion Pollack

Two-part series on the history of women in the post office, including their struggle to join postal unions. Begins in 1850. Volume 3, #2: March, 1976.

CUPW

White Collar Union, History of OPIEU (OTEU), Finley, Joseph,
Octagon Books, NY, 1975.

History of white collar organizing, primarily in the USA, although it describes the spread of OTEU to Canada. History of the 2 B.C. locals included. Outlines some of perceived difficulties in organizing white collar workers,

SFU

Womanvision, Vancouver Cooperative Radio. Two Programmes on Trade union Women's History; available for listening. Several more programmes under production.

Work and Wages; The Life and Times of Arthur Slim Evans, 1890 - 1944,
Swanky, Ben and Sheils, Jean

Book about the leader of the unemployed in the 1930's. Gives detailed impressions of life and radical politicals of the period covered. Not much direct information about women.

VPL

b) Data About Women Workers

Agnew, Helen Smith, Box 51, File 1; Angus Mac Innis Collection

Responsible for study on women for ILO. Worked for YWCA, president of War Council for 5 years.

UBCSC

Changing Patterns in Women's Employment; Canadian Department of Labour

Traces development of permanent female sector of labour force.

VPL

Helena Gutteridge Story, Pacific Tribune, March 8, 1957.

Life of Helena Gutteridge, activist in CCF and early labour movement.

UBC, SFU

International Labour Organization: Equal Opportunities for Women

A review of ILO policy to which Canadian trade unions are expected to subscribe.

VPL

J.S.M. Collector, VCA

Contains material on women's clubs in Vancouver area. Useful for a comparison of attitudes to those of trade union women. Some material on Native and Chinese domestics.

VCA

The Law Relating to Working Women, December 1973; Women's Bureau, Department of Labour

Review of legislation relating to women workers. Material from ILO. Also surveys implementation of laws in various countries. Covers 1919 onwards.

VPL, SFU

Luchinsky, Patricia Mary, Box 51, File 12, Mac Innis Collection

Brief biography of CCF woman, member of the HREU (AFL). Delegate of union to Victoria TLC.

VCA

MacGill, Helen Gregory, Vancouver Social Services

Material on early social services in Vancouver, including childcare.

VCA

Maternity Protection for Women in the Workforce, CDL

Analysis of the participation rates of married women in different periods (1919, 1931 for example) and the relative need for maternity benefits.

SFU

Representation of Women in the Public Service, Public Service Commission of Canada - Staffing Branch, 1976.

CUPW

Review of the Federal and Provincial Major Legislation Relevant to Women in Public Employment, Public Service Commission of Canada - Staffing Branch, 1977.

Laws regulating women's employment in public sector (including exclusionary laws).

CUPW

The Segregated Participation of Women in the Canadian Labour Force 1941 - 1971, The Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology, November 1975.

SFU

Women At Home: The Cost To the Canadian Economy, Studies of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women, Lacasse, Frances, D.

VPL

Women and the Status of Part-Time Work, Bayefsky, Evelyn

VPL

Women's History Project, Women's Auxiliary of the UFAWU

Extensive research has been done by these women into the history of trade union women in B.C. They have studied women's participation directly in unions and as supporters, through the formation of women's groups and support committees, as well as women's auxiliaries. They have surveyed women's experiences from the turn of the century to present day, using both interviews and primary research. They will be producing a book on Women's labour history in B.C.

UFAWU

Occupational Trends in Canada 1931 - 1961, Research Project on the Training of Skilled Manpower Report #11, Sept. 1963, Dept. of Labour

Data and analysis of women's participation in the labour force. Participation by sector, and percentage of labour force.

SFU

c) Methodology for Research and Analysis

Aural History Institute of B.C. - Handbook, Provincial Archives B.C.
A Guide to Aural History Research

Methods of conducting aural research. Includes taping techniques, interviewing and analysis of data. Important to this area of research as much of the data can only be found from first-hand sources.

SFU, UBC

Where Are the Organized Women Workers, Feminist Studies, 1975, Kessler-Harris, Alice

Analysis of the historic exclusion of women from the trade union movement based on examination of the structure and decision-making process of unions. Addresses male-defined issues and subsequent difficulties in addressing women's needs.

SFU

The Woman Worker and The Trade Unions, Wolfson, Theresa, Ph. D., International Publishers, N.Y., 1926.

Addresses the needs of working women based on a survey of women's role in early American union movement. Finds a high level of militancy. Relates women's exploitation in industry to her role in family.

Women and Trade Unions in B.C., 1900 - 1920, The Social Organization of Sex Discrimination, Campbell, Marie L., for the Women's Research Centre, June, 1978.

Analysis of structure and ideology of craft unions and incapacity to address women worker's needs. Unions functioned to exclude, rather than include unskilled workers. Women's role outside of the home, in production not accepted. Examines different ways through which women excluded both from unions and leadership. Provides framework to examine other periods.

The Working Class Record, Archivaria 4, Summer 1977

An examination of the relevance of oral history techniques by various labour and Canadian historians (Abella, Dick, Hann and Kealey).

Trade Union Women - A Study of Their Participation in New York City Unions, Wetheimer and Nelson, Cornell University Industrial Relations. 1975

Examines the motivations and barriers for women's involvement. Surveys attitudes of male trade union leaders; interviews with women unionists. Compares concerns of leaders, activists and those not involved.

SFU

Women in the Canadian Labour Force: The Union Response, Pentland-Smith, Janice Y., August 1977, Thesis

Participation of women in the labour force and trade union response. Looks at benefits of unionization for women workers. Suggests that unions must take into account women's position on the labour market (reserve army of labour) and demands outside of production in order to meet women workers' needs. Describes increasing consciousness of trade union women. History of SORWUC as response to women workers' needs. Looks at both mythical and real barriers to women becoming class conscious (internalization of self-image of non-worker; type of production women located in and organizational constraints; lack of seriousness towards women's work in society etc.) Sees changing role of women in unions, also reflected in demands. Survey taken of union contracts for built-in sex bias (e.g. use of male pronouns).

P.C.

Women's Labour Research Project - SFU, 1978, Diamond, Sara.

A series of taped interviews about the experience of women trade unionists in the period covered by this bibliography: 1935 - 1950. The tapes are in the Simon Fraser University Library and are accompanied by a guide. Interviewees include members of the IWA, Shipyard and General Workers Union, United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union, Steelworkers Organizing Committee, Office and Technical Employees Union amongst others.

2. WOMEN IN UNIONS IN THE DEPRESSION YEARS

a) General Information

British Columbia Department of Labour Reports: 1935 - 1938

Information on various aspects of women's employment in B.C. Includes important discussion of Minimum Wage Laws. Detailed listing of unions in the province and executive members. This material is worth reviewing because of the central role of Provincial governments in setting labour legislation.

VPL

Canadian Labour Gazette: 1935

National material on the labour force and labour movement. Includes: conditions of waitresses in B.C.; ILO resolutions on the employment of women underground in the mines; Canadian banks; statistics of benefits; Fair Wages and Hours Act; strikes of agricultural and restaurant workers; Minimum Wage Law for women; Mothers' Allowance; women and unemployment information.

VPL

Canadian Labour Gazette: 1936

Includes: women and unemployment; collective agreements for Vancouver hotels and farm workers; hours and conditions of work for drugstores and health workers; statistics for strikes; B.C. Industrial Relations Act; Minimum Wage for offices; Mothers' Allowance; Women's Council on wages and hours of work.

VPL

Canadian Labour Gazette: 1937

Includes: Legislations effecting women; TLC resolutions on women's unemployment and record of convention votes; strikes and material on hours and conditions of work.

VPL

Canadian Labour Gazette: 1938

Includes: Women's Employment Committee report; The Factories Act of B.C.; amendments to the act.

