

## Stop #2: 802 Prospect Avenue SW

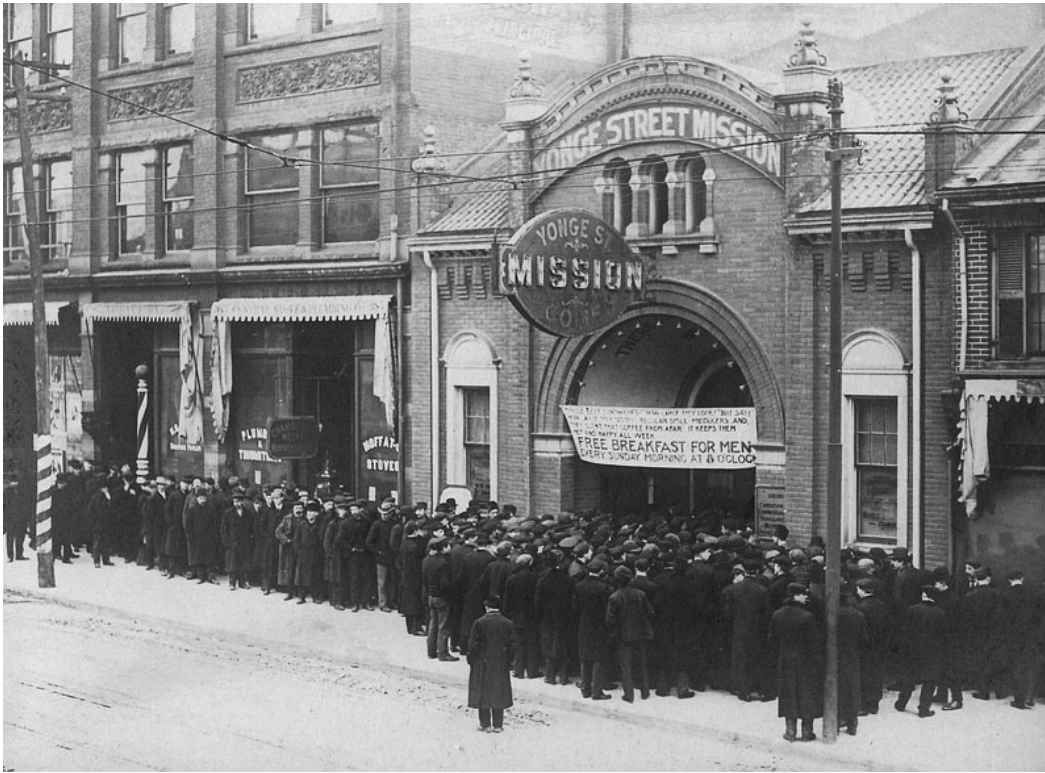
## Stop #3: 2505 5<sup>th</sup> Street SW

### *The Great Depression*

#### Mr. Burima's Notes From Walk

- Brief stop at 802 Prospect Avenue SW. Just down the street from our school lived R.B Bennett – a onetime Prime Minister of Canada!
- Believe it or not, our next stop (2505 5 ST SW) was once the home of TWO premiers of Alberta.
- Their names are William Aberhart and Ernest Manning.
- Ernest Manning was premier from the 1940s to the late 1960s. He actually lived in this house with William Aberhart and his wife after he graduated university.
- William Aberhart was the premier during The Great Depression. Just like R.B Bennett, he was controversial. Loved and hated by some.
- We're going to focus on R.B. Bennett because he was our Prime Minister of Canada.
- Who knows what The Great Depression was?
  - o It was a time of EXTREME economic hardship and poverty. It was definitely happening around the world, including Canada. Factories had closed,
  - o There were not a lot of jobs, thousands of people could not afford food or proper housings. The suffering was everywhere.
  - o Farmers definitely felt it quite a bit in Alberta, but there were also lawyers, doctors who couldn't feed their children – it was a hard, hard time.
  - o On your sheet, you can see a photo of people lined-up for food. Terrified!
  - o There was a lot of horrible weather here in the prairies. Dust bowl. It didn't rain for years, and in 1936 there was a heat wave that actually killed 780 Canadians.
  - o There was also a lot of unfair treatment in the 1930s – since there was so much competition for jobs because no one had one, there was a lot of prejudice. Some factory owners only gave jobs to people of British descent.
  - o We have things now called universal health care and some benefits from the government if you're in really hard times. That didn't exist in the 1930s.
- R.B Bennett was the prime minister from 1930 – 1935. The Great Depression lasted for around 10 years, so he was Prime Minister for half of it.
- Really complicated
- He's a controversial figure in Canadian history. Did he not do enough? He was really wealthy, seemed out of touch. He didn't offer to bring in benefits until the very, very end of his time as Prime Minister. BUT, at the same time, he tried.
- You know how people tweet at Justin Trudeau? Well, R.B Bennett got the equivalent of a tweet, which is a letter. Hundreds of them. And, he answered many of them personally.
- **Please read some of the letters, which are in Google Drive.**

