

# ATTACHMENT A



301 - 8988 Fraserton Court  
Burnaby, BC V5J 5H8  
Ph: 604-419-0400  
info@labourheritagecentre.ca  
www.labourheritagecentre.ca

November 27, 2019

Chris Sholberg, Culture and Heritage Planner  
City of Nanaimo  
455 Wallace Street  
Nanaimo BC V9R 5J6  
[chris.sholberg@nanaimo.ca](mailto:chris.sholberg@nanaimo.ca)

Dear Chris:

**Re: The Great Coal Strike 1912-1914**

Thank you for your assistance with our project to install a bronze plaque in Nanaimo to recognize Vancouver Island's Great Coal Strike in 1912-1914, as part of our "Plaques Around the Province Project". The Nanaimo, Duncan and District Labour Council is partnering with us in this project.

Lasting just short of two years, the confrontation turned into the most protracted, fiercely fought labour dispute in the province's history. The strike stretched from Cumberland to Ladysmith. We have chosen Nanaimo for the plaque as we feel it is the most central and visible location.

We are requesting Council's approval to place the plaque in Dallas Square. We are also asking that the installation be done by the City's unionized employees.

We are hoping to have the project ready for dedication in Spring 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joey Hartman".

Joey Hartman, Chair

cc: Nanaimo, Duncan and District Labour Council

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

**Board Members:** Joey Hartman • Lee Loftus • Marie Decaire • Brynn Bourke • Al Cornes • Johanna den Hertog • Tom Dufresne • Shawn Harris • Meagan Innis • Orion Irvine • Bill McMullan • Kari Michaels • Rod Mickleburgh • Ken Novakowski • Karen Ranalletta • Annette Toth

**DRAFT**

## The Great Coal Strike 1912-14

After decades of attempts to organize unions in Vancouver Island's murderously unsafe coal mines, thousands of miners from Ladysmith to Cumberland went on strike in 1912 under the banner of the United Mine Workers of America. The strike was the fiercest labour dispute in BC's history. Parades, a riot and mass meetings garnered support for the miners from local communities and around North America.

Strikebreakers, special constables, the militia and arrests pummeled the workers. By 1914, the odds were insurmountable, and strikers were forced to return to work amidst a relentless blacklist. Their two-year strike laid the foundation for later generations as Vancouver Island miners finally won union recognition in 1938.



100 YEARS  
OF  
COAL  
1249-1949  
NANAIMO B.C.

