



On-to-Ottawa Trek Project - June 2010

Calgary, June 9th – ATU Union Hall, 2nd Floor, 5325 – 1A Street SW, 7:30 p.m.

Medicine Hat, June 11th – location and time TBA

On June 3, 1935 more than 1,000 unemployed men left Vancouver to personally deliver their demand for “work and wages” to Ottawa and the source of the problem, the Conservative government of R.B. Bennett. “Riding the rod” (on and in railway freight cars) across mountains and prairie they stopped in Kamloops, Golden, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Moose Jaw, Swift Current and eventually reached Regina, still only half way to Ottawa. At Regina, they were stopped by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) on orders from Ottawa and a month later the strike was brutally smashed on July 1st in a police-inspired riot and its leaders arrested.

Dr. Elroy Deimert (author of a book based on the events of the Trek and the Regina Riot called **Pubs, Pulpits and Prairie Fires**) has organized the 75th Trek Project. At each of the eight cities where the Trek stayed on its way to Ottawa, the project will honour the Trekkers with a program combining history and music, archival photos and a multi-media presentation. **Filming will happen at all the sites and at all events.**



Trek Project Schedule:

- Vancouver, June 5th – Rhizome Café, 7:00 p.m.
- Vancouver, June 6th – Crab Park, 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Kamloops, June 7th – BCGEU Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Golden, June 8th – Civic Centre, 7:30 p.m.
- Swift Current, June 12th – SEIU Local 336 Hall, 4:00 p.m.
- Moose Jaw, June 13th – Moose Jaw Union Centre Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Regina, June 14th - Tour of Market Square and other Regina Riot points of interest

For further information, contact:

Dr. Elroy Deimert, Trek Project coordinator, at 780-933-8781
 Calgary and District Labour Council at 403-262-2390
 Medicine Hat and District Labour Council at 403- 529-0118
 AFL offices at 780-483-3021 (afl@afl.org)

Outpost Productions

Box 1278 Grande Prairie, AB. T8V 4Z1

Trek Project Financial Appeal

To our prospective benefactors, we want to introduce you to a documentary project that we hope will inspire you through its historical and cultural importance. In June, 1935, in the most pernicious moments of the Depression, unemployed men in Relief Camps across B.C. organized, walked out, and gathered in Vancouver to protest their slave-like conditions. Eventually 1,400 of them boarded freight- train boxcars together, starting the legendary *On To Ottawa Trek*. As they proceeded eastward, people in railroad communities along the way responded to their simple affirmation that meaningful work and wages create the respect that all individuals deserve. Their numbers grew as they rode the rails like the dispossessed, protesting government inaction, as their cry for justice dominated the headlines.

Prime Minister Bennett issued orders to terminate the Trek by force in Regina, but the citizens of that city fed and supported the 2000 Trekkers for three weeks through collections at public meeting. Finally, a secretly amassed force of RCMP and city police attacked one of these public meetings of citizens, igniting the Regina Riot on July First, 1935.

Elroy Deimert is the author of the recently published *Pubs, Pulpits, and Prairie Fires*, a book based on the events of the Trek and the Riot. This June, we will honour the 75th Anniversary of these events with his book tour being a part of major celebrations. The celebration tour will stop at all eight cities and towns where the Trekkers stayed from Vancouver to Regina. Besides Deimert's brief readings, these celebrations include the honouring of surviving trekkers and eyewitnesses, and music appropriate to the story, including labour anthems, and folksongs of the Trekkers and of the labour movement of that era. A brief multi-media historical overview will introduce the program.

Outpost Productions, under the direction of Alan Segal and a small team of professionals, will accompany Elroy on the road, filming a documentary of the celebrations, the historical Railway stations, and interviews with veterans and eyewitnesses of the Trek and the Riot. We will also elicit reaction to the celebration of history from present day citizens, delving into present attitudes toward labour, unions, politics, and the role of the individual in social, economic, and political issues. We will also record the marches, tours of the historic sites, and other celebrations planned by local groups and artists, especially in Vancouver, Calgary and Regina. We are confident the film will find a permanent home in the Glenbow Museum, as well as other local museums, libraries, and probably the National Archives. We believe that it may well be broadcast by local and national Television networks, as well as being used in our schools to educate students to this crucial part of our history

We hope this explanation of the project motivates financial investments in support of the film. Outpost Productions has applied for funding, as has Elroy, but filming on the Anniversary dates for the scheduled celebrations, requires a production schedule to start too early for AFA funding allocations to be decided. Should such funding be granted adequate to our expenses, *we will reimburse all investments*. Also, Elroy and I are confident that there are significant markets that will be interested in the documentary, so we are appealing to you for a little "venture capital" to backstop a worthy project. *We will promise to repay these investment contributions in full "if" the AFA grants (in June and December) and/or the sale of broadcast rights, local screenings, and sales to museums, libraries, etc. covers our costs.* Also if commercial sales of broadcast rights, screenings, etc. boost our income to more than 5% above our costs, we will pay a *5% dividend* to the investors (or portion there of, should the profit be less than 5%). We would hope to

be able to deliver that dividend to you before the end of this year if funding allows, but if not, attempts to make a profit from various sales will be pursued for at least one more calendar year through Dec. of 2011. We will keep you updated on the financial situation if you wish.

Whatever the eventual outcome, you will be credited for helping to finance a worthy historical project that will remain in such archives as the Glenbow Museum in Calgary, for future generations. Also, your contribution of **\$2000 or more** will be highlighted prominently in the film credits as a **Project Sponsor**; a minimum **\$1000 contribution** will be listed prominently as a **Major Donor**; and **under \$1000** you will be recognized in the credits as a **Contributing Patron**.

Again, if we recoup partial costs or most of the costs, investors will be partially reimbursed or mostly reimbursed in an equitable way according to their investments. Regardless of the financial outcome, you will be part of something lasting for Canadian History and Canadian Culture.

We thank you for your consideration.

Alan Segal, Outpost Productions

A. Segal

Elroy Deimert, Project Partner

dated..... April 2010

E. Deimert

Contact: Trek Project treasurer, Elroy Deimert, 7205—102 St. Grande Prairie, AB. T8W 2R8
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Alan Segal, Outpost Productions, Box 1278, Grande Prairie AB T8V4Z1 asegal@telus.net ph # 780-5129449 **Cheques** are made out to **The Trek Project** Receipts are prompt.

NB. Obviously there is risk with investing in film, like any venture capital investment, but we feel the prospects of a financial return on your investment are good, and we know that the social justice dividend and educational dividend is a sure thing. Those who donate rather than invest will be significantly decreasing the time it takes to reimburse the investors.