**Stop #2: 802 Prospect Avenue SW**  
**Stop #3: 2505 5<sup>th</sup> Street SW**  
**The Great Depression**



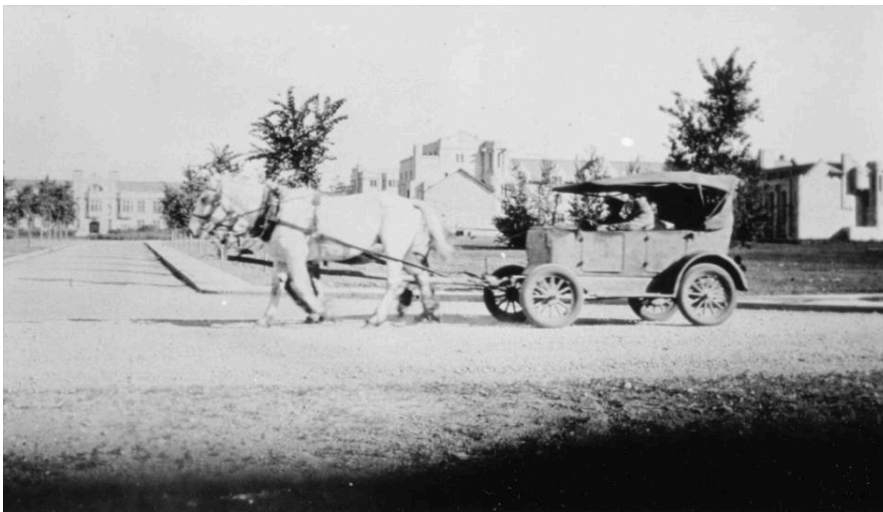
*Line-up For Free Food in Toronto*



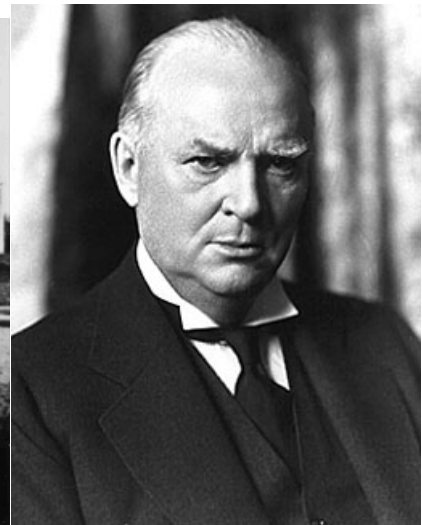
*Premier Ernest Manning*



*Premier William Aberhart*



*A "Bennett Buggy"*



*Prime Minister R.B Bennett*

**Questions/Activities**

1. The Prime Minister during The Great Depression, R.B. Bennett, stood on the other side of that door just down the street from our school. If you could go back in time, what would you ask him? What would you want to know? (*Individually, then group, then class*)
2. How can we help our community and each other during really difficult times? What would you do to help during The Great Depression? (*Individually, then group, then class*)