

## The Great Depression in Canada

*1929*

- North American stock market crashes
- Glut of wheat on the market causes wheat prices to fall
- World market prices for all grains and other products decline

*1930*

- Rain stops. Drought begins
- Poor crop growing conditions escalate weed and insect infestations which exacerbate the poor crop growth
- R.B. Bennett's Conservatives win the federal election
- Control over Manitoba's natural resources is transferred from the federal government to the provincial government
- The U.S Smoot-Hawley Tariff protects U.S. domestic agriculture and restricts Canadian agriculture exports

*1931*

- A dust storm deposits 6000 tons of silt on the city of Winnipeg
- Many prairie farmers experience a 50% drop in income levels
- In Winnipeg, the business community starts to experience a down turn

*1932*

- Federal government establishes relief camps for transient men
- Thousands of Manitobans lose their jobs. May flee to Winnipeg to seek relief.
- Winnipeg's per capita unemployment rises to Canada's second highest
- Hoboes ride the rails in search of work and the federal government, uncomfortable with photos of vagrant men on the trains, tries to ban the practice. When the RCMP pulls the men off the train, depositing them in towns and villages across the country, the outcry is so loud

that the government relents and unofficially allows the practice to continue

*1933*

- Manitoba doctors' fees drop by 50% and were frequently paid in chickens and firewood. They decide to strike for a setting of minimum fees for sick people on city relief.

*1935*

- Canadian government creates the new Canadian Wheat Board
- R.B. Bennett announces "New Deal" (new national economic reforms)
- Mackenzie King wins election from Bennett
- Bank of Canada established

*1936*

- Canadians struggle to survive and many learn to appreciate even the simplest things in life: shelter, food, clothing

*1937*

- Auto workers strike in Oshawa
- Simmering racism and prejudice against natives and 'foreigners' are a product of the bitterness and resentment of some unemployed
- Judicial Committee of the Privy Council finds several Bennett "New Deal" measures to be unconstitutional

*1939*

- By the end of the dirty thirties, more than half of Manitobans have received some sort of government assistance
- Canada declares war on Germany; Britain and France declare war on Germany; as the Great Depression ends, WWII begins