VPL

Canadian Labour Gazette: 1939

Includes: ILO on the employment of women; ILO and the law and the employment of women; Legal status of women and work in Canada; training for women workers in Canada; information on labour organization and strikes.

VPL

b) Birth Control and Childcare

See: CCF and Communism section: material from the Pacific Tribune

Birth Control Notes - Pamphlet #2 - Parents' Information Bureau,
June 1, 1937. Kaufman Rubber

Should not have children when you can't afford to support them.
Compares rhythm to diaphragm method.

P.C.

The Future of the Race - Eugenics Society of Canada

Lists support from ecclesiastical bodies, including the United Church Anglican Bishops in London; Central Conference of Jewish Rabbis; Methodist, Unitarian, Churches of Christ, Universalist, Methodist and Episcopal Churches in the U.S.A.

P.C.

Saturday Night, October 21, 1936

Article on Kaufman Rubber, a Canadian birth control supplier and a test case he was fighting based on the arrest of Dorothea Palmer, a woman working for him distributing birth control materials. She was charged with possessing "obscene materials", and in giving them to Catholic women (thus contravening the Church and community morals).

P.C.

c) The CCF and the CPC: Working Class Politics and Trade Union Women

British Columbia Workers' News (CPC Press) - 1935

Contains both CPC analysis on the position of women and many articles about women in and outside of production in this period. Much information on organizing drives of the time; also unemployed women. Includes some of these areas: telephone workers organizing; woman throws rock through unemployment office; the struggle against eviction for non-payment of rent; women and the Canadian League against War and Fascism; women and International Women's Day: anti-war activities; the creation and programme of the Women's Labour League; support for free birth control; beginning of the Cumberland Women's Auxiliary; women's rôle in the struggle of the Relief Camp workers; Restmore Factory Girls support for RCWU; strike at the Only Restaurant; domestic workers organize: demand minimum wage, support of unions and community groups; Longshore Women's Auxiliary and strike support; conference on unemployment held by women; women's role in capitalist war is to resist; exploitation of women in department store: unionization issues; Women's Labour League decides to organize unorganized women around economic demands. (these are listed in chronological order).

SFU, UBC

B.C. Workers News - 1936B.C. Workers News - 1937 - becomes The People's Advocate

Includes articles on: placement of 5000 unemployed girls on farms; women under Hitler; counselling for married women; White Lunch strike; wages and conditions of restaurant employees; shorter work week demanded by store clerks; victory of White Lunch workers; unemployed girls told to enter domestic service; Scott's Cafe unionized; white women fired from jobs in Chinese restaurants by the city (Van); hospital workers organize; technological change and hospital lay-offs.

SFU, UBC

The People's Advocate - 1938

Includes: conditions of Native people (including women) in B.C.; speed-ups in laundry and lay-offs; review of unionization in B.C.; International Women's Day themes: boycott of Japan; Piggly-Wiggly and Safeway workers organize; Five and Ten clerks and chain drugstore clerks organize; women aid unemployed men - (Mothers' Council) ; canneries force down wages; women starving and denied relief; conditions in hops fields (child labour); conditions in cannery towns (women faint from the heat).

SFU, UBC

The People's Advocate - 1939

Includes: VTLC plans to organize the city's unorganized; new wages for canneries won; announcement of registration of women for National Defense brings protest from women MLA's and others; housewives organize vs high prices.

SFU, UBC

Women's Council: Provincial CCF, Angus MacInnis Collection; Box 24, File 16

Mostly social activities of CCF; women organize for CCF support.

UBCSC

Workers Unity League of Canada (see section on Trade Unions as well)d) Depression conditionsA Very Ordinary Life, Knight, Rolf, New Star Books, Vancouver

Describes the life of a German immigrant woman who came to Canada in the hopes of a better life. Detailed description of Depression in Vancouver and working class community life.

SFU

Depression: Angus MacInnis Collection

Contains pamphlet Hard Facts Vs Soft Soap by Joseph Morton, written in 1954 about Causes of the Depression. Also contains copy of a speech given by MacInnis outlining the causes of the Depression and the response of the Bennett government to it. No specific mention of women, but useful in order to understand CCF analysis of the problems posed by the Depression.

UBCSC

Housewives' Report: B.C. Housewife, MacInnis Box 35, Folder 1B
July - Aug. 1939.

Analysis of commodity prices. Takes up problems of unemployment and social welfare requirements.

UBCSC

Responses to the Depression: Three Women's Groups in B.C.; Powell, Mary P., Thesis UBC 1967

UBC, SFU

e) Employment of Women and Unemployment of Women"A Spinster: A Reply to This Freedom", Maclean's Sept. 15, 1931

Argues against former anti-feminist article that women have a place in the workforce; against the lack of services such as creches. Women should not be blamed for the terrible working conditions which they experience. The fault lies more with the men who are responsible for creating these conditions. Marriage is also not an adequate solution.

VPL

A Wife: "This Bondage", Maclean's Oct. 1, 1931

Resents the idealization of married life. Describes housewife's day of endless work. Resents financial dependence and "cord of love and bondage".

VPL

History of Women's Work I and II, Hogan, Anne

Photographic collection at VPL. Annotation to explain the collection. Includes office workers of this period and unemployed struggles.

VPL

One of Them: The Jobless White Collar Women, Maclean's, May 1, 1932

History of woman formerly employed as white collar professional. Talks of degrading experiences at the YWCA and ideas for making a living.

PL

Province, Oct. 30, 1932

Women's clubs and work of aid to unemployed women.

VPL

Province, Nov. 27, 1932

Women's clubs providing a service for unemployed women who are unsure of where to go for help. YWCA gives food and shelter.

VPL

Province, January 12, 1935, "Time on Their Hands and What Vancouver's Unemployed Girls Are Doing With It"; Mathers, Kay

Co-operative Club formed on Hastings Street, with 160 women registered at time of article. Slogan is "from each according to her ability for each according to her needs."

VPL

Province, "Just Some Girls Faced With Problems of Existence: How Young Women are Battling Unemployment", Kelsey, Eileen

Little attention has been given to unemployed girls. Most need to work to survive. Can't take live-in housekeeping jobs because they often have dependents to look after. Biggest problem is appearance as you can't get a job if you look run-down.

VPL

Province, Nov. 6, 1936

Women's Job Board named to advise on jobs for women.

VPL

Should Women Be Men, Maclean's, Sept. 15, 1934. Atlee, Bengt

Women live in a male-dominated world where women are excluded from power. Intelligent women are dissatisfied with their lot since their intellects and talents are destroyed. Must counter Hitler's view of women: he is driving women back to the home with his propaganda. Russian alternative: women work side by side with men, equally respected in soviets. Employment conditions defines way women's work seen (whether or not a labour shortage). Must technologize woman's role so she can enter production. Maternity is oppressive unless there are daycares and maternity benefits. Women should be manlike since male traits valued.

VPL

This Anti-Feminism, Maclean's, Oct. 15, 1931, Mrs. John Scott

Feminists have worked hard to win rights for women in legal and financial areas. Important for women to have women as friends.

VPL

This Freedom, by A Businesswoman, Maclean's July 15, 1931

Better to marry than to be a businesswoman since work is tedious and boring and conditions terrible. Every woman who works denies jobs to men with families or who might have families. Birth rate of nativeborn falling because women are working not having families.

Unemployment During the Depression, The Problem of the Single Unemployed Transient in B.C., 1930 - 1938, Lane, Marion Elizabeth
Thesis UBC, 1951

UBCSC

f) Unions

Canada Labour Gazette (see General)

CIO File, VCA

Newspaper clippings from 1937 - 1943. For this period mostly mines and logging organization.

VCA

Cannery Workers and Farm Labourers Union, yearbook 1937 - 1938, USA
Bennett Collection

Attempts made to organize in B.C. later on.

