

Major Labor Organizations in Canada

| DATE | ORGANIZATION | DESCRIPTION | NOTES |
|--------------|---|---|--|
| 1834 | Printers' Union | Toronto union | – held strike in 1872, victory in the form of Trade Union Act |
| 1871 | Toronto Trades Assembly | Group of trade unions from Toronto | – campaign for shorter hours – instrumental in establishing the Trade Union Act – moved toward a National Labour Assembly |
| 1873 | Canadian Labour Union (CLU) | First national labor-center; Toronto base | – lasted for three conventions until an economic recession caused its end |
| 1880s | Knights of Labour | Started in 1869, in Philadelphia; swept across Canada in the 1880s | – pioneers in industrial unionism – organized semi-skilled and unskilled workers – co-founded Canadian Trades and Labour Congress – declined because of conflict with American Federation of Labour |
| 1886 | Trades and Labour Congress (TLC) | Toronto base with delegates from across Canada; national labour body | – forerunner of Canadian Labour Congress of today – influenced by American Federation of Labour (AFL) – international union policy |
| 1903 1927 | National Trades and Labour Congress changing to Canadian Federation of Labour (CFL) | Aimed at building a purely Canadian trade union system | – formed after TLC opted for closer relations with the AFL and international unionism – anti-international policy |
| 1905 | Industrial Workers of the World (IWW or Wobblies) | Originated in Chicago; aim to overthrow the capitalist system by and for the workers; had 10,000 Canadian members by 1911 | – organized workers into industrial unions – pioneered strike on-the-job, mass sit-downs and organization of the unemployed, migrant and immigrant workers – declined during WW I when governments outlawed the organization |
| 1919 | One Big Union (OBU) | Predominantly western Canadian organization | – arose out of the fight for a united, militant, Canadian trade union movement – industrial unionism policy – short-lived strength |
| 1927 | All-Canadian Congress of Labour (ACCL) | Started by the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees (CBRE); came out of the CFL | – objective of achieving the complete independence of the Canadian labor movement |
| 1938 | Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO) | American organization formed because of split in AFL over craft vs. industrial unions | – Canadian implication: TLC followed AFL example and expelled any CIO unions |
| 1940 | Canadian Congress of Labour (CCL) | Merger between CIO unions and All-Canadian Congress of Labour | – emphasized organizing the unorganized – autonomous Canadian body – flexible membership acceptance |
| 1956 | Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) | Merger between Trades and Labour Congress and Canadian Congress of Labour | – main central labor body of today – over two million members in 1976 |

The above has been taken from the teaching manual for the slide-sound show "These Were the Reasons", produced by B.C. Overtime.