In May 1919, 30,000 Winnipeg workers walked off the job and into the history books, launching the largest strike in Canadian history. It lasted six weeks and ended in the violence of Bloody Saturday, a day organized labour has never forgotten or forgiven. Was the strike a legitimate protest against low wages, poor working conditions and a lack of bargaining rights, or was it an attempt by immigrants to import Bolshevism and a new political order? Battle lines were drawn over that question, and on the heels of the Russian Revolution, political leaders at all levels were quick to act. Bloody Saturday takes a contemporary look at the key moments of the 1919 Winnipeg General Strike and how lives were lost and changed.

No Other Versions Available

The Great War

Scarcely more than a British colony, with a population of less than eight million, between 1914-1918 Canada mobilized 590,000 citizens for war, sending 325,000 overseas to fight. In epic battle re-enactments, the two-part series The Great War bring to life the five major Canadian battles of the war: St. Julien, Beaumont-Hamel, Courcelette, Vimy and Passchendaele. This docu-drama would never have happened without the participation of 150 descendants. As with real war, these young volunteers lived the hardships of a British training camp. They traveled to the great battlefields of Northern France and Belgium where their ancestors fought. Follow the poignant stories of ancestors, gleaned from journals written in battle, as well as letters to and from those they loved: Talbot Mercer Pineau (Justin Trudeau), one of Canada’s first Rhodes scholars who died a hero at Passchendaele; Chaplain Canon Scott (Michael Rudder) who had to bury his own son killed in battle; Ernest Lamarche (Maxime Cournoyer) who fought with the Van Doos, the only French-speaking regiment in the British army.

No Other Versions Available

Ordeal By Fire / Hard Times

Ordeal By Fire - 1915 to 1929 Canada’s heavy military role in World War I (60,000 dead in a population of 8 million) transforms its society, its society, politics and its place in the world. The horror, bravery and sacrifice of trench warfare are evoked in Canada’s great battles: Ypres, the Somme, Vimy Ridge, Courcelette and Passchendaele. The domestic consequences of Canada’s war effort are also wrenching - the conscription crisis of 1917 marks a low point in English-French relations. After the war ends, labour revolts in Winnipeg and across the country raise fears of a Bolshevik insurrection. The return to stability in the mid-1920s lasts only briefly as the crash of 1929 plunges the country into economic chaos. For grades 5-12.

Hard Times - 1929 to 1940 Canada’s economy collapses during the 1930s, creating a prolonged political and social crisis. In the context of the Dust Bowl, the relief camps and the Regina Riot, political leaders such as William Aberhart, Maurice Duplessis, and Mitchell Hepburn capture national attention. Meanwhile, an increasingly menacing international climate sees the rise of fascism and mounting likelihood of another world war. When war does arrive, Canada finds itself fighting virtually alone at Britain’s side. For grades 5-12.

No Other Versions Available

Vimy Ridge 90

On Easter Monday in 1917, Canadian soldiers, fighting for the first time in history as a united Canadian force, surprised the world by taking a strategic ridge in Vimy, France. The battle cost Canada the lives of nearly 3,600 soldiers and more than 7,000 were wounded. Immediately after the war, Canada pledged to honour those soldiers by commissioning a monument at Vimy Ridge.

No Other Versions Available