UBCSC

Domestic Workers Union - 1936

Clippings in VCA on response to organizing attempts by domestics. Demand inclusion in Minimum Wage Law and social legislation. Support from many women's groups including the Women's Labour League. 400 signed up out of 2000 in sector. Wage scale presented. Response of society women to drive noted.

VCA

The Fisherman, 1938 - 1939, UFAWU press

Includes many articles about women and unionization. 1938: Women's Auxiliary to Fishermen formed; negotiations with canneries, appeal to women to join the Women's Auxiliary; articles on women militants, UFFU organization of reduction plants; women's work and unionization in Alaska canneries; win equal pay; W.A. wants representation at mass meeting

The Fisherman, 1939:

Includes: W.A. as the bullwark of trade unionism; consumers can support strikes; women go onto the boats with their husbands; Native oppression; account of International Women's Day; poem on domestic work; housewives should get wages; women going to fishing grounds, should build the Auxiliary there; release women from petty work; W.A. joint convention with union.

UBC, UFAWU

On The Level, Unemployment Special, March, 1978. Vol. 14, #3
"Jobless March On Victoria", Shouldice, Jenny

Recollections of her roleⁱⁿ and general information about 1932 Hunger March on Victoria.

P.C.

One Big Union, docket, VCA

VCA

Report: First Congress Against War and Fascism, Oct. 6-7, 1934,
Toronto Bennett Collection, File 43 - 17 (i)

Report of women's committee. Delegates from Vancouver and other B.C. centres. See importance of penetrating women's unions and women's auxiliaries of trade unions since women play an important role in war manufacture.

UBCSC

Spying on Labour, Rose, Fred, New Era Publications, Toronto, 1937.

CPC publication about company attempts to block union organization (CIO) through manipulation of wives.

SFU

Trades and Labour Congress - 1934

Convention reports from the craft union central. 1934 includes; struggles for relief and unemployment insurance; resolutions against loss of jobs through technical change; positions held by women should be held by men, men can't get jobs because women have them in government, danger to morals of society, should bring pressure vs this; resolutions on unemployed youth. Support equal pay for equal work.

SFU

Trades and Labour Congress - 1935

Women delegates from the ILGWU, Women's Federal Labour Union in Halifax; resolutions on fight for 8 hour day; Mothers Allowance, Min. Wage Act; improving conditions in restaurants and demanding coverage by Workmen's Compensation; debate on Minimum Wage: will it bring down skilled wages vs plight of unorganized workers; Mary McNabb: support Min. Wage but organize workers.

Trades and Labour Congress 1936

Includes: women delegates: ILGWU, Hatters, Bookbinders, ILGWU, UGWU, demand the right to organize; want ILO regulations for the recruitment of workers to apply to women: domestics, hall porters, agricultural sector and hall porters. Want collective bargaining rights. In B.C. want protection for civic employees, demand restoration of wage levels. Want Minimum Wages to cover women who have completed their apprenticeships; demands Minimum Wages for male youth to be raised to level of women since undercutting women in garment industry; domestics underpaid in Kitchener, demand all workers to be under Workmen's Compensation; call for TLC organizing committee to be set up, instead given to local unions to follow through, no federal strike fund set up; special dues for low wage earners.

Trades and Labour Congress - 1937

Includes: Women delegates: ACWU, ILGWU, HFWU, Hatters, Office Cleaners, Bookbinders, HREU, UGW, Office and Store Employees. Call for public works programme to counter unemployment; 6 hr, day, 5 day week, minimum wage of 50¢/hr., protest conditions on restaurants, demand choice of union for workers and law vs company unions (TLC draft labour code), suspension of CIO by AFL, TLC still allows CIO to be affiliated, vs cottage industry conditions, states that TLC is a legislative not a negotiating body.

Trades and Labour Congress - 1938

Includes: women delegates: ILGWU, Furworkers, Bookbinders, Cigarmakers, ILGWU, Hatters, Officestores: (4 married, 6 single). Demand fair wages or union rates; withdrawal of CIO necessary: reject dual affiliation; right to organize demanded, cleaners want full-time status; ILGWU vs sweat shop conditions in cottage industry; retail clerks demand the 8 hour day; OSEA (Toronto): need to organize white collar workers, exec. of TLC suggests that the internationals organize; Family Allowance will keep family together and supplement income.

Trades and Labour Congress - 1939

Includes: Women delegates: HREU, ILGWU, Office Employees, Cigarmakers, Cafeteria and Restaurant Workers, UGW, Glovemakers, Van. Stenos, Typists, Bookkeepers and Office Assistants. 9 single women, 2 married. Demand right to organize, better wages for civil servants, 6 hour day, suspend specific dual unions (clothing, fur, etc.) Resolve to organize unorganized (CIO threat), white collar workers; allow executive, call for central body of unemployed orgs., union label posed, need for women's auxiliaries to educate public.

All TLC Minutes from SFU

Vancouver and District Trades and Labour Council - Clippings-

1933 - 1939: No direct references to women: material on CCF affiliation; unemployed struggles (refuses to support rallies); growth since early period outlined.

Vancouver and District Trades and Labour Council 1935 - 1939 Minutes

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

UBCSC, VCA

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

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

Also contains:

Unity 1935

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

Unity 1936

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

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

UBCSC

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

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

UBCSC

3. WOMEN IN UNIONS IN THE WAR YEARS

a) The CCF and the CPC: Working Class Politics and Trade Union Women

B.C.'s Contribution to Victory: B.C. Communist Total War Committee Vancouver, 1943. Angus MacInnis Coll.

Discusses the role of women in the shipyards and war production generally. War resulted in change of status for both women and youth. Poses labour-management committees to develop productivity, etc.

UBCSC

CCF Industrial Clubs Charters: 1944 -, Angus MacInnis Collection

Women were involved in founding some of the industrial clubs, in 1944 and 1945.

UBCSC

News Comment CCF Notes, Box 35, File 12 - 13; 1941 - 1950, Angus MacInnis Collection

Some mention of issues which effect trade union women. Coverage of organizing drives. For example: June 15, 1942: Steelworker Organizing Committee demands equal pay for women; April 15, 1942: Child labour and working mothers; youth in blind-alley jobs; effects of lack of childcare.

UBCSC

The People - Labour's Voice for Victory - 1942 (Communist Press)

Coverage of women's role in war production; war industries in general, programme for war. 1942 includes: need for continuous production; reasons for absenteeism; Housewife's League of B.C. calls for daycare; need for equal pay and reclassification of workers; fish canneries organize; Nov. 18, 1942: special feature by Kay Gregory on women in war industry, in particular the shipyards; Dec. 2 article on women in canneries, contains information on day nursery at B.C. Packers plant; transportation problems and women in shipyards.

UBC, SFU

The People - 1943

1943 includes: profiles of women union activists such as Margaret Black in the shipyards; needs of women in industry and shipyards in particular; attitudes towards women in the building trades; need for women to become activists; women streetcar drivers join the union; equal pay for equal work.

UBC, SFU

Women Think Constructively: Guard Well Your Freedom, Paterson, Edith, 1944.

Pamphlet on the need for women to exercise their franchise.

VCA

b) Labour Disputes and Strikes

Boilermakers Dispute - Vancouver 1943, MacInnis Collection, Box 34, File 12

Clippings and reports on conflict between LPP leadership of union and CCL leadership. Local placed under trusteeship, etc. Women comprised a significant sector of shipyards workers and were either involved in conflict (as union stewards) or else affected by it.

UBCSC

Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders Union Clippings

Clippings on response of union to other crafts and new workers in the yards. Some clippings about internal struggle. Member accused of molesting girl.

