

Happy
LABOUR
DAY





Registered nurses are unique

Registered nurses are unique and so is our Union.

No matter the personal reasons why any of us chose to become registered nurses in the first place, there will always be a common thread that binds us.

Our deep-rooted desire to improve the lives of our patients and to make a difference, is what makes our profession stand out.

The problem right now is that this commitment to our patients is becoming difficult to fulfil.

I often hear of registered nurses heading into their shifts with a sense of dread, knowing that they may be working short-staffed yet again, or even alone, and that this may put patients at risk.

Saskatchewan's health system is broken, but it is repairable.

The thing is, when you ignore a problem, much like with our own mental and physical health, it does not just disappear.

As registered nurses we understand the importance of early interventions to stave off the worst-case health scenarios.

We recognize that a quick fix "band aid solution" sometimes only masks the real underlying issue and that finding the root cause is the only true path to healing. We are trained to dig deeper.

This is why registered nurses and SUN have been calling for a nursing taskforce.



It's time to do that digging for answers.

It's time for grassroots engagement. Registered nurses will be the first to say that recruiting new nurses into a broken system without supports in place will only end in continued staff turnover and persistent shortages.

There can be no healing if we refuse to ask the difficult questions: what will help you stay, thrive, or return?

People often talk about the unique selflessness of registered nurses as expert caregivers and confidants.

It's why our profession is so trusted. This makes SUN, as the voice and Union for registered nurses, equally unique.

SUN embodies the registered nursing promise to always put patients first.

Unfortunately, this often gets missed in the political fray that inevitably plays

out during times of crisis.

We have been watching a similar situation unfold with Saskatchewan's teachers, who as a profession are equally dedicated to the betterment of society.

Whether it's advocating for manageable class sizes and improved learning conditions for Saskatchewan's children, or a taskforce to tackle a dire nursing shortage that's seriously impacting patient safety, it's always the people we serve at the center.

When those who are charged with the care of society's most vulnerable can thrive, we all win.

This fall, it is my hope that registered nurses will finally be heard and that our calls for a collaborative and inclusive approach to solving one of the worst nursing crises our province has ever experienced will be answered.

Labour Day serves as a reminder that the values and priorities of our members are forever embedded in SUN's DNA, driving every action we take.

We are Saskatchewan's more than 10,000 dedicated Registered Nurses, Registered Psychiatric Nurses and Nurse Practitioners, and our patients ALWAYS come first.

This article was written by Tracy Zambory, President, Saskatchewan Union of Nurses.

SUN | SASKATCHEWAN UNION OF NURSES

It's challenging to triage patients, start treatments, and provide care when **we are working with only 50% of our nursing staff."**

- Chantell, Registered Nurse

A health system in crisis — There **are** solutions:
www.MakingTheDifference.ca/HealthCrisis





Happy Labour Day from RWDSU



RWDSU expresses its recognition to all hardworking employees: Happy Labor Day!

And a special shout out to those who work hard to protect workers' rights.

The world runs on your contributions, and you all deserve respect, recognition, and a day to relax.

Labour Day is a tribute to those who work. Paid or unpaid, part-time or full, happily or not (but hopefully happily)—you help make the world go round. Thank you for your tireless work.

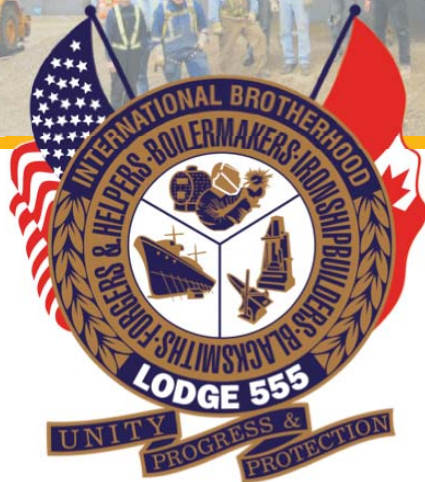
Now kick back, relax, and enjoy your day off. You've earned it!

Thank you all for making our world a better place to live and work. Take a load

off and enjoy one last summer hurrah! We hope you have a great one!

Thank you and Happy Labor Day!

Garry Burkart
Secretary-Treasurer, RWDSU SK



LODGE 555 SALUTES ALL WORKERS THIS LABOUR DAY

The Boilermakers, with our contractors, construct and maintain heavy industry across Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Northwestern Ontario.

On this Labour Day we recognize the valuable contributions that our fellow workers and producers make in agriculture, potash, power generation and oil every day to the Western Canadian economy.

Thank You!



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Workers or labourers are an inseparable part of the society, and on a larger scale, of the nation. We all are heavily dependent on the contribution of everyone surrounding us, so we also must give back to them in return. On Labour Day, May Day, or International Workers' Day, we can pay our respect to their efforts and celebrate their jobs without creating any discrimination among them.

