

Trade Unions and Canadian Democracy



Democracy, Labour Laws
and Workers' Rights

Lorne Brown

Trade Unions And Canadian Democracy

Institute for Research on Public Policy

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Trade Unions And Canadian Democracy:

Trade Unions and Democracy Geoffrey Wood, 2017-09-29 Trade Unions and Democracy explores the role of trade unions as products of and agents for democracy As civil society agents unions may promote democracy within the wider society especially in the case of authoritarian regimes or other rigid political systems by acting as watchdogs and protecting hard won democratic gains Established democratic institutions in many advanced societies are facing new challenges The problem with using trade unions for this purpose is that they remain locked in a cycle of political marginalization and decline Beyond this there are ironically serious questions about whether unions themselves internally function as democracies Certainly there are tensions between rank and file membership and an authoritarian leadership with this infighting having possible effects on strategic deals or alliances and member accountability and actions On the other hand trade unions continue to represent a significant component of society within most industrialized countries and in many case they have a demonstrated capacity for working with other elements of civil society Looking forward trade unions may be able to play a vital role in channeling and focusing spontaneous popular upsurges In the process they may revitalize themselves through use of greater internal democracy and become geared toward more diverse constituencies The question is will they fulfill this promise or continue to suffer from internal breakups and external breakdowns Can trade unions save themselves and democracy or will both deteriorate in time Trade Unions and Democracy brings together a distinguished panel of leading and emerging scholars in the field and provides a critical assessment of the current role of trade unions in society It explores their capacity to affect political policies to ensure greater accountability and fairness It also explores the nature of and extent to which internal representative democracy actually operates within trade unions themselves Mark Harcourt is a professor in the Department of Strategic Management and Leadership at Waikato University in New Zealand

Trade Unions and Democracy Mark Harcourt, Geoffrey E. Wood, 2004 This book explores the changing role of trade unions as products of and agents for democracy Despite conventionally being portrayed as politically marginalised and in terminal decline trade unions continue to represent a significant component of society within most industrialised countries and have demonstrated a capacity for revival and renewal in the face of difficult corcumstances It brings together a distinguished panel of leading and emerging scholars in the field and provides a critical assessment of the current role of trade unions in society their capacity to impact on state policies in such a manner as to ensure greater accountability and fairness and the nature and extent of internal representative democracy within the labour movement This volume will be of interest to students and academics in industrial relations critical management studies political studies and sociology

Rethinking the Politics of Labour in Canada, 2nd ed. Stephanie Ross, Larry Savage, 2021-10-21T00:00:00Z In the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic the need to re establish the labour movement s political capacity to exert collective power in ways that foster greater opportunity and equality for working class people has taken on a greater sense of urgency Understanding the strategic political possibilities

and challenges facing the Canadian labour movement at this important moment in history is the central concern of this second edition of *Rethinking the Politics of Labour in Canada*. With new and revised essays by established and emerging scholars from a wide range of disciplines this edited collection assesses the past present and uncertain future of Canadian labour politics in the wake of the COVID 19 pandemic. Bringing together the traditional electoral based aspects of labour politics with analyses of newer and rediscovered forms of working class organization and social movement influenced strategies which have become increasingly important in the Canadian labour movement this book seeks to take stock of these new forms of labour politics understand their emergence and assess their potential impact on the future of labour in Canada.

Democracy, Social Justice and the Role of Trade Unions Caroline Kelly, Joo-Cheong Tham, 2021-09-07 Trade unions worldwide face a powerful paradox at this critical juncture collective organisations for workers are urgently needed and yet there are serious pressures undercutting the legitimate role of trade unions. The aim of this book is to examine how trade unions can effectively navigate this deeply contradictory challenge. It is underpinned by the conviction that trade unions are and should be vital institutions for democracy and social justice. Written by leading scholars in industrial relations and labour law as well as those in political philosophy and political science the collection tackles a range of pressing topics for trade unions including the climate crisis the COVID 19 pandemic economic democracy democracy within trade unions precarious work and election campaigns.