VCA

CCL - Docket 1

Clippings from 1942 - 1943. Intervention of CCL against Boilermakers leadership and their supporters (IWA). Province, Friday April 16, 1943: vote on leadership, reference to women workers.

VCA

United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union Archives

Includes references to negotiations and conflicts in the fishing industry. Vol. 72, Folder 2: material on restrictions on right to strike.

VCA

c) Post-War Hopes and Fears

After the War - Depression or Poverty, Buck, Tim; National Leader of the LPP, 1944 File 43 - 17(i) Bennett Collection

Calls for guarantees that every man and woman will have a post-war job; want living wages; demobilization gratuities for women and men; widow's allowance, Old Age Pension; general reconstruction programme.

UBCSC

Canada: Advisory Council on Post-War Reconstruction; Post-War Problems of Women, 1945.

Suggests that women can transfer to domestic and farm labour: conditions in those sectors should be improved.

VPL

Industrial Reconstruction and Social Development Council of B.C.:
Conference on Post-War Rehabilitation, March 11 - 12, 1944,
 Boilermakers Hall

Plans for fighting lay-offs; call for social services to be developed. Union conference initiated by LPP. members.

UFAWU

Legislation Protects Women Workers; What Will Women Do After the War: Saturday Night, Volume 59, May 27, 1944.

VPL

Little Woman - What Now? Macleans, Nov. 1944, Tupper, Janet

There are 200,000 women war workers on the job; 1st time in men's jobs; women are 25% of all war workers: lays out results of survey: most women will marry and return to female employment sectors, but many wish to stay on the job (50% in present employment; 66% to remain working). 180,000 single women need jobs for support. Analysis of possible ways to absorb these women.

VPL

Planning For Freedom, 1944, CCF Pamphlet

Manifesto for post-war development. Calls for: maternity benefits and health insurance; housing; rehabilitation of armed services: employment, pensions and training; removal of discrimination against women in pay benefits etc.; call for labour legislation to permit organization, right to strike etc.

UBCSC; P.C.

Women, Dry Those Tears, Women's Council, B.C., Jamieson, Laura

Women's contribution to the war; post-war possibilities. Women should not be replaced by men.

P.C., UFAWU

Women In the Post-War World, Food For Thought, Shapiro, Pauline C., Nov., 1942

Reviews British services which facilitate women's employment. Looks at male attitudes towards women's war work: most assume that women are temporary; in Britain the "National Men's Defense League" formed to throw women out of industry: many approve of this but believe should wait until end of war. For women to stay in production social services such as daycare and communal kitchens are necessary.

VPL

Women In the Post-War World, Canadian Welfare, McWilliams, Margaret, March, 1944.

She participated in the Advisory Council on Reconstruction: Post-War problems of women. Calls for social security for women. The future of women depends on full employment. Canadian women have gained a new status through work; proved selves capable of industrial skills. Employers will only part with women to allow jobs for returned men. Estimates that 180,000 women will need new openings, based on estimates of what jobs will remain open to women and numbers of women returning to the home. Women should go into domestic and agricultural work. Lists reasons why these sectors are appropriate jobs for women: notes bad conditions. States: women must have right to work at any job they choose; women will not abandon home because they work; women have experienced self-realization due to the war.

VPL

Women After the War, Canadian Affairs, Morin, Rennee, Vol. 2, #4, 1945.

VPL

d) Unions

American Can Strike, Vancouver 1945. Box 34, File 1 MacInnis Coll.

Strikers demand a union shop and labour legislation. Correspondence with Miss Ann Murray, Sec. of the United Packinghouse Workers Union, Local 162.

UBCSC

B.C. District Union News (becomes the Commentator) - press of IUMM and SW (CCL-CIO)

Mine-Mill press includes articles on women's role in the war effort and women's auxiliary in support of struggles.

SFU, UBC

B.C. Lumberworker, IWA

IWA press includes women's column (auxiliary news) and material on organizing drives in mills. These included women workers. Also coverage of other labour organization. Full collection presently being used by IWA to write a history. SFU holds issues for 1940's.

SFU

Canadian Congress of Labour - Docket 1: 1941 - 1945

See section on Labour Disputes. Some articles on CCL organizing and war programme.

VCA

Christian Science Monitor, April 8, 1944

Call for women to join CIO drives. CIO supports the right of women to work.

VPL, SFU

Equal Pay and Children's Allowances, Food For Thought, Shapiro, Pauline February, 1943.

History of mobilization of women. When women came into labour force there was labour discontent (from male unionists). Strike in May 1940 by the Amalgamated Engineering Union established equal pay. Same social pattern in USA and Canada. Men support equal pay not because they see elementary justice but to protect own wage levels. Windsor Ford plant walkout in Nov. 1942 forced Ottawa to implement equal pay principle it had adopted Sept. 8, 1942, Women still earn 66% of male wage. Figures in Labour Gazette. Low wages a result of exploitation; rationale? women's output as good as men's: creates defensiveness so men support lower wages; women kept in lower categories (no equal work). Need equal pay: women support families too: pay according to need.

VPL

The Fisherman, 1939 - 1945.

Coverage includes: 1939: profile of Betty Lowman, halibut fisherwoman; 1st aide classes for women's auxiliary; women consumers back up unions; poem: life of fisherman's wife.

1940: Editorial on women's unemployment; AFL suspensions affect unions; women arrive on labour market because of war mobilization, causes heightened unemployment; cannery struggles; women in coal-fields; women oppose war.

1941: Wage controls harm families; UFFU organizes the canneries; May Day theme: organize the unorganized; organize all workers in fishing industry: applies to racial groups; women leave domestic service for factory employment; Fish Cannery and Reduction Plant Union: women and Native workers express interest.

1942: Low wages for teachers protested; women needed in industries including canneries; union prefers to negotiate for male cannery workers (steady employees) as result of company position, although women and temporary men signed up: prepared to eliminate those categories; at Steveston all classes of workers demand unionization although meeting for steady men only advertised: union decides to sign all, includes position on equal pay for equal work; women in industrial jobs struggle for day nurseries; temporary agreements in some industries keep women out of production since companies hiring women for office work but placing them in industry at reduced rates.

1943: More attention towards women's needs in industry required; need to mobilize women in unions and train leadership; canneries organizing continues: all workers signed; women join fishermen's union in Ladner; as yet little done to organize women in fishing industry: need campaign; problems of seasonal work; letters on women fisherpeople (on boats); Native women face especially terrible conditions; need for medical and sanitary facilities; Native Brotherhood organizes; women's experiences on cannery line; need for nurseries for children; women in war production and armed services.

1944: women in army; women in the cooperative movement; fight for shorter workday in canneries; family allowance; shore organization grows; 50 women sign in Steveston: big step forward.

1945: Soviet fisherwomen; Masset co-op and women's involvement; Chinese workers sign cards; special benefits for women: rest periods, wage increases, sanitary facilities. need to mobilize against post-war lay-offs; auxiliary re-reemerges; women active on plant committees.

UBC, UFAWU

The Growth of Industrial Unionism; Saturday Night; MacEwen, Ross, Aug. 14, 1943.

Article differentiating craft and industrial strategies; explains that many former craft unions have adopted an industrial structure. History of industrial organizing. Importance of organizing unskilled workers.

VPL

A History of Shipbuilding in B.C.; Marine Retirees Association; Marine and Boilermakers Industrial Union, 1977.

Interviews with women shipyard workers include their union experiences. Interviews explain internal union struggle in yards.

MWBUI

Industrial Conciliation Act, MacInnis Collection, Box 34, File 19

Describes firings for union activity, negative aspects of Act, programme of CCF for labour law reform.

