

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

May 26 – 28, 2017 Pacific Northwest Labour History Conference Vancouver, British Columbia

ECHOES OF THE 1917 RUSSIAN REVOLUTION; DECADES OF RADICALISM AND RED SCARES IN THE LABOUR MOVEMENTS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The Russian Revolution was one of the most significant events of its decade. In Canada and the US, many workers saw an opportunity for class war, believing that socialism could overcome capitalism as the dominant political reality. In the Pacific Northwest, new forms of industrial organizing were bolstered by aspirations of a new world order, and the labour movement briefly swelled with enthusiastic members who were eager to be part of the change.

But capitalism held firm and enjoyed the resources and political clout of the wealthy. Activists were tagged as Bolsheviks and foreign-born agitators risked deportation for their activism.

The cold-war politics lasted decades, with “red-led” unions subject to purges and disbandment. Many individuals suffered personal consequences, including losing their livelihood.

This conference explores the impact and lasting influences of this history on contemporary labour but all topics are welcome.

Presenters are asked to register for the conference but may apply for a waiver of fees. Modest travel subsidies considered if funds permit.

Proposals due by November 15, 2016.

Online form: <http://goo.gl/forms/Rpyngd7SXrwm5e6b2>

- By email: Ms. Joey Hartman – pnlha@shaw.ca
- By mail: #2402 – 6888 Station Hill Drive, Burnaby, BC V3N 4X5

For more information contact Joey Hartman: pnlha@shaw.ca or by cell phone at 778-870-0703.

PNLHA
Pacific Northwest
Labour History
Association

BC LABOUR
HERITAGE
CENTRE

We welcome music, displays, and theatre in addition to presentations and workshops based on the theme or other topics of interest.

Suggested Topics

- Tim Buck's writings on the impact of the revolution on communism & trade unionism in Canada
- The McCarthy era, purges & the weakening of radical unionism
- RCMP & CIA compilations on various unions and their leaders
- The Mac-Paps and Lincoln Brigades – Journeys to Spain to fight fascism
- The discourse of Anna Louise Strong & John Reed
- Cultural expressions through art, music, poetry, & theatre
- Lesser known issues of race and gender
- General Strikes in 1919: Seattle and Winnipeg, plus sympathy strikes
- Contemporary reflections