



## Media Release:

# **A NOT-SO-COMIC BOOK IWW EDMONTON PUBLISHES COMIC BOOK ABOUT THE TRIALS OF YOUNG WORKERS**

**Q:** What do you get when you combine true stories of workplace mistreatment and struggles with 6 aspiring artists?

**A:** *Shift in Progress: A Not-So-Comic Book!*

Interviews with young workers and the real-life experiences of the artist participants themselves provided the material for the 5 uniquely illustrated stories that are contained in the graphic story anthology that is *Shift in Progress: A Not-So-Comic Book*.

The goals of the “Not-So-Comic Book” project, a project of the Edmonton branch of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), were: to empower young people to tell their stories about their workplace experiences, to create a common story that speaks directly to the community through an art form that is current and relevant to them, and to enable the community to make its voice heard in a broader context. The overall goal was illustrate and try to address some of the pressing issues of the “Voices Less Heard” of young workers in Edmonton today. The issues, both universal and personal, were identified through interviews with young workers. Interview notes and were handed over to the young artists participating in the project. The themes that came out of the interviews (and out of the artists’ personal experiences) are shared in *Shift in Progress: A Not-So-Comic Book* - a truth-based fiction.

Some of the moving stories in this book simply raise the issues and ask some hard questions; some propose actions that workers might take towards bettering their workplaces. It is hoped that the book may inspire workers young and old to make changes of their own.

A book launch party is being held in Edmonton on November 20th, 2008, at 6:30 p.m., at Happy Harbor Comics (Vol I): 10112 - 124 St. Come buy a copy and get it signed by the contributing artists!

*Shift in Progress* received funding from through Edmonton’s 2007 Cultural Capital Community Program, “Voices Less Heard.”

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The Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) is a union for all workers, a union dedicated to organizing on the job, in our industries, and in our communities, both to win better conditions today – and to build a world without bosses, a world in which production and distribution are organized by workers to meet the needs of the entire population, not merely a handful of exploiters. <http://edmonton.iww.ca>