

# Mutiny

## International Women's Day 2026 - Women Workers Lead The Way!



The working class continues to face an unending barrage of attacks from the bosses. Wars are starting all over, and the cost of living continues going up. Capitalism seems set to continue lording over this morass for the foreseeable future. As we do every Women's Day, we turn to reflect on the historical example of the women workers of St Petersburg on February 1917, who led the charge on a real challenge to the tyranny of bourgeois rule. Far from being politically motivated by a reified identity, they were knowingly and directly attacking capital, steered by a revolutionary communist consciousness. Today, memories of the Russian Revolution have receded to the annals of history, but the real political lessons, the possibility of a society free from exploitation and misogyny, remain forever with the working class. It is exactly this combativity that needs to be carried to the present day to defeat capital, through the conscious political activity of the class, for the class. The unilateral attack on reproductive rights bears down on women workers as part of a generalized attack on the class as a whole. Rather than turning to the left wing of capital, the real answer to it was given by St Petersburg's workers in 1917, who seized those rights themselves under a communist revolution. In order to do this however, workers fight against compromise and reformism, which redirect us back to capitalism. This means no compromises with the capitalist state, refusing alliances with the bourgeoisie, and building combativity through organised communist struggle.

While the Russian Revolution may seem distant, the conditions workers were fighting against remain fundamentally the same, and the heroic example set shows us the real path out of class society. The bourgeoisie then, as now, use the same tools to divide the working class so that we may be better exploited and less organized. The women workers of St Petersburg dismantled Tsarist authority which deprived them of the most basic necessities. However, far from stopping there, those same workers fought against the liberal Provisional Government, which sought to stop the revolution and was making gestures towards abstract rights we'd find familiar today. Women workers, organized as a part of a politically conscious working class, refused the scraps given by Kerensky. During the so-called 'honeymoon period' immediately following the October Revolution, abortion and divorce were legalized, and homosexuality was decriminalised through the direct mandate of the workers. Far from being born out of abstract debates on human nature, this was the popular will of a politically conscious working class, which rapidly outpaced every other

capitalist 'liberal' democracy in women's franchise. In addition, far from being 'class reductionist', it demonstrated that revolutionary consciousness truly represented the most general interest of the class, contrary to the speculation by identitarian leftists we see nowadays. In addition, the revolutionary period demonstrates how when women workers pursue their political interests, they immediately end up running afoul of bourgeois feminists who seek the emancipation of women in the abstract only, i.e. for themselves. The bourgeois feminists then, just as now, did not hesitate to join ranks with reactionaries to kill as many workers as possible to preserve their rule when capitalism was threatened. This is after all, why the Suffragettes supported WWI, and was the basis of Sylvia Pankhurst forming the Workers' Suffrage Federation over this essential divergence of interests. As Alexandra Kollontai sums it up:

**"The world of women, as the world of men, has divided into two camps: one, in its aims, aspirations and interests, sides with the bourgeois classes, while the other is closely linked to the proletariat... Each of these militant groups unconsciously proceeds on the basis of the interests of its own class, which gives a specific class colouring to its aspirations and objectives... However radical the demands of the feminists may appear... [they] cannot struggle to achieve a fundamental restructuring of the present economic-social structure of society... without this the emancipation of women cannot be complete."**

