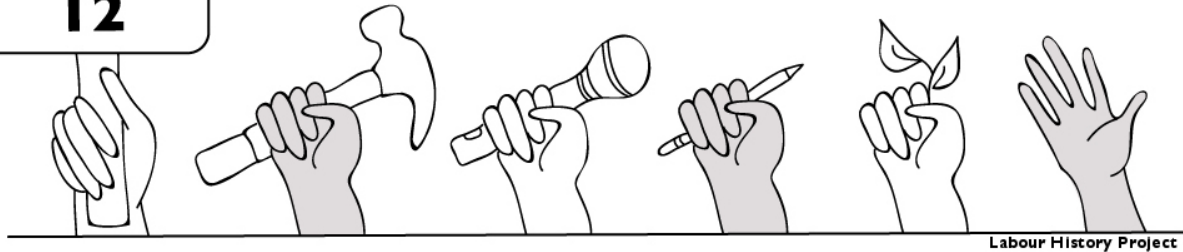




## Lesson 4: Trade Unions and Social Justice



**Lesson Summary:** An Injury to One Is An Injury To Us All: Trade Unions and Social Justice

**Time:** 30 – 60 minutes

**Essential Question:** What is the importance of trade unions?

### Lesson Activities

1. Pose to students the question: What is a union? What do they do? What are they for?
2. At this point in our studies, what do they think unions have to do with social justice?
3. Either provide class time to students to read the article individually or as a class. Alternatively, the reading could be assigned for homework and come in prepared to discuss the attached questions.
4. Extension: Provide students with copies of “How unions protect our human rights” and “Why Unions Matter” (source information listed in the “Optional and Other Materials” box below) and discuss the main argument of this reading.

### Learning Objectives

Students will read and discuss the importance and history of trade unions. Students will consider the connection between the labour movement and social justice.

1. Analyze factors that perpetuate or mitigate global inequities (eg. New technologies, outsourcing)
2. Identify the contributions of particular groups associated with the struggle for social justice
3. Identify a range of contributing factors to social injustice (eg. Greed, poverty, power imbalance)

### **Materials and Resources Needed**

- Handout #4a: “Trade Unions and Social Justice” with attached discussion questions.

### **Backgrounders and Other Materials**

**Optional Article** by Errol Black and Jim Silver, “How unions protect our human rights”, Teacher Newsmagazine, Vol 24, Number 2, October 2011.

<http://www.bctf.ca/publications/NewsmagArticle.aspx?id=24155>

**Optional Article** “Why Unions Matter” by [Bruce Campbell](#) and [Armine Yalznian](#), [rabble.ca](#), [October 3, 2011](#). Source URL (retrieved on *July 9, 2013- 11:58 am*):

<http://rabble.ca/blogs/bloggers/behind-numbers/2011/10/why-unions-matter>