

## Constable William Moss



William Moss was born March 3, 1935. As a young man, he joined the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC) and became a Constable in St. John's.

The Newfoundland Logger's Strike began on December 31, 1958 when hundreds of loggers employed by the Anglo-Newfoundland Development Company (A.N.D. Co.) at Grand Falls refused to work until they saw an increase in wages, and better working and living conditions at the wood camps. The A.N.D. Company and the logger's union, the International Woodworkers Association (IWA), did not come to any agreement and after six weeks on February 12, 1959, the provincial government, under Premier Joey Smallwood, passed a law in the legislature stripping the IWA of its legal bargaining rights.

By early March 1959, additional officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the RNC, including Constable Moss, were stationed at Grand Falls to monitor the situation. On Tuesday, March 10, a contingent of officers was sent to the town of Badger to keep the peace. That evening, 66 RNC and RCMP officers were ordered to march through the community where approximately 250 IWA workers were gathered. The two sides clashed and before the incident was over, Constable Moss was on the ground after suffering a blow to the head from a piece of wood. Constable Moss was taken to hospital in Grand Falls and died from his injuries two days later on Thursday, March 12. His body was returned to Port Blandford where he was buried.

Smallwood replaced the IWA with the government sponsored Newfoundland Brotherhood of Wood Workers. The loggers quickly signed a contract with the A.N.D. Co. and ended the strike. The Newfoundland government subsequently setup up a Royal Commission into the logging industry and it was recommended that camps be supplied with electricity, piped water, hand basins, heating stoves, and proper food.



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