UBCSC

International Association of Machinists, MacInnis Collection, Box 32A, File 21B

756 Review: Peggy Reid assumes editorship. Women's status to be retained after the War. Women in aircraft plants.

UBCSC

IWA Convention 1940, MacInnis Collection, Box 34, File 22

Development of Ladies' Auxiliaries; importance of trade union education for women; assistance of W.A.'s in organizing.

UBCSC

IWA: Docket I: 1942 - 1948

Clippings follow organization of IWA: general information.

VCA

The Labour Statesman 1941 -

District

The press of the Vancouver Trades and Labour Council. Includes: women's page (mostly non-union issues); articles on organization of fish canneries, restaurants, retail clerks, stenographers, and post-war problems. Contains a listing of unions in Vancouver area and officers.

SFU, UBC

The Main Deck, Shipyard Federation paper.

Unfortunately, most of the papers from the War period have been lost. UBC has some issues from 1944. Column "The Women's Corner" by "Johny" Ottewell covers experience of women in yards. May 6, 1944: call for jobs for women, argues against sentiment that women in post-war world would do anything to leave a job in order to marry. People aren't fighting this war for a recurrence of the Depression. (this paper is in Angus MacInnis Collection, Box 58, File 44)

UBCSC

Office and Professional Workers Organizing Committee, MacInnis Collection, Box 33 #5

Includes union cards; leaflets and material on Toronto bank organizing; leaflets from OPWOC Vancouver outlining the benefits of unionization (particularly pay). Material on CIO (1945) white collar drive.

UBCSC

Province, Sept. 25, 1943.

Marine and Boilermakers union opposes discrimination against women in lay-offs.

VPL

Province, Sept. 9, 1942

NWLB decrees equal pay for equal work.

VPL

Shipyard General Workers Federation of B.C., MacInnis Collection,
Box 33, File 10

Includes pamphlet: "How to Organize the Job" a steward's manual: there is no mention of women in it. August 28, 1945: article on effects of lay-offs on the union: politicized militants (women and men) of the CCF and LPP are being victimized. Demands CCF action. Letters about internal struggle, discussion on post-war reconstruction conferences.

UBCSC

Shipyard General Workers Federation of B.C., Convention, 1944, Box 34,
File 24.

Delegates committee members; report on Main Deck, woman editor; resolutions on women's labour: support right to work in any occupation; opposes no-strike clauses in union contracts; opposes piece-work.

UBCSC

The Shop Steward on the Job, Bennett Collection, Box 4, File 32 - 6.
United Electrical Workers

Handbook for stewards, takes up question of women's participation in union activities, women's contribution to the war; women should be stewards; equal pay for equal work, childcare, time off to shop

UBCSC

Trades and Labour Council Manifesto on War - for 1918 Quebec Convention
MacInnis Box 33 - File 12

Interesting for a comparison of attitudes. Supports equal pay for equal work. Women should only work at non-demoralizing jobs.

UBCSC

Trade Union Committee - CCF, Angus MacInnis Collection, Box 24, File 14

Affiliation of local unions. Trade union policy of CCF, 1940 - 1944. Support equal pay and equal opportunity, right to organize. Lists of those at CCF convention in 1944 includes women.

UBCSC

The Trade Unions and the War - Foster, William Z., William Bennett Memorial Collection, Labour Unions, strikes, general file.

American Communist material: women work in war industry in USSR and England. Training, unionization and education for women to become union leaders required. Protection for equal pay. The lack of union consciousness among women is a result of traditional failure of unions to deal with women workers. One of democratic achievements of the war will be that women will remain in industry.

UBCSC

United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union Archives, VCA

These archives include correspondence, union files, publications of the UFFU, UFAWU and other unions, general labour information, government material on labour and the fishing industry. They date back from the initial organization of the union to the 1960's. Material on women can be found within related topic headings and as part of broader material. Some of the material which relates to this period is: Albion-Butedale Plants File, 1943 - 1944: letters from pro-union women; special efforts to organize women seasonal workers, demands of women workers.

Womens Auxiliary File; Shoreworker and Cannery worker negotiations 1940s - 1950s; Convntion documents and resolutions; plant material includes references to specific problems of women; other union publications which refer to women workers listed.

Union Correspondence: Women expressing interest in the union and moving onto plant committees.

Cannery Negotiations: special negotiations for women: plant to comparison of conditions; overview of negotiations process and demands.

These are only a few of the sources of material on women in this collection. Union permission required for use.

VCA

United Sheet Metal Workers Local 280 Add. MSS 280

Account of women's experience learning the trade. Union permission needed for use.

VCA

Vancouver and District Trades and Labour Council 1940 - 1945 (Dockets I - II)

Material on relationship between the VTLC and the CIO Vancouver Labour Council.

VCA

Vancouver and District Trades and Labour Council Minutes 1940 - 1945

Includes material on: Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union; office workers; AFL expulsion of Communists and VTLC suspension of unions with CPC delegates; boycott of St. Paul's Hospital, unionization struggle there; wartime wage controls; retail clerks organize; cannery workers organize; Local 756 of Aeronautical employees Union concern over discharge of union men in favour of women; organization of Woolworth's; women delegates from Warehouseman's Union; organization of university employees; garment workers struggles; laundry workers unionized; nurses' protest conditions at VGH; CCL/TLC conflicts.

e) Women and War Labour Force: Recruitment and Issues

Aid of Women to the War, Industrial Canada, January 1944.

VPL

B.C. Department of Labour Reports: 1941 - 1945

Includes names of prominent women trade unionists.

VPL, SFU

Bureau of Statistics: Reserve of Labour Amongst Canadian Women - Ottawa 1942

VPL

Canada in the Coming Offensive. Report to the Dominion Conference of Communist-Labour Total War Committee, Jan. 16 - 17, 1943. Bennett Collection, 43 - 17 (i)

The contribution of Canadian labour to the war effort: includes solutions to the Manpower crisis such as the mobilization of women. Need for post-war social reform.

UBCSC

Canada Labour Gazette - 1940

Includes: recruitment of women to war industry; unskilled and skilled female labour: classification and training. Material on sectors where women work: bolt factory, restaurants.

Canada Labour Gazette - 1941

Includes: training programmes for women, B.C. Minimum Wage: hotels, Steveston canneries, cost of living clauses, differences in men's and women's work, Bolt factory, conciliation cases.

Canada Labour Gazette - 1942

Includes: women in the armed services and civil employment: conditions; welfare benefits for women; weight restrictions; equal pay; mobilization of women for industry; registration of women; training programmes; statistics of female employment; women in fishing industry; CIO resolutions on women; Cannery strike: Penticton; Nanaimo waitresses: hours and wages; Vancouver Plywood factory; biscuit and confectionary workers against lay-offs and discrimination.

Canada Labour Gazette - 1943

Includes: activities of labour recruiting agencies; statistics of female employment; women in the war effort; women as part-time workers; women in iron production, canning industry, agriculture, steel; training of women workers; women foundry workers - 1st union; day nurseries in Ontario and Quebec; equal pay and equal work issue; TLC resolutions on women; textile workers.

Canada Labour Gazette - 1944

Includes: women and part-time work; women in industry, farming; nurseries and childcare; effects of lay-offs on women; training of women workers; statistics on female employment; sex distribution in industry; working conditions: specific needs of women; shortages of workers; unemployment insurance; women in post-war period; transfers of women workers; effects of childcare on women's employment; CCL position of 40 hour week; collective agreements (example).

Canada Labour Gazette - 1945

Includes: distribution of women workers; Provincial laws and effects on women's work; sex distribution in industry; women in the war effort and industries; women's employment in coal mines; relaxation of N.S.S. regulations; end of N.S.S. regulations; post-war employment of women; housewives and employment; textile industry.

All Canada Labour Gazettes to be found in VPL.

Canadian War Orders and Regulations, Ottawa, Canada, Dec. 9, 1943. Labour Legislation.

