

Migration flows

Chapter 2

How did migration shape Canadian society at the beginning of the 20th century?



Canada in 1905



Yukon territory

Districts

British
Columbia

Alberta

Saskatchewan

Manitoba

Hudson
Bay

Ontario

Quebec

Newfoundland

United States

Prince Edward Island

Nova Scotia

New Brunswick

300 km



Gulf of
Mexico

Pacific Ocean

Atlantic Ocean

Origin of immigrants

In 1896, Clifford Sifton, the new minister of the Interior made it his goal to **increase farmers in the Prairies** hoping it would create profits that could be used for the rest of Canada

He started a campaign to attract the **“ideal” Prairie immigrant.**

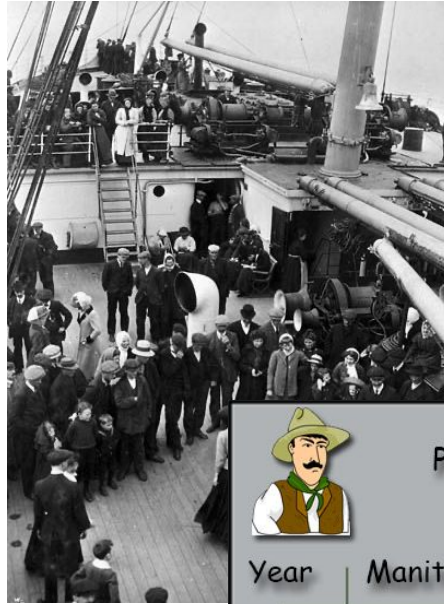
- He believed peasants from Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Iceland were the best to populate the area.
- He believed **Anglo Saxons** (Originating from Britain, now in European countries) **would assimilate** into Canada easily due to their culture



Origin of immigrants

Under Laurier's government and Clifford Sifton's efforts, the **government offered incentives to Europeans to increase the number of immigrants.**

The results were positive: as foreigners started settling in Canada helped to increase farming and grow harvests. **Canada's economy benefited due to this immigration**



Population of the Prairie provinces

Year	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Canada
1891	152 506	--	--	4 830 000
1901	255 211	91 279	73 022	5 370 000
1911	461 394	492 432	374 295	7 210 000
1921	610 118	757 510	588 454	8 790 000

Source : Cranney, M., et al., *Le Canada : la poussée vers l'Ouest*, 2003, p. 260.

160 Acres frit Land

200 Mill. Acres dyrkbart Land i
VESTLIGE CANADA.

til enhver
NYBYGGER.



CANADA

Healthy Climate! Free Schools!
 160-ACRE FARMS IN WESTERN CANADA—FREE!

To enable every would-be Settler to receive direct Official and Reliable Information regarding **CANADA**,

MR. J. BRUCE WALKER

(CANADIAN GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE).

Will deliver his Popular and Instructive

LECTURE

ILLUSTRATED BY A SERIES OF NEW MAGNIFIYENT

Cinematograph and Stereoptican Views descriptive of Canadian Life,

AND ENTITLED:

"CANADA *and* ITS RESOURCES:

A FIELD FOR BRITISH SETTLERS" in the

CITY HALL,

CANDLERIGGS, GLASGOW,

On MONDAY, 16th JAN., 1905

At 8-0 p.m. Doors Open at 7-15 p.m.

Sir **SAMUEL CHISHOLM, Bart., LL.D.**, will preside.

ADMISSION TO AREA FREE (BY TICKET). BALCONY 3d.

THOS. COOK & SON, 83 Buchanan Street, Glasgow

THOS. COOK & SON are officially appointed Agents for all the Principal Lines of Passenger Steamers sailing between England and Canada, and every other part of the World.

JOHN BAKER, Ltd., Printers and Lithographers, 142 Bedford Street, Glasgow.

Laurier's words about immigration

*"We want to share with them our lands, our laws, our civilization. Let them be British subjects, let them take their share in the life of this country, whether it be municipal, provincial or national. Let them be electors as well as citizens. We do not want nor wish that any individual should forget the land of his origin. **Let them look to the past, but let them still more look to the future. Let them look to the land of their ancestors, but let them look also to the land of their children. Let them become Canadians... and give their heart, their soul, their energy and all their power to Canada.**" "*

Source: [Laurier, Wilfrid. "Wilfrid Laurier: Let Them Become Canadians, 1905".](#)

Does Laurier want people to immigrate to Canada? How does he want them to adapt to Canada?