*Sending our appreciation and respect to the workers of every field.
Happy Labour Day!*



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Looking forward to Labour Day

The meaning behind some parts of our history tends to fade from our collective memory over time. This is certainly the case for Labour Day, a holiday that has taken on a whole new significance through the years. One thing remains the same, however: Canadians continue to welcome this long weekend with open arms!

Nowadays, Labour Day signals the end of summer activities and the beginning of a new school year, and it is a time to relax before our busy fall schedules take precedence. Even though there is still a feeling of summer in the air, we become more aware that the days are getting shorter and we notice that the harvest season is around the corner, bringing fall scents like hay and wet fallen leaves.

Labour Day is a time of change in many different ways, and it provides a wonderful opportunity to roam the countryside, stocking up on freshly-picked vegetables or biting into crispy apples. It is a favourite time of year for outdoor enthusiasts of all kinds, with some people taking advantage of this three-day weekend to

travel even further afield, exploring new areas of the country.

Yet there is a great deal of meaning behind this special event, which we all celebrate on the first Monday of September. It should also be a time to remember the origins of Labour Day, to remember that, without the efforts and sacrifices of the labour movement to improve working conditions during the 1880s and '90s, this holiday would not exist. That vast mobilization of the labour force, born in big cities such as Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, grew to encompass the entire Canadian working class and became the holiday that we know today.

Labour Day is more than just another day off. This 1st of September, let's celebrate the success of the workplace and think about ways of improving every aspect of work, so that every day is safer and more fulfilling. Labour Day has been celebrated on the first Monday of September for more than a century. In fact, the first Labour Day parade was held in New York in 1882. Twelve years later, Labour Day became an offi-

cial holiday in the United States as well as in Canada.

Picnics, fireworks and many other activities organized by unions take place during this long weekend, to remind us of the great battles that were won over the years and the challenges faced by a work environment in perpetual transition. It's the perfect occasion to make sure that safety will remain a priority and that new ways will be found to consolidate family and work.

While primarily a celebration of the working class, Labour Day is increasingly recognized as the unofficial end of summer. Therefore, take the time during this long week-end to fully enjoy summer's last effort. Make it a weekend to remember by joining in public events in the city or in the country; celebrate with an outdoor barbecue and one last splash in the pool or the lake! During these festivities, also take a minute to fully appreciate the fact that having a job enables you to enjoy the good things in life, while building a good future for yourself and your loved ones.

Happy Labour Day!

Thank you to all the hard working women and men of Saskatchewan, as well as the employers, who have helped build this province and have contributed to our quality of life.



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The origins of Labour Day can be traced back to April 15, 1872. No matter where you find yourself this Labour Day, take a minute to think about Canada's labour pioneers. Their actions laid the foundations for future labour movements and helped workers secure the rights and benefits enjoyed today.



www.local771.ca



International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers

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Labour Day: the holiday Canada gave the world

Welcome to Labour Day, the holiday that is so much a part of our culture that Canadians rarely pause to consider its true purpose and meaning.

Today, Labour Day is often more associated with fairs and festivals, and a last summer weekend at the cottage, than with what it was meant to be—a heartfelt celebration of workers and their families.

That's too bad, but perhaps not surprising. In a way, the holiday has become a victim of the labour movement's enduring success in improving the lives of working Canadians.

Today we take paid holidays, safe work places, medical care, unemployment insurance, fair hours, union wages and 'the weekend' for granted. But how many of these advances would have happened if it were not for the long-forgotten heroes who fought so hard to make unions, and Labour Day, a reality in the first place?

Labour Day began in Canada on April 15, 1872, a mere five years after Confederation. On that historic day the Toronto Trades Assembly, the original central labour body in Canada, organized the country's first significant 'workers demonstration.'

At the time trade unions were still illegal, and authorities still tried to repress them, even though laws against "criminal conspiracy" to disrupt trade unions had already been abolished in Britain.

Despite the obstacles, the assembly had emerged as an important force in Toronto. It spoke out on behalf of working people, encouraged union organization and acted as a watchdog when workers were exploited. Occasionally, it also mediated disputes between employers and employees.

By the time the landmark parade was organized in 1872 the assembly had a membership of 27 unions, representing wood workers, builders, carriage makers and metal workers, plus an assortment of other trades ranging from bakers to cigar makers.



One of the prime reasons for organizing the demonstration was to demand the release of 24 leaders of the Toronto Typographical Union (TTU), who had been imprisoned for the "crime" of striking to gain a nine-hour working day.

The event took on a life of its own and was one that authorities could not ignore.

Held on Thanksgiving Day, which was then observed in the spring, the parade featured throngs of workers and a crowd estimated at 10,000 Torontonians who applauded as the unionists marched proudly through the streets, accompanied by four bands. In speeches that followed, trade union leaders demanded freedom for the TTU prisoners and better conditions for all workers.