VPL

Equal Pay Threatens Family Life, Food For Thought, Gulston, Charles, S., November, 1944. Reprint from Ontario Secondary Teachers Fed.

Labour unions and government urge equal pay when in fact will wreck domestic and national life. If women get equal pay will abandon the home, clear that women can perform in industry as well as men: so women will choose escape from childbearing, an essential economic and social function. Slum conditions better than equal pay and equal work.

Equal Work Deserves Equal Pay, Food For Thought, Cameron, Jean, Nov. 1944. OSSTF reprint.

She is both wife and mother, necessary economically for women to work. She preferred childrearing to teaching - didn't abandon family.

Food For Thought in VPL/

Mothers in Overalls, Lapin, Eva, Bennett Collection, Box 3 - File 32-2a
October 1943 Women and Labour

US pamphlet on women in industry. Conditions in plants for women: high turnover: need minimum standards - good food, health conditions. Women more vulnerable to physical hardship than men. Childcare necessary to alleviate the pressure of the double-day. Support for equal pay.

UBCSC

New Worlds for Women - Nelson, Dorise, LPP MP, 1944. Bennett
Collection, Box 3 - File 32 - 2b. Women in Labour

Outlines the effects of employment on household: women need jobs.
235,000 women in war industry. Overall labour activity relevant to
women: Minimum Wage Laws, labour-management councils. Women don't
work for pin money. Women will work after the war: part-time,
and in conversion to consumer goods. ATE organizing women workers.
UBCSC
Province, March 10, 1944.

In 1943 there was the highest increase of women workers in B.C.
255,000 women in war industry, 31,000 in armed forces.

VPL

Recreation for Women War Workers, Canadian Welfare, Strong, Margaret K.,
April 1943

YWCA Women on industry committees of federal government: represent
union and non-union workers, Workers Education Assoc., and community
and professional staff. To maintain production women need support
for their roles and facilities. Need recreational programmes,
especially for industrial workers.

VPL

Women First - Docket - 1922- 1944.

Articles on women in industrial jobs.

VCA

Women's Emancipation and the Recruitment of women Into the Canadian
Labour Force in W.W. II, Pierson, Ruth, Canadian Historical Association
Papers, 1976, or The Neglected Majority, edited by Trofimenkoff, P.

Paper based on extensive research into the attitude of the
Canadian government to women's integration into the war industries.
Surveys legislation, including social services such as childcare.
Argues that women's work was seen only as temporary, for the duration
of the war, and that the lack of adequate childcare relates to this.
Social attitudes towards women's right to work did not change. Valuable
source of data, including statistics.

SFU

Women Workers in the National Emergency, Industrial Canada, 1944 (Jan.)

VPL

3. WOMEN IN UNIONS IN THE IMMEDIATE POST-WAR PERIOD

Some of the material in this section extends beyond 1948 into the 1950's.

a) CCF, CPC(LPP), and Other Left-Wing Movements - Women and Working Class Politics in the Post-War Period

Women Box 43B - 18A, Angus MacInnis Collection
Canada's Women: a pamphlet, by the CPC.

UBCSC

The Communist Threat to Canada, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, 1947

Attack on LPP role in the trade unions.

P.C.

Labour Challenge, paper of the Trotskyist left in Canada.

Material of 1945 - 1948 includes articles on lay-offs; unemployment on the West Coast; need to defend right to work in shipyards; testimony from woman ex-war worker on depression of women's wages and living standards; material on inflation.

P.C.

Pacific Tribune (People's Advocate in 1945) CPC press.

People's Advocate - 1945

Includes articles on: women's demands for minimum wage; women intend to remain active in politics in post-war society; women not competing for jobs with men; have a place in industry, find discrimination, make at most 63% of male wage, only 75,000 women in Canada's unions; general articles on post-war conversion of production; most women want jobs, must protect women from being pushed back into domestic labour as Mrs. Eaton suggests (WLB) by unionizing women; trade union movement must take up fight for women's right to work; citizen's movement against unemployment.

Pacific Tribune - 1946 -1948

Includes: women forced out of industry if married by changes in tax exemptions; Native women face discrimination in industry; women's auxiliaries. 1951 (Dec.) article on women in telephone companies: need for unionization.

SFU, UBC

Women On Guard - Millard, Betty, Bennett Collection, Box 3 - File 32-2a, Women and Labour 1952

Role of women in insuring peace.

UBCSC

b) Employment and Unemployment of Women

Equal Pay for Equal Work, Canadian Department of Labour, 1959.'

VPL

For Miss and Mrs. Province, August, 1954, Women s Page.

Article on women's work in laundries.

VPL

Macleans, January 15, 1945, Kent, Katherine. Vol. 58 #2

Describes process of demobilization of women and lay-offs from industry. Back to employment by sex not merit. Myth that women are a threat to veterans, in fact more jobs than workers. Women proved not inferior: during Depression more women than men hired since cheap labour. Effect on single self-supporting women will be poverty and dependence. Why give up jobs to men only because men. Victorian attitudes a problem as well as fear of Depression. Women in unions can make themselves heard. Also in women's organizations.

VPL

Occupational Histories of Married Women Working for Pay in Eight Canadian Cities, CDL, 1959. under auspices of Hon, Michael Starr.

Histories include post-war period.

VPL

Province, May 16, 1945, Women to Have Employment Aid

NSS becomes an employment service, no longer recruiting agency. Employers fear turnover, others relieved that they no longer have to hire women. Head of Personnel for Burrard Drydocks commends women. Bill White, President of Boilermakers' Union states that women have a definite place in industry and should not be put out. Mrs. A.J. Rolston, MLA says that women are clogging the job market and should go back to the home.

VPL

Province, May 19, 1945

Still short workers in Vancouver: 6700 needed.

VPL

Province, May 15, 1945. "Ottawa to Relax Regulations Governing Women Workers - Nearly 1 Million to be Affected by Change in Order"

Lift NSS Regulations. Will result in speedy exodus of women from war industry. Women needed in offices, hotels, restaurants.

VPL

Province, Sept, 25, 1945,

Britain still mobilizing women. "Feminine touch" in the shipyards is going to stay according to executive (male) of Boilermakers Union. Oppose anti-feminists who are calling for women to be the first to lose their jobs. Support equal pay for equal work.

VPL

Province, Feb. 25, 1946

UBC dean defends right of women to work. In 1944 there were 235 children in day-nurseries in Vancouver. Married women need jobs.

Back to Home Movement angers woman legislator, Beatrice Trew, CCF representative in Saskatchewan. Also opposes class snobbery towards domestic workers.

VPL

Relaxation of Controls by NSS, Industrial Canada, 1945, July

VPL

Report on a Consultation on the Employment of Women With Family Responsibilities. Women's Bureau, Dept. of Labour, 1965.

Insertion of women into labour market; parttime work. Unionization of parttime workers. Historic and current material from Retail Clerks Association.

VPL

Women: Think Constructively! Peterson, Edith, 1945.

VCA

Workmen's Compensation B.C., Add. MSS 327

Minimum Wage laws, Labour Relations Act, Unemployment Insurance: relate to women.

VCA

c) Unions

B.C. Lumberworker, 1947, Nov. 17; 1948, Jan. 12

Discrimination against a Native woman, IWA defense.

SFU

Canadian Congress of Labour - 1945 - 1955 Docket II

VCA

The Exploited Sex, Maclean's, April 15, 1947.

Wage inequities between men and women. Even during the war women were not successful in winning equal pay. Women exploited for less in professions, and public sector. Women have lost gains of War. Women were placed in special job categories, paid less. Notes submission of B.C. shipyard unions to NWLB which argued that women were as skilled as male workers. Ratio of women employed has dropped.

