


# BC LABOUR HERITAGE CENTRE

## April 2018 Newsletter



Plant workers begin strike action of the Canadian Fishing Company in 1975.  
Sean Griffin photo, image MSC160-133-4A, Pac 66 Tribune Photo Collection,  
courtesy Simon Fraser University Library

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR:  
**BOOK LAUNCH PARTY**  
**ON THE LINE: A HISTORY OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA LABOUR MOVEMENT**  
BY ROD MICKLEBURGH  
PUBLISHED BY HARBOUR PUBLISHING

**TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2018, 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM**  
HILTON METROTOWN CRYSTAL BALLROOM, 6083 MCKAY AVE, BURNABY

RSVP BY APRIL 19, 2018 TO:  
RSVP@LABOURHERITAGECENTRE.CA OR 604-419-0400

BC LABOUR HERITAGE CENTRE  
Community Savings  
the unions' credit union

Book Launch Party - You Are Invited!

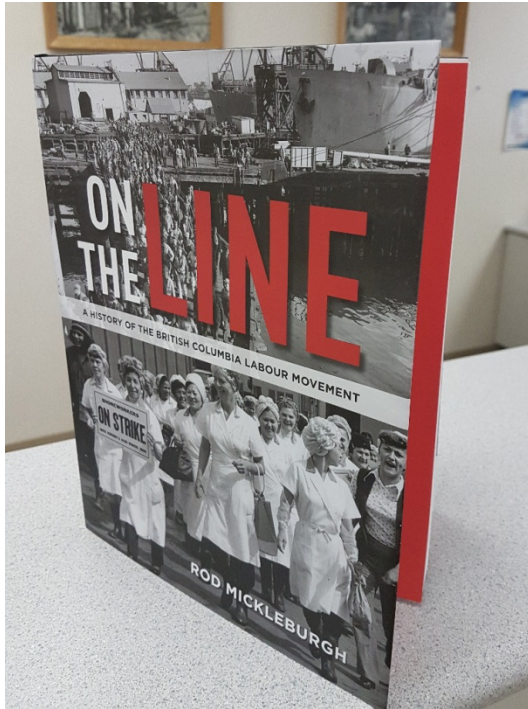
Tuesday, May 1, 2018

5:30 - 8 pm

Hilton Metrotown Crystal Ballroom, 6083 McKay Ave, Burnaby

- SPECIAL GUEST: Premier John Horgan
- PERFORMANCE BY: Unladylike Artist Collective
- LABOUR HERITAGE DISPLAYS
- BOOK SALES and AUTHOR SIGNING

RSVP by April 19, 2018 to: [rsvp@labourheritagecentre.ca](mailto:rsvp@labourheritagecentre.ca) or 604-419-0400



It's here and it's beautiful! Three hundred pages, and over 200 archival photos of BC labour history, authored by former labour reporter Rod Mickleburgh.

[Order copies to SHIP NOW, or pre-order and PICK UP at the May 1 Book launch.](#)

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## "A Moment When Anything Seemed Possible"

-excerpt from "*On the Line: A History of the British Columbia Labour Movement*", by Rod Mickleburgh.

It is 1983 and Operation Solidarity is underway.

The long, hot summer hit its peak on August 10 at Empire Stadium in Vancouver. Public-sector workers across the city booked off to attend the gigantic, festive gathering. Buses were corralled from wherever they could be scrounged to transport trade unionists to the site. Non-union members of the public and activists also streamed to the stadium to celebrate their solidarity and vent their rage against the government. Much of the city, including public transit and liquor stores, was shut for the afternoon. An estimated forty thousand people crammed every nook and cranny of the creaking old stadium and onto the field—far more than The Beatles had drawn in 1964.

Just when it appeared the stadium could not hold one more person, in marched several hundred uniformed firefighters, led by their rousing brass band, followed by hundreds of bus drivers, also in uniform, and a thousand CUPE outside workers. As the band played on, people were crying with joy and cheering their hearts out. Ovations reverberated through the stadium in great ascending waves as the procession wound its way around the infield track. For many, it was the emotional highlight of the entire Operation Solidarity movement, a moment when anything seemed possible.

Craig Berggold photo



**Sponsors:** Bargaining Council of BC Building Trade Unions • BC Federation of Labour • BC Government and Service Employees' Union • BC Teachers' Federation • CUPE BC • Movement of United Professionals • United Steelworkers District 3 and USW National Office • United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1518

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