Ethnic origin of immigrants

Gender and age were also considered important factors

- Adult males were seen as **valuable workers** on both farms and in factories
- Anglo-Saxon women were considered important to **continuation of the race**
- **People from Asia(except the Chinese who built the railways) and Africa were not generally welcome in Canada**
- The ***Chinese immigration Act of 1885*** had imposed a \$50 head tax on all Chinese immigrants
- **By 1903 it was increased to \$500-two years salary of a Chinese worker**

???

DID YOU KNOW

Minister Sifton sent recruiters to London to encourage immigration to Canada. For each successful recruit, they were awarded \$2—a generous sum at the time!

Immigration control

Sifton centralized decision making regarding immigration in **Ottawa**; this meant that Ottawa had more power and control. He believed this would make it more efficient

He changed some administrative rules to simplify the process for immigrants to enter Canada

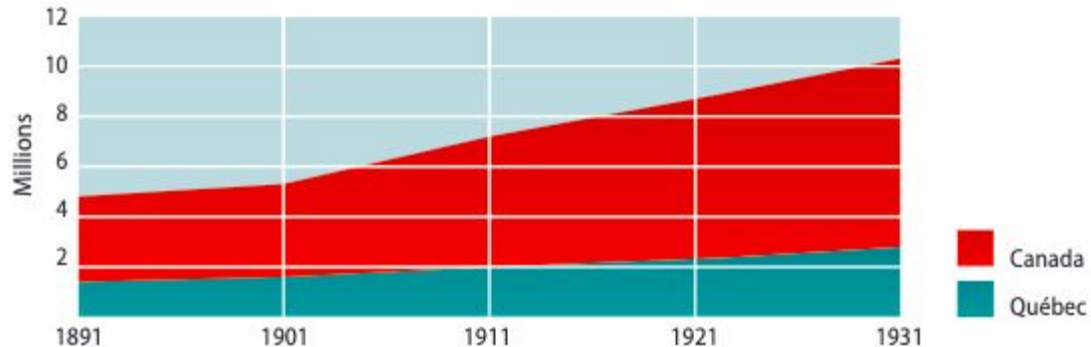


Canadian population

Sifton's action paid off in some way, the population of Canada grew from **4.8 million to 10.3 million between 1891 and 1931**

- More than 4.6 million of these were **European and American immigrants**
- Few immigrants spoke French and those who settled in Quebec were mostly European Jews and italians

2.17 EVOLUTION OF THE POPULATION OF QUÉBEC AND CANADA FROM 1891 TO 1931 

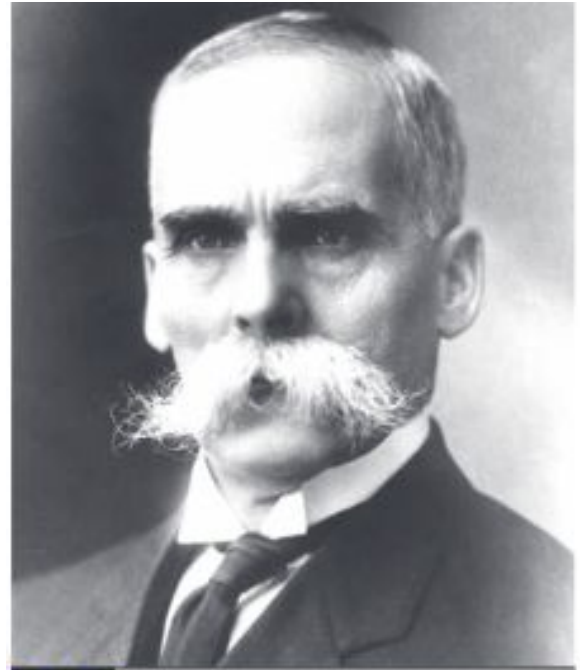


Source: Statistics Canada

Immigration changes and restrictions

In 1905 Frank Oliver replaced Sifton and changed many aspects of immigration

- Oliver believed the **ethnicity of immigrants was more important than experience** and applied different measures