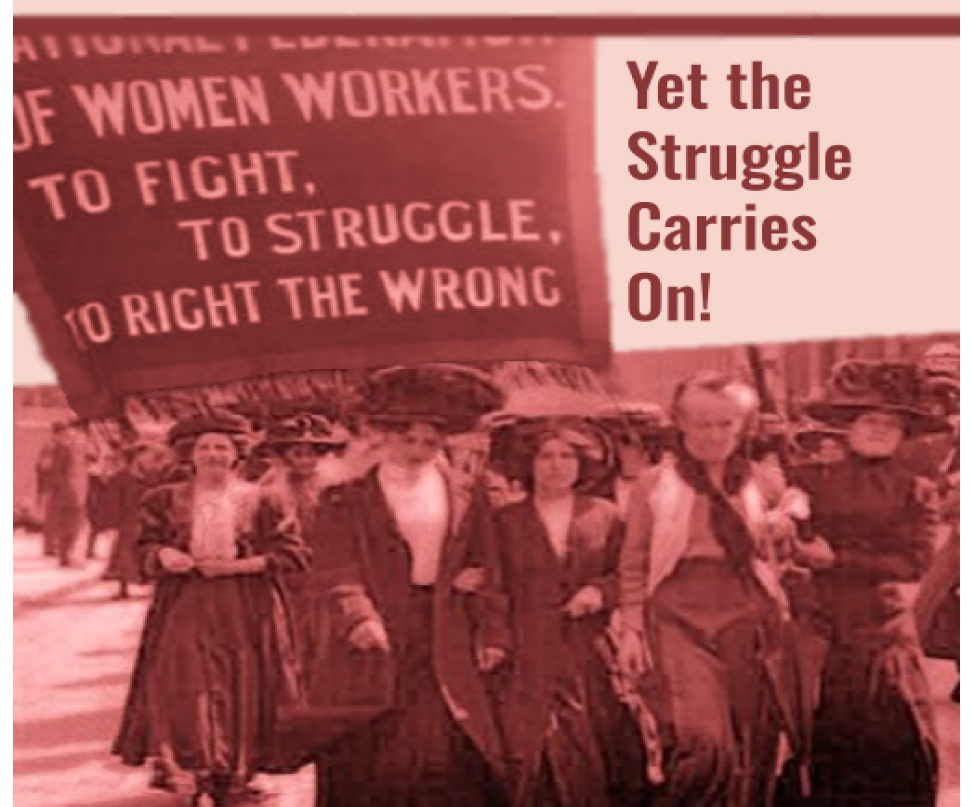
This essential divergence of interests cuts across all forms of division imposed by capitalism, but it must be fought against by workers in order to pose a real challenge of capital. It must be recognised that struggles for abstract rights can be quickly turned against workers, demonstrated most perfectly in times of war. We are already seeing this with Carney's declaration that war with Iran is necessary to protect 'human rights'. It should come as obvious that although the

Islamic Republic is objectively repressive and spares no punishment under its reactionary rule, there are no rights to be found and no betterment of conditions for workers in Canada in marching to war - on the battlefield there is only death and destruction. Already now we've seen those same groups who protested for women's rights in Iran years ago turn their heel and call for regime change, even as schoolchildren are being bombed by the US in broad daylight. In the same breath, those who protested against Israel's slaughter in Palestine now see a righteous cause in the Iranian government, supporting a state which did not fret in killing thousands who protested and went on strike against austerity and repression only a few months ago, a state which is also keen to draw in as many other countries as possible into an all-out war to defend its ruling class. This episode demonstrates to us exactly how 'progressive' causes are detached from any class content and serve to reinforce the mandate of this or that bourgeoisie, essentially being opposed to communist politics. The same can be said in Quebec of the struggle for reproductive rights being hijacked for a debate over nationalism, which relegates workers to the ballot box and to the courts, the favoured terrain of the bourgeoisie, rather than the real generalized struggle workers must mount to fight these attacks. The force initiated by the workers of St Petersburg overcame such illusions during the October Revolution, which inspired the Kiel sailors to also raise the banner of internationalist mutiny, effectively ending World War I. Among those workers were droves of disillusioned women workers, who, after decades of struggle within the terrain of feminist politics, realized that the only means of fighting for their specific demands could only come under the banner of communism, through the dictatorship of the proletariat and as part of the general mandate of the working class. It is precisely in the pivotal moment of opposition to war that these politics became their most clear and opened the door to total social emancipation.

This brings us also to the link between the clampdown on rights and the march

towards war. Far from being just the policy of this or that nation-state, imperialism is a permanent condition of capital. It is the ever-ready big red button which can be smashed when profits dry up and social tensions can no longer be easily contained to the ballot box. Whether it is the US, Israel, Russia, Iran, China, etc., the working class is constantly being conditioned to march to the front for a grand showdown between the major imperialist blocs. In this standoff, women workers are treated as baby dispensaries at home to reinforce the front, while men are treated as canon fodder through conscription. In this vein, the assault on reproductive rights does not come out of thin air or is the fault of this or that administration solely, but the realization of a sacrifice demanded by the bourgeoisie as a whole. This has also been demonstrated in the umpteenth strike cropping up and being crushed through the active intervention of the government (and sabotage from the unions), once again under the guise of its precious 'law'. While it is obvious that men and women face particular, though not exclusive hardships (including sexual assault of men and women as has been shown in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Myanmar) imperialism results in the general destruction of life irrespective of gender, for which the working class has to pay the largest price. It is for these reasons that we emphasize the need for the class to realize these attacks as part of one generalized offensive for the bourgeoisie, and why an equally generalized response is necessary. Not through the ballot box, not through negotiating the democratic quality of the most basic rights, or by succumbing to the nationalist cry of the defense of states or abstract rights, but through the organized revolutionary consciousness of the class. It is for this reason that we remember the women workers of St Petersburg once more, who not only marched to fight for communism, but were the first to unfurl the banner, stating 'Down With The War'. It is for this reason that workers must fight against the total war the bourgeoisie want to impose on us. Women workers toppled the Tsar and ended WWI, women workers, lead the way!

