**Economics Outcome 3.3: Labour Unions**

For something different, I have posted a Power Point that acts as a timeline reflecting how the nature of work has changed over the years. Hopefully it stands on its own to show how, as the nature of work changed, workers needed some leverage to ensure that working conditions remained fair.

**Please complete the following, using that PowerPoint as the basis:**

1. **In a few sentences, summarize how the nature of work has changed in humans’ lives, between our hunter-gatherer ancestors’ time and today.**
2. **Apply your knowledge: Choose your method:**

**Option A – Unions in NB.** Just before Christmas, the union of nursing home workers in NB was in a legal position to go on strike. They were fighting for better working conditions, as well as fair pay, in order to be able to recruit the numbers of people actually needed to serve the elderly. The government of NB made changes to the “essential workers” legislation, thus making it illegal for them to go on strike, meaning many of the issues had not been resolved.

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown that workers in long-term care homes are not supported in any province. A high percentage of the deaths from this virus were residents in these homes, because of the very conditions that NB workers were willing to go on strike to change. NB has been very lucky to have kept the disease out of our long-term care homes, but other provinces have not been.

Read through the articles linked below, then **comment on the usefulness of the union in attempting to make change for the workers who are the members** (and, in the lives of the residents of the care homes). **Also, what do you think of the actions of the NB government to get around making those changes. Do you think the union will have more leverage now, as a result of this pandemic?**

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/new-brunswick-nursing-home-labour-dispute-strike-explained-1.5049577>

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/laval-chsld-staff-quit-defeat-1.5545850>

**Option B – Professional Sports – see next page**

**Option B – How do players’ associations help professional sports athletes get their fair share?**

From the beginning, the athletes were the most important aspects of the professional sport leagues; however, they weren’t always compensated fairly. **Consider any Players Association** (NBA, NFL, MLB, NHL). **Find a player who was instrumental in the beginning of that league** (check out Gordie Howe’s story, linked below), **and look at their compensation plan, then compare that with an athlete playing today. How has the organization of athletes into unions (called Players’ Associations) assisted them in getting fair compensation? How have things changed?**

**Look into the most recent “Lockout” or “Strike” situation in that league? What were the issues?**

**Ultimately, are Players’ Associations a good thing in professional sport leagues?**

<https://www.vintagedetroit.com/blog/2013/04/22/red-wings-didnt-go-out-of-their-way-to-pay-howe-top-dollar/>