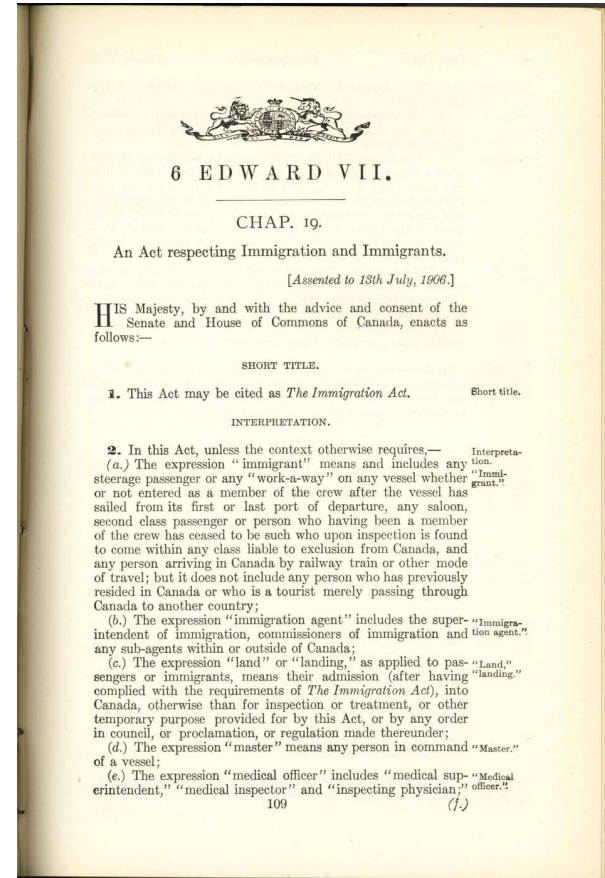


2.18 Frank Oliver, minister of the Interior and superintendent-general of Indian Affairs from 1905 to 1911.

Immigration Act 1906

In 1906, the *Immigration Act* introduced the following changes:

- Increased the types of immigrants that were considered undesirable including criminals, mentally ill and the poor
- Gave the government the right to refuse immigrants **arbitrarily**
- Implemented a clear **procedure for the deportation** of undesirable immigrants
 - Immigrants who did not meet the selection criteria were **deported**



Immigration restrictions

In 1908:

- the **International Boundary Commission** was established to control immigration at the US-Canada border and verify the identity of people crossing the border
- A Canadian law required immigrants from South Asia(usually India) **arrive in Canada directly from their country of origin**. At the time, no transport companies offered this option



Passengers aboard the SS Komagata Maru in 1914.
Image: James Luke Quiney fonds/City of Vancouver Archives/AM 15984::CVA 7-122.



Treatment of newcomers

The Canadian government's main goal was to send new **immigrants to the Prairies for agricultural work** or exploit natural resources

However, immigrants did not have many resources which led to them grouping together based on their homeland. **They often ended up in cities working in factories**

The government **did not provide infrastructure or services** to help integration leading to many immigrants being unable to start up farms



Rise of Xenophobia

Many Canadians were **not accepting of immigrants** who spoke different languages and had different religions and cultures.

This led to widespread **xenophobia** among the population

Some Canadians feared **losing their jobs to newcomers**, others worried they were too **slow to integrate**



2.19 Passport issued to a Chinese immigrant for the sum of \$500.

in this quote by Ontario Minister James S. Woodsworth:

"Essentially, non-assimilable elements are clearly detrimental to our highest national development, and hence should be vigorously excluded."

What is Woodsworth view towards immigrants?