## The International Working Woman BUILT THE DAY!



Yet the  
Struggle  
Carries  
On!

Klasbatalo public meeting March 14th 2:30 PM  
For location and more info email [ca@leftcom.org](mailto:ca@leftcom.org)  
Or message [instagram.com/Klasbatalo](https://www.instagram.com/Klasbatalo)



# Air Canada 2025 - Union Sabotage Again

The brief but notable Air Canada flight attendant strike, with 99.7 voting in favor, began on August 16th and lasted only 3 days. The flight industry, being a high value, time sensitive and logistically demanding operation, was uniquely vulnerable to pressure from just a portion of its workforce striking. Even with these advantages, the strike was unable to sustain itself for very long and was, like so many other strikes, declared illegal and forced into arbitration against the will of 99.1 percent of its union membership who voted against the offers and in support of the continued strike. Even though the union dared to act against this order it was only for a brief moment. The will to act against the state would not be sustained and it was just another tactic to delay negotiations. Such a strike may demonstrate the power of the working class and the effectiveness of the strike tactic while also highlighting the total supremacy of the law acting against this power through the government and over the unions.

## Previous Contract

In 2015, CUPE signed a 10 year contract with Air Canada under unfavourable terms. A series of blows to the airline industry starting with the financial collapse in the 70s, following then to 9/11 and COVID-19, left airlines in a feverish state of reducing costs and wages with flight attendants made to shoulder much of these burdens. Most notably, airlines began using an industry standard brake-to-brake pay system in which flight attendants would be paid only for the time when the plane was moving and all duties on the ground were unpaid. This unpaid labour, which in reality was hours per

day and could vary greatly, effectively forced new and particularly unlucky flight attendants to live on what was close to (CUPE even claims below in some cases) minimum wage. This previous contract, as is so often the case, was now falling far below inflation and became truly untenable during the large-scale inflation and constant increase of real costs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Other airlines had near identical histories and flight attendants whose contracts had expired in previous years had successfully negotiated for better deals. Delta, United and American airlines all agreed at state arbitration to an inflationary matching wage and paid ground work for their flight attendants and this likely inspired CUPE's leadership in regards to this strike.

## The Strike

On August 13th CUPE issued a 72 hour warning to Air Canada after 99.7 percent of flight attendants voted in favor of striking. Immediately Air Canada sent an appeal to the Canada Industrial Relations Board who, under the leadership of Patty Hajdu, exercised their legal right to declare the strike illegal. Air Canada, in typical preemptive action, locked out the workers and made preparations for the cancellations and delays which sent a clear message to the strikers. As the strike went underway, immediately a back to work order was decreed and a deadline was set for 2 PM August 17th. Air Canada even announced that flights would resume at this time. A dirty tactic meant to threaten the strikers with public outcry over broken promises, which has been an effective tactic in many other CUPE strikes such as the teachers union and postal workers Union. This, however, did not

work. CUPE declared that the strike would continue, claiming that the CIRB was acting against the law itself. This is untrue, CIRB is well within the law to destroy any and all labour movements as it pleases. However the threat of litigation was likely not meant to be literal and this issue would never see court but instead was meant merely to delay and further increase the cost of the strike. This ended up being an effective tactic. The next day, a second back to work statement was for noon of the 18th. In an act of unusual posturing Mark Hancock, the president of CUPE, declared "If it means folks like me going to jail, then so be it. If it means our union being fined, then so be it". However, it ended up being only posturing indeed and the style of striking and negotiation of CUPE under Hancock was to be followed.