The Democratic Aspects of Trade Union Recognition Alan Bogg, 2009-09-02 Winner of the SLS Peter Birks Prize for Outstanding Legal Scholarship 2010 The long ascendancy of pluralism and collective laissez faire as a guiding ideology of British labour law was emphatically shattered by the New Right ideology of Thatcher and Major. When New Labour was finally returned to power in 1997 it did not however attempt to resurrect the pre Thatcher preference for pluralist non intervention in collective industrial relations. Instead it purported to follow a Third Way. A centrepiece of this new approach was the statutory recognition provision introduced in Schedule A1 TULRCA 1992. By breaking with the tradition of voluntarism in respect of recognition of trade unions New Labour sought to provide a model of collective labour law which combined legal support with control through juridification. A closer study of both the history of approaches to recognition and the current provisions opens up fundamental questions as to the nature of this new model and the ones it aimed to replace. This book uses political philosophy to elucidate the character of those historical approaches and the nature of the Third Way itself in relation to statutory union recognition. In particular it traces the progressive eclipse of civic republican values in labour law in preference for a liberal political philosophy. The book articulates and defends a civic republican philosophy in terms of freedom as non domination the intrinsic value of democratic participation through deliberative democracy and community. This can be contrasted with the rights based individualism and State neutrality characteristic of the liberal approach. Despite the promise of civic community in the Third Way rhetoric this book demonstrates that the reality of New Labour's experiment in union recognition was an emphatic reassertion of liberalism in

the sphere of workers collective rights This is the first monograph to offer a sustained critical analysis of legal approaches to trade union recognition It will be of particular interest to labour lawyers but also a wider audience of scholars in political philosophy and industrial relations **The History of Trade-union Organization in Canada** Harold Amos Logan,1928

Trade Unions and Canadian Democracy Lorne Brown,Doug Taylor,2012-08-01 A booklet prepared to defend the rights of workers against restrictive labour legislation Although used by the Saskatchewan Federation of Labour in their historic court case against the Saskatchewan government the issues raised apply to the broader trade union movement [http nextyearcountrybooks.blogspot ca 2011 12 test one html](http://nextyearcountrybooks.blogspot.ca/2011/12/test-one.html) *Trade Unionism Since 1945* Craig Phelan,2009 This book offers the detailed historical background required for a holistic appreciation of current problems faced and the possibilities for revitalisation In two volumes it provides introductory overviews of trade union development since the end of World War II in 26 countries from every corner of the globe Each chapter explains the main contours of trade union growth and development in one country from the pivotal year 1945 to the present Each chapter assesses the often dynamic expansion of trade unionism in the 1950s and 1960s the role of trade unionism in the movements for national liberation in the Global South and the erection of social welfare systems in the developed North the economic shocks that resulted in membership decline and loss of political influence from the late 1970s onward the economic restructuring and growing labour market diversity of the 1980s and 1990s that undercut the traditional bases of trade union membership and the historical roots of the contemporary political and economic context in which revitalisation efforts are taking place Politics and Ideology in Canada Michael Ornstein,Michael Stevenson,2003-02-18 Winner of the Harold Adams Innis Prize *Politics and Ideology in Canada* examines a period of crucial historical change in Canada beginning in the mid 1970s when the crisis of the Keynesian welfare state precipitated a transition to a new political order based on the progressive downsizing of state involvement in the economy and society Using class and ideology as key concepts Michael Ornstein and Michael Stevenson examine this transition in terms of the nature of hegemony and hegemonic crisis and the conditions of political order and instability These concepts guide the interpretation of three large surveys of representative samples of the Canadian public and two unique elite surveys conducted between 1975 and 1981 The surveys cover an exceptionally broad spectrum of political issues including social programs civil and economic rights economic policy foreign ownership labour relations and language issues and sovereignty A wide ranging analysis of public and elite attitudes reveals a hegemonic order through the early 1980s built around public support for the institutions of the Canadian welfare state But there was also widespread public alienation from politics Public opinion was quite strongly linked to class but not to party politics Regional variation in political ideology on a broad range of issues was less pronounced than differences between Quebec and English Canada Much deeper ideological divisions separated the elites with a dramatic polarization between corporate and labour respondents State elites fell between these two though generally more favourable to capital The responses of the business elites reveal the ideological roots of the

Mulroney years in support for cuts in social programs free trade privatization and deregulation **Strengthening**
Canadian Democracy Institute for Research on Public Policy, 2005 Reconsidering provincial and federal debates about
democratic reform alternatives

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