



CANADA

CANADIAN WEEKLY BULLETIN

INFORMATION DIVISION • DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS • OTTAWA, CANADA

Vol. 15 No. 2

January 13, 1960

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LABOUR ORGANIZATIONS IN CANADA - 1959

Returns to the 1959 survey of labour unions in Canada indicated little change in the extent or pattern of union organization within the labour force from the previous year. Two central bodies - the Canadian Labour Congress, over a million strong since its formation in 1956, and the Canadian and Catholic Confederation of Labour - continued to represent between them some 85 per cent of organized labour, while most of the balance of union membership remained distributed among organizations active on a regional, national or international level, but independent of a central labour congress. At the beginning of 1959 the total membership of all reporting organizations was close to 1,459,000.

Organizations new to the Canadian labour scene since the previous survey included the United Stone and Allied Products Workers of America, and the Canadian Guards Association. The Stone Workers' union had withdrawn from Canada in 1956 following the dissolution of its last remaining local in Nova Scotia, but returned in 1958 when a new local was formed in Saskatchewan. The Guards Association, consisting of five locals, was organized in 1958 to represent plant guards in the Toronto area.

Offsetting these additions were changes involving termination of activity or membership transfers on the part of several organizations. After more than half a century of activity in Canada, the Granite Cutters' International Association of America reported

that its last Canadian local had ceased operations. Also no longer active was a more recent arrival on the labour scene, the Insurance Agents' International Union. Among other changes, the Canadian Navigators' and Engineers' Federation became part of District 50 of the United Mine Workers of America, while the remaining membership of One Big Union, an independent organization in the western provinces since 1919, became absorbed by affiliates of the Canadian Labour Congress in accordance with an agreement reached at the 1956 merger convention of the TLC and CCL. Changes in union representation occurred also in logging in Newfoundland, but these could not be readily assessed amid the unsettled situation prevailing during the survey period at the beginning of the year. It appeared, however, that neither the Newfoundland Lumbermen's Association nor the Newfoundland Labourers' Union was in operation by the end of 1958. The Fishermen's Protective Union, another Newfoundland organization, reported that it had affiliated with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America and thus no longer existed as a separate entity.

More than 80 per cent of the 6,763 union locals reported in 1959 were within the Canadian Labour Congress. At the beginning of the year, the total membership of the Congress stood at approximately 1,154,000, which represented an increase of close to 10,000 over the corresponding figure in the previous year. This gain was due in part to the addition of