## The Strike's End

On August 19th, less than 72 hours after the strike had begun, CUPE announced that it would indeed agree to the arbitration forced upon them by the CIRB. This was under no promises of the stated goals of the union and, despite Hancock's statements, was certainly to avoid the fines and potential jail time that were threatened by continuing an illegal strike for any substantial period of time. In the short period of time, estimates of the effective cost of the strike vary between 300 to 420 million dollars showing the power of the working class to cripple their overlords should they be unimpeded by the restrictions of the state and its obedient unions. The negotiations have been kept private so far, with only contracts sent to voting made public even to the workers themselves. In their tactic to isolate the workers little has been confirmed in these

many months. CUPE has claimed that they have achieved partial ground pay for the flight attendants and have hinted at inflation scaling pay, but the first contract was rejected by 99.1 percent of the union vote. Beyond this, as is standard with CIRB and similar arbitrations, the proceedings are confidential.

## The Future and Limits of Union Dealings

This strike was remarkable in ways and unremarkable in others. In terms of the actual contract negotiations, the settlement is predicted to be very similar to the aforementioned airline strikes with increased pay, decreased management and paid ground work. Other airline unions with soon to expire contracts are also taking note, and Air Transat workers are preparing a strike as of the time of writing. What was truly exceptional was the militancy displayed by the strikers themselves who openly went against the demands of the state, if only for a time. This energy, funneled through the union, became fizzled and moot as the workers power once again only gained them the minimum concessions. When the first contract was proposed, nearly identical to the now expected contract, 99.1 percent of the workers rejected their deal. It is clear that without the threat of law, without the threat of arrest and impoverishing fines, the workers would have no problem using their power to take what they want from the bourgeois parasites. Only the combined power of the state and corporations, which always act in tandem, is enough to subjugate the workers' strength and cattle them into their union handlers.

# 7 Years of Struggle at Canada Post

In 2018, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) was in a months-long negotiation with Canada Post over issues such as job security, guaranteed hours, and wage increases. On October 22nd of that year, and after 10 months of negotiations, the union issued a legal notice to Canada Post for a strike. In an effort to allow for packages to continue to flow, and to win over the support of customers, the union declared a rotating strike; a rotating strike meaning that certain locations would strike on certain days while other locations work, the strike would change locations, and no location would strike more than a day. This not only disunified the strike but also allowed packages to continue moving and for Canada Post to continue to operate during a strike. A strike without a strike! By November, Canada Post began posturing in the media that the strike, although rotating, was holding back packages and creating a backlog; the media portrayed workers as withholding packages right before Christmas, which was to be the ammunition that the state would use for suppressing the strike. On November 23rd, the state crafted and passed Bill-C89, the Postal Services Resumption and Continuation Act, forcing workers off their already limited pickets and back to work. The union pledged to fight the state in court and questioned the constitutionality of Bill-C89. This limited the terrain of the struggle to the judicial world, ending the struggle for the workers. The workers would only gain a contract in 2021 after years of negotiations and no contract. The two year contract promised an annual 2% wage increase (at that time this raise didn't match inflation leaving workers struggling to keep up with soaring prices), and a promise to not include a clause in the contract which would force workers to work overtime (this part of the contract would only be in effect until January 1st of 2024 despite the contract lasting until the 31st of January). The contract also divided rural and urban workers, as the rural workers' contract expired on the 31st of January 2023, and the urban workers' contract expired a year later. This would leave one section of workers without a contract, further dividing the postal workers. This marked a massive defeat for postal workers. Not only did the union withhold workers from striking effectively, but they also chose to fight a losing battle in the courts, allowing them to prolong any struggle whilst promising to fight for workers on bourgeois terrain. Finally, the contract decided in 2021 by the union would only set the workers up for future defeat; it divided the strike mandate between urban and rural workers and left

real wages dropping during the pandemic when postal workers were working at an increased rate.

The strike of 2024 was a continuation of the strike from 2018; workers still felt unresolved in their conflict, and Canada Post was still unwilling to budge on wage demands and job security. One significant development of the strike was that Canada Post was trying to "Uberize" the workforce; they were attempting to have part-time workers on weekends only, without promising full 8-hour shifts. "By implementing a gig-economy, such as that of Amazon, Canada post hopes to incorporate cheaper, non-unionized workers". Negotiations centered around these issues began in November of 2023. By August of 2024, negotiations were still ongoing, and CUPW turned towards the state and demanded a mediator. The mediator didn't help in the conflict, and by November of 2024, CUPW again issued a 72-hour strike notice; Canada Post retaliated with a lockout at the same time. By November 15th, workers went to the picket line over the same issues as 2018, the state promised neutrality (despite sending rail and dock workers back to work years and months prior, and not hesitating to send postal workers back in the past). As of 2024, Canada Post was facing bankruptcy and trying to push the crisis onto the workers through Uberization and firings. After 13 days they began firing workers who were on strike. CUPW called it a scare tactic and ordered workers to ignore the firings. This blatant attack on striking workers led the union to call upon the state and file a complaint against the company. The union took the only road it knew, legalism, and appealed to the state to mediate. On December 17th, after a month on the picket line and a promise by the state not to intervene, the Labour Minister ordered striking workers back to work; although this was defied by union leaders in New Brunswick for a brief period, they did so to bring the company to more fair bargaining standards, which eventually fizzled out, and they bowed to the whim of the union and state.\*