It was a defining moment in Canadian labour history, opening the door to the formation of the broader Canadian labour movement over the next decade and sowing the roots of what is now an annual workers' holiday around the world.

The Toronto parade inspired leaders in Ottawa to stage a similar event. A few months later, on September

3, 1872, seven unions in the nation's capital organized a parade more than a mile long, headed by an artillery band and flanked by city fireman.

The Ottawa parade passed the home of Sir John A. MacDonal, the prime minister. He was hoisted into a carriage and taken to City Hall where, by torch light, he made a ringing promise to sweep away "such barbarous laws" as those invoked to imprison the TTU workers in Toronto.

The 'Old Chieftain' kept his word. Before the year was out the hated laws were gone from the statute books in Canada.

In 1873 the Toronto Trades Assembly called a national convention and set up the first national central organization, the Canadian Labour Union (CLU), which in 1886 became the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada (TLC), which was one of the forerunners of the present Canadian Labour Congress (CLC), now the major national labour organization in Canada.

Labour Day celebrations in the United States began in the 1880s, inspired by the beginnings made in Canada.

Initially, Labour Day was celebrated in the spring but that did not last long. After it was declared a legal holiday by the Parliament of Canada on July 23, 1894, the celebration was moved to the early fall, where it has remained ever since.

Around the world today Labour Day is celebrated at different times. In Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia it is known as "May Day" - or International Workers' Day—and it is celebrated on May 1. In New Zealand, it is held on the fourth Monday in October, and in Australia the date varies from state to state across the country.

But wherever it is celebrated, the purpose remains the same. In the same spirit it began so many years ago, it remains a day that affirms the dignity and honour of working people everywhere.



Happy Labour Day

As you enjoy your long weekend, take time to remember the labour movement pioneers who have helped to secure the rights and benefits we enjoy today in Canada!

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Labour Day in Canada

Labour Day, the first Monday in September, has been a statutory holiday in Canada since 1894. It originated in the first workers' rallies of the Victorian era. Historically, workers marked the day with various activities. These included parades, speeches, games, amateur competitions and picnics. The holiday promoted working-class solidarity and belonging during a time of rapid industrialization. Since the Second World War, fewer and fewer people have participated in Labour Day activities. Nevertheless, it remains a statutory holiday. Many Canadians now devote the Labour Day holiday to leisure activity and family time.

Before the 1880s, people held sporadic festivities in connection with larger labour movements. Some historians trace the origin of Labour Day to the Nine Hour Movement (1872).

Labour organizations began to hold celebrations more frequently following a labour convention in New York in September 1882. Spurred on by this initial success, the American Federation of Labor and the Knights of Labor actively promoted workers' celebrations on the first Monday in September in the United States. The Canadian chapters of these organizations did the same. Records show similar gatherings in Toronto (1882); Hamilton and Oshawa (1883); Montreal (1886); St. Catharines (1887); Halifax (1888); Ottawa and Vancouver (1890); and London (1892).

As the event grew more popular na-

tionwide, labour organizations pressured governments to declare the first Monday in September a statutory holiday. Their impact was significant enough that the Royal Commission on the Relations of Labor and Capital in Canada (1886-89) recommended that the federal government establish a "labour day." Before this, the day had official status in only a few municipalities. Montreal, for example, declared it a civic holiday in 1889.

In March and April 1894, more than 50 labour organizations from Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Manitoba and British Columbia petitioned parliamentarians. These groups included several regional trade and labour councils, as well as local assemblies of the Knights of Labor. They based their lobbying movement on similar initiatives from American unions. In the House of Commons, a bill sponsored by Prime Minister John Thompson prompted the debate about the holiday's legal status in May 1894. The House passed an amended holiday law without major discussion. It received royal assent on 23 July. The United States federal government also recognized the holiday in 1894.

The provinces had no choice but to adapt. For example, Quebec parliamentarians announced that the province's courts would not sit on the first Monday in September of that year. It wasn't until 1899 that the province granted the holiday legal status, ordering school boards to delay the start of classes until after the first Monday in September.

Canadians celebrated Labour Day with much ceremony on September 3, 1894. In Montreal, the city's Trades and Labour Congress played a key role in organizing events for the day. A parade set out from the Champ de Mars park at 9 a.m. Its divisions grouped together unions representing the same trade. The Grande-

Hermine local assembly of the Knights of Labor led the way. It guided participants to a park where they held speeches, games and a picnic. In Quebec City, the Trades and Labour Congress chose instead to hold a mass followed by entertainment. This included bicycle competitions, foot races and a lacrosse match.



Labour day is a great opportunity to honor all workers and show how appreciated their efforts are! Thank you for your continued outstanding work.

Happy Labour Day!



Dr. Robert Kitchen MP
Souris-Moose Mountain



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