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June 15, 2015

Board of Trustees
Canadian Museum of History
100 Laurier Street
Gatineau, Quebec K1A 0M8

Dear Trustees:

On behalf of the BC Federation of Labour and the 500,000 union members we represent, I am writing to voice my deep concern about the Canadian Museum of History Board of Trustees' decision to remove an exhibit devoted to the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike.

I urge the Board of Trustees to reverse this decision.

The 1919 Winnipeg General Strike is a pivotal moment in the history of working people in Canada and should figure prominently in the national museum. 30,000 working people, union and non-union, went out on strike for six weeks to demand fair wages and better working conditions following World War I. In addition to the strikes in Winnipeg, sympathy strikes sprung up in more than 20 cities and towns throughout western Canada, including Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Victoria and Vancouver.

As the Winnipeg General Strike exhibit description in the Canadian Museum of History states:

The Winnipeg General Strike is immortal. It lives in the memory of those that are still with us and who took such an honourable part in the struggle for the rights of the producers of wealth. It lives in the memory of the sons and daughters of those that participated and to whom this story is being related by their parents during quiet family hours.

It is important that we continue to acknowledge this important time in our collective history; a time that has shaped our country. The legacy of working people who built this country is all too often overlooked, making this exhibit even more important in the effort to educate and inspire current and future generations.

I respectfully ask that the Board of Trustees reconsider this matter at your June 22, 2015 meeting and reverse your decision to remove the Winnipeg General Strike exhibit when the Museum is renovated.

Yours truly,

Aaron Ekman
Secretary-Treasurer