The 2024 strike ended in another march back to work under state orders, as the state would force the union to negotiate an agreement. Agreement negotiations were extended until May of 2025. Between December and May, Canada Post lamented the loss of profits and its unprofitable business model. This made every union demand, in their eyes of the employer, a direct attack on a company that was already sinking. By the May deadline, no agreement had been reached, and the union, unsatisfied, called for a strike

notice. This forced Canada Post to acquiesce and announce a minor concession, a ban on overtime work, to allow negotiations to continue. This highlights not only the company's unwillingness to give any concession unless under threat, but also the way in which the union caused confusion in the ranks of the workers. One moment, a strike is called, only to be called off at the last minute, disorienting workers. If the company only gave concessions under duress of a strike, then why not strike? The union demonstrated an unwillingness to strike and a subjugation to the good and fair bargaining procedure laid out by labour laws and the company. Even if those laws entrap it at every step! By September, the company was maneuvering against the workers, shutting down many rural offices and beginning to phase out home delivery. Again appealing to the extreme deficit of Canada Post (a staggering 1 billion!), the minister of public services, Joël Lightbound, proclaimed these changes had "The goal, ultimately, is to save Canada Post.". These maneuvers were met by an immediate strike call, so the workers were out again for issues never solved in 2018. The speed at which the strike was declared confused many workers. The strike would go on from September 25th to October 10th when the union, finally driving the nail into the coffin, called for a rotating strike. Another rotating strike left workers completely demoralized and defanged. The 2025 strike was short, but it was the last attempt to bring a better deal to Canada Post workers. The union, in its role as a counter-revolutionary organ, was always willing to maintain good relations

with the state and company, even when they were being forced back to work. The union sowed confusion when they called a last-minute strike, and then effectively ended the strike by making it a rotating one and not total. The Canada Post strike saga ended with the union, showing its complete counter-revolutionary colours, by being completely subservient and willing to be the lapdog of capital in controlling and neutralizing any workers' struggle.

The Canada Post strikes serve as an example to workers today, that being the union is not an effective organization to conduct the struggle. With the Canadian state more than willing to shove workers off the picket line and back to work, the unions are their faithful police following every order given. Many today point to the Air Canada strike as an example for unions to follow. The CUPE union refused the back-to-work order and continued the strike for a day until a tentative agreement was reached. Although this may seem like a militant and radical turn, CUPE only made the decision to increase their bargaining position, and had no intention to continue under increased pressure; we can see this as they immediately began making a deal and leveraged the refusal to work in order to get a better deal and they went back on the refusal after one day and no concrete deal. This refusal of work therefore, still remained in the union framework. The only way state repression can be fought is through not only continuing the strike, but breaking the strike free of the union and spreading the strike. When workers begin to form their own organizations to dictate the struggle, strike committees, then they take the struggle away from the union and into a combative terrain.

## What Does Klasbatalo Fight For?

We fight for the political independence of the working class, which means we reject all cross-class alliances with the capitalist class, including its left-wing. We believe the working class must fight on its own terrain: first, to defend itself against the bosses' attacks; and, second, to achieve its ultimate task, that of establishing the world communist future which will rid the planet of exploitation, oppression, and war. It is towards this goal that we fight for the creation of the world communist party, whose purpose is to clarify the confusions among the class and to unify it towards its ultimate end; we believe this party to be the most potent weapon of our class. While we are for the party, we do not believe ourselves to be the party, nor do we believe that our organization alone will become it; rather, we see it as the product of both the wider class struggle, and of the real work of revolutionaries, of which we see ourselves as only one of many elements. We do not see this party as a government-in-waiting, for the emancipation of humanity depends on the active struggle of the whole working class, and this struggle cannot be replaced by the dictates of a minority.

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/Klasbatalocollective>

Email: [klasbatalocollective@gmail.com](mailto:klasbatalocollective@gmail.com)