VPL

The Fisherman- 1946

Articles include: shore organization; pictures of union women from plants; demands for 8 hour day, closed shop; debate on equal pay for equal work; with B.C. Packers; Imperial Cannery signs women; IWA Women's Auxiliary doing excellent work.

UBC

The Fisherman - 1947 -

Some valuable articles:

Feb. 7, 1947: History of women in IWA; May 9, 1947: conditions and organization of restaurants; 1948: cannery organization (Namu, Canifisco, etc.); April 3, 1964: article on Ethel Jones, Haida UFAWU woman activist; Sept. 18, 1956: UFAWU defends Native women; June 31, 1956: 1st woman president of Prince Rupert shoreworkers: Verna Parkin; Dec. 6, 1968: death of Kay Nygren a founding member of union in Queen Charlottes; Feb. 14, 1969: article on Eva Vaselenek, woman organizer; March 26, 1971: article on Mickey Beagle UFAWU organizer.

UBC

How to Organize a Women's Auxiliary: AFL, Labour Facts, December 1951.
Women at Work

In the post-war period, women who had been active unionists turned (and were encouraged to turn) to auxiliary work, as an expression of their support for unions.

VPL

International Woodworkers of America, 1942 - 1948 Docket I

Includes clippings about the 1946 strike, where women were an active component and the leadership fight in 1948.

VCA

IWA: B.C. District Council Local 1 MacInnis, Box 23, File 2, IWA File

Material on 1946 strike platform: 3 briefs prepared by the Trade Union Research bureau.

UBCSC

Kelowna Growers Association Dispute - 1947, Box 34, File 7 Mac Innis Collection

Statements by women that they were not members of the Fruit and Vegetable Workers Union. Opposed to company union.

UBCSC

Nanaimo Laundry Workers' Strike, 1947, Pacific Tribune, April 28, 1978.

Article about role of laundry workers in defeating Bill 39 which banned strikes for 2 week cooling-off period and required government supervision of strike votes. Strike occurred after B.C. Federation of Labour Convention had decided to support any strike action challenging the law. Won through mobilization.

SFU, UBC

Province, July 25, 1957

Nurses strike.

VPL

Province, Feb. 5, 1973

Article on Alma Foulds, business agent for the Fruit and Vegetable Employees Unions Local 1572 C.T.C. Reviews history of organization in Okanagan and her role of one of few women business agents in B.C. unions.

VPL

The Provincial - 1947 -

Journal/newsletter of the B.C.G.E.A. Column A Woman's Place, 1948 - Jan. 1950 gives a sense of particular problems of women in B.C. public service. Examines role of women as delegates and lack of activity of women despite their numbers in the service. Convention discussion around equal benefits and deletion of age restrictions.

BCGEU

She's Organizing Eaton's, Maclean's, Callwood, June, Oct. 1, 1950

Article about Eileen Tallman and the Eaton's drive. Outlines Tallman's past organizing history, including her work with B.C. SWOC. Eaton's drive involved women workers.

VPL

Sign and Pictorial Painters Local Union 138, Add. MSS 305

Women admitted on equal basis to the union. Use of archives restricted.

VCA

UFAWU Archives

Material on shoreworkers organizing. Conditions in the canneries and union demands. Location of various cannery locals. Problems of contract hiring of women and minority temporaries.

VCA

United Steelworkers of America - Box 33, File 16, Angus MacInnis Coll.

Correspondence about pay-cuts of woman's wages, and equal pay legislation.

BC'C

Vancouver and District Trades and Labour Council Minutes
Reel 3: 1946 - 1961

VCA, UBC

Vancouver Home Service Employees Union, Docket, 1945

Clippings of panel on women's post-war employment: women not interested in boredom, drudgery and terrible conditions of service work. Union tries to set wages, hours of work, time off and inclusion in legislation. Support from other unions.

VCA

Vancouver Labour Council - Correspondence and Minutes, MacInnis, Box 33, File 19

Limited material on Workmen's Comp. Board and female worker.

UBCSC

Vancouver Typographical Union - clippings

Province strike; Women's Auxiliary.

VCA

Workers Educational Association - WEA Labour News, July 12, 1948

Why white collar workers should unionize. Wage comparisons between union and non-union workers.

UFAWU

5. B.C. WOMEN'S LABOUR HISTORY PROJECT: GUIDE TO TAPES, SFU ARCHIVES

MRS. VIVIAN DOWDING

Mrs. Dowding was a pioneer of birth control in B.C. She was a member of the CCF and is still active in the NDP. Her work was influenced by Margaret Sanger and other early pioneers of birth control in North America. She was employed by the Kaufman Rubber Company, a distributor of birth control in Canada. In this tape she describes conditions in the 1930's; the distribution process for birth control devices; attitudes towards family planning; the role of the CCF and the church in relation to birth control.

MRS. JOSEPHINE CHARLIE

Mrs. Charlie worked in fish canneries for many years. She was a steward in the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union and active in the Native Brotherhood. The tape describes conditions in B.C. Coastal canneries from the 1920's onwards; family life on the coast; healthcare; the roles of Native women; union organization and its impact on the industry; preparation and processing of fish; race conflicts in the canneries; attitudes towards Japanese women after the War; housing conditions; saving a child's life; childbirth; strikes.

MRS. ELLEN BARBER

Mrs. Barber was one of the first women active in the Trades and Labour Congress. She was involved in organizing laundry and communications workers. The tape describes union conditions during the First World War; working conditions in the laundries; bargaining procedures; organizing the unions; the laundry strike and its defeat; the formation of the Minimum Wage Board; telephone workers' strikes; attitudes to women in the unions; working during WWII; post-war layoffs of women piecework; CCF involvement in unions; her family roots and her decision to become a unionist; women's suffrage; oriental workers and parallel attitudes to women; the Shirtwaist and Laundry Workers International Union in the 1940's; streetcar strike of 1918; Depression use of female labour; impact of the Russian Revolution; shipyard conditions; accidents in the laundries; women organizing in the 1930's.

MRS. ALICE PERSON

Mrs. Person has been active in the IWA. She moved to Webster's Corners from the Prairies during the Depression; got a job in the wood industry and was active in organizing her plant, as a member of her plant executive. The tape discusses relief; agricultural labour during the Depression; life in Webster's Corners; the Japanese community during the War; working in wood; organizing the IWA; equal work for equal pay; attitudes towards women workers; women's struggles against lay-offs after the War.

MRS. JONNIE RANKIN

Mrs. Rankin wrote a column for the newspaper of the Shipyard General Workers Union during the War, describing the experiences of women workers in the shipyards. She has been involved with the OTEU (office workers); and IWA as well. She was an activist in the Labour Progressive Party during the War. The tape describes the motivations for women to take industrial jobs during the War; hiring procedures; attitudes of men to women workers; craft and industrial unions; daycare; political struggles in the unions; Soviet women and the War; piecework; shopstewarding; layoffs and women; work with the People; the LPP; left-wing theatre; Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union organizing; the IWA strike of 1946; working for the IWA; equal pay struggles, women's auxiliaries.

MRS. SOUDERHOLM

Mrs. Souderholm was active with Finnish community organizations in the Maple Ridge area during the War. The tape describes that community during the Depression; the cooperative movement; women's organizations; work at Berryland and organizing a union there; non-monetary issues and the unions; women in War industry; conditions in the fish canneries.

MRS. MARGE STORM

Mrs. Storm was and is a member of the IWA, and has been involved in women's rights organizing in the BC Federation of Labour. The tape compares work in organized and unorganized wood plants; sexual harassment on the job; women and union positions; seniority; weight limits and women; equal pay and job actions; the Human Rights Code; childcare, women's caucuses; racism in the wood industry; office work.

BILL WHITE

Bill White was President of the Bailermakers Local in Prince Rupert during WWII, at the shipyards. Many women from the community entered production there. He was and is active in the Trotskyist movement. He was involved in struggles against women being laid off after the War. The tape describes conditions in Rupert; the battles between the soldiers, workers and the Natives; racism in Rupert; the growth of the shipyard, response to the entry of women in the yards and the community; attitudes towards the Japanese; anti-war sentiments; the LPP; no-strike pledge.

MRS. EIL EEN TALLMAN

Mrs. Tallman (nee Sufrin) began her interest in unions as a CCF youth activist during the Depression, and began organizing through the CCYM's trade union committee in Ontario. She was involved in the 1940 - 1941 organizing drive in the banks which culminated in the strike in Montreal, and the defeat of the drive. She continued to organize for the Steelworkers, coming to Vancouver in 1943 to train officers of the union, and initiate "Steel", the union's press. She was involved in political struggles with the Labour Progressive Party leadership in the B.C. labour movement, and was active on the Vancouver and District Labour Council. She later returned to Ontario, where she led a campaign to organize Eaton's 9600-person workforce, a drive that was lost by only 600 votes. She returned to the USWA and worked with their office workers' department, participating in the Continental Can drive.

6. UPDATE OF BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WOMEN'S TRADE UNION HISTORY IN B.C., MAY, 1979.

1. GENERAL SOURCES

a) Trade Union History

The Anatomy of A Party: The National CCF 1932 - 1961, Young, Walter D., University of Toronto Press, 1969.

SFU

The Communist Party in Canada, A History, Avakumovic, Ivan, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1975.

History of the CPC, Women's Labour Leagues, roots in European communities, WUL organizing, policy and growth during WWII.

SFU

Socialism in Canada, A Study of the CCF-NDP in Federal and Provincial Politics Avakumovic, Ivan, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1978.

History of the CCF, includes material on trade union relations.

SFU

Union Growth in Canada 1921 - 1967, Department of Economics and Research, Canada Government, Ottawa, 1968.

Statistics on union membership.

SFU

b) Data About Women Workers

Canadian Labour Force Estimates 1931 - 1950, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Canada Government, Reference Paper, Ottawa.

Analysis of participation of groups in labour force; peaks of employment; suggests stability in number of women employed through Depression.

The Double Ghetto - Canadian Women and Their Segregated Work, Armstrong, Pat and Hugh, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1978.

Describes women's situation in Canadian job market as part of reserve army of labour. Analysis of separation of domestic and productive labour. Looks at attitudes towards women workers. Historical overview of Canadian working women

SFU Women's Centre

Union Maids: Vancouver's Organized Working Women, 1900 - 1915, Rosenthal, Star, to be published in upcoming B.C. Studies

Study of women organizing in Vancouver: labour's attitudes towards women's work and unionization; women's location in workforce of period; organizing attempts by laundry, telephone and domestic workers.

SFU History DEPT.

2. WOMEN IN THE UNIONS IN THE DEPRESSION YEARS

c) The CCF and The CPC: Working Class Politics and Trade Union Women

Canadian Progressives on the March: Regina Manifesto, LID Pamphlet Series, New York, 1945

Introduction outlines origins of CCF, includes text of founding Manifesto, need for socialized, planned economy, peaceful transition to socialism, need and framework for labour code; guarantee of a job, right to organize unions.

SFU

The Conquest of Poverty or Money, Humanity and Christianity, McGeer, G.G.; Pmni Press, California, 1935.

Right-wing populist tract on solutions to the Depression.

SFU

The Origins of the CCF in B.C., Toren, Eleanor R., B.A. Thesis, Political Science, UBC, 1958

Process of founding and local organization of the CCF in B.C.

UBC

Right Hand, Left Hand, Livesay, Dorothy, Press Porsepic, Erin, 1977.

Contains both autobiographical and historical material on Livesay as well as her writings on Depression struggles and the Communist Party of the time. She travelled across B.C. as a journalist for the Worker. Material on wives in the Corbin miners' strike, conditions of life for women in company towns, attitudes in society and the left towards women, attitudes towards sexuality.

SFU Women's Centre

Some Aspects of the Socialist Movement in B.C., 1898 - 1933, Grantham, Ronald, UBC Masters Thesis, 1942.

Origins of the CCF - details founding organizations and process of initiation.

UBC, SFU

What We Propose, Buck, Tim, 1936.

CPC Manifesto after Popular Front policy adopted by CPC, includes analysis of impact of Depression on family, lack of relief, WUL merger with International unions, need for unionization, attack on CCF.

SFU

d) Depression Conditions

The Bennett New Deal: Fraud or Portent, Wilcox, J.R.H., Issues in Canadian History Series, Zaslow, Morris, gen. ed., Copp Clark, Toronto, 1968.

Material on Depression conditions, commentary on Bennett programme, outlines proposed legislation.

SFU

The Canadian Economy in the Great Depression, Safarin, G.E., Carleton Library, McClelland and Stewart, Toronto, 1970.

Economic history, gives national overview of cycles in Depression, unemployment, import and export markets, regional material. Details each period the downswing of 1929-1933, recovery of 1933-1937 and stagnation until War. Useful in relation to female job sectors.

Depression Stories, Hutcheson, Stanley, New Star Books, Vancouver, 1976.

Impact of Depression on B.C.: Interior, Kootenays, work in camps, unemployed women in the hobbo 'jungles', women teaching in 'jungles'; conditions for hospital workers; domestic labour; relief.

SFU

Wages and Hours of Work in Canada, 1929, 1934-1935, Canadian Department of Labour, Canada Government.

Scales of hours and pay rates - not broken down by sex but it is possible by comparing data which locates women workers in sectors to develop an overview of women's hours and wages; for example, in 1934, a telephone operator earned \$4.50/week for a 48-hour week, this compared to \$5.00/hour for a 45-hour week in 1929, before the Depression.

SFU

The Wretched of Canada - Letters to R.B. Bennett, Grayson, L.M. and Bliss, Michael, editors, University of Toronto Press, Toronto, 1977.

Letters from people suffering during the Depression to Bennett (P.M.). Includes letter from Vancouver woman day worker, "we are in rags". People beg for relief. Also includes Bennett's replies.

SFU

e) Unions

Labour Organization in Canada, 1932, 1938, 1939; Canadian Dept. of Labour, Canada Government, Ottawa

Annual reports excerpted from the Labour Gazette. Statistical material on organization by industry, types of unions, proportions of women organized, for example, there were 733 women in unions in B.C. in 1932; 1,371 in 1938, and 1,121 in 1939. Includes listing of union officers.

SFU

Strikes and Lockouts in Canada, 1931 - 1939, Canadian Department of Labour,
Canada Government

Includes data on numbers and types of strikes (length and result), for these years. Useful for hotel and restaurant strikes in Vancouver area.

SFU

Waste Heritage, Baird, Irene, MacMillan and Co., Toronto, 1939.

Story written during the Depression about the struggles of the unemployed men in the Vancouver area. Women are present in the book as volunteers in the kitchens of the unemployed head quarters. One working class woman is the central heroine, as the lover of the male hero, however, the women's roles in the novel are all secondary. Written in the realist style of the 1930's, with a strong identification with the events and the characters.

UBC, SFU

3. WOMEN IN THE UNIONS IN THE WAR YEARS

a) The CCF and the CPC (LPP): Working Class Politics and Trade Union Women

Capitalism Unchallenged: A Sketch of Canadian Communism, 1939 - 1949, Muldoon,
Donald W., Masters of History, SFU, 1977.

Traces history of CPC from inception, concentrates on growth through the 1930's through the WUL struggles, shifts in CPC policy around the Popular Front in 1935, implications of the Hitler-Stalin Pact, policy towards the War and the Canadian government and the implications of these policies towards labour policy and party growth. Some mention made of Women's Labour Leagues.

SFU