Anti-immigration protest

In 1907, an **anti-immigration protest** in Vancouver ended in violence and vandalism against Asian immigrants

Anti-Semitism was emerging among the Canadian population

Henri Bourassa publicly declared his view that **Canada should be reserved for French Canadians and English Canadians**



2.20 Barbershop window broken during an anti-immigration protest in Vancouver in 1907.



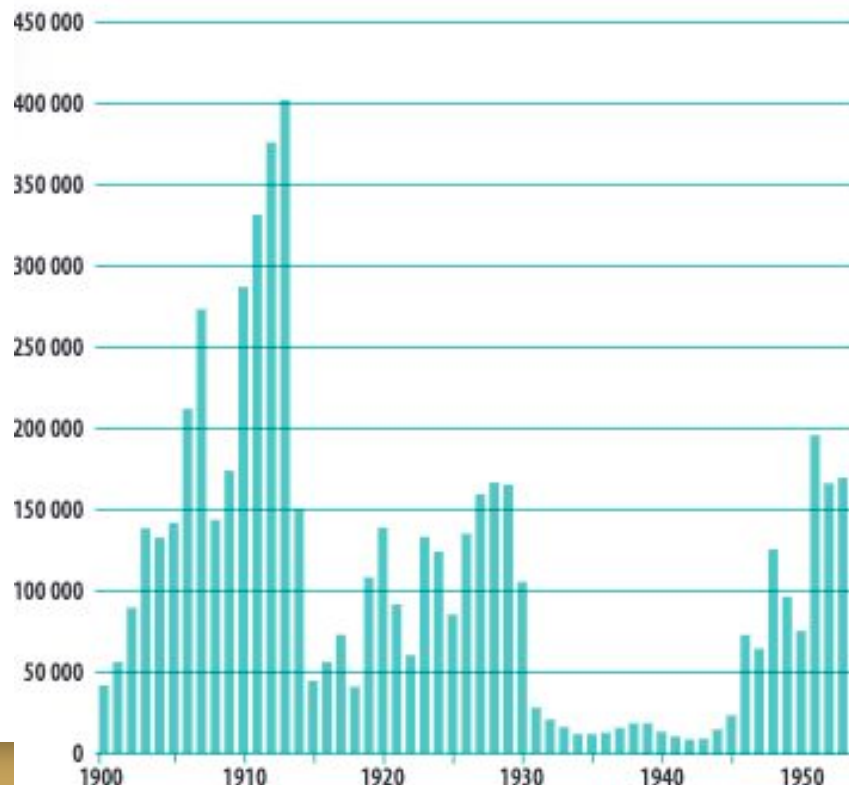
Canada was being more
multicultural, but integrating
immigrants from different
backgrounds was not proving
to be a simple task

2.21

NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS ARRIVING IN CANADA BETWEEN 1900 AND 1953

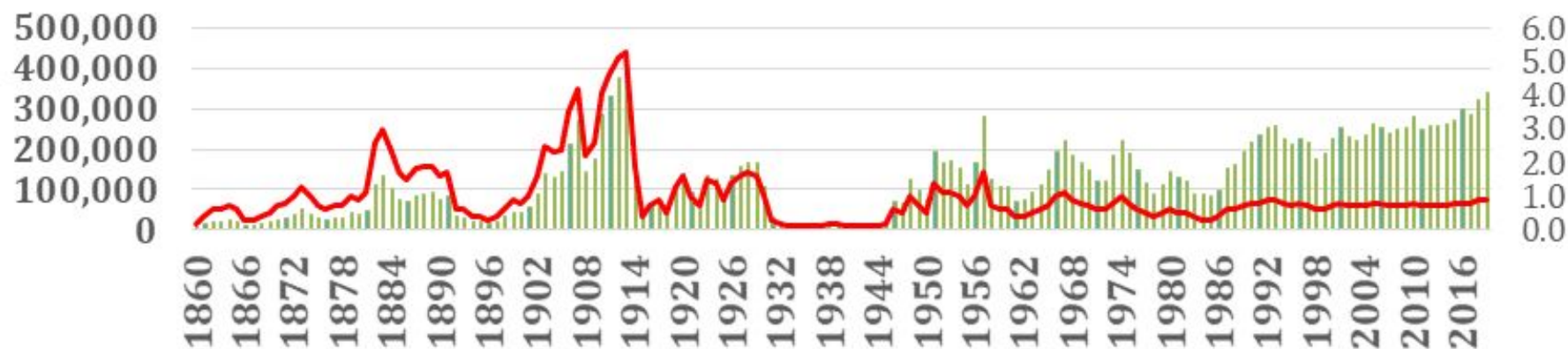


Number
of immigrants



Canada's Immigration Levels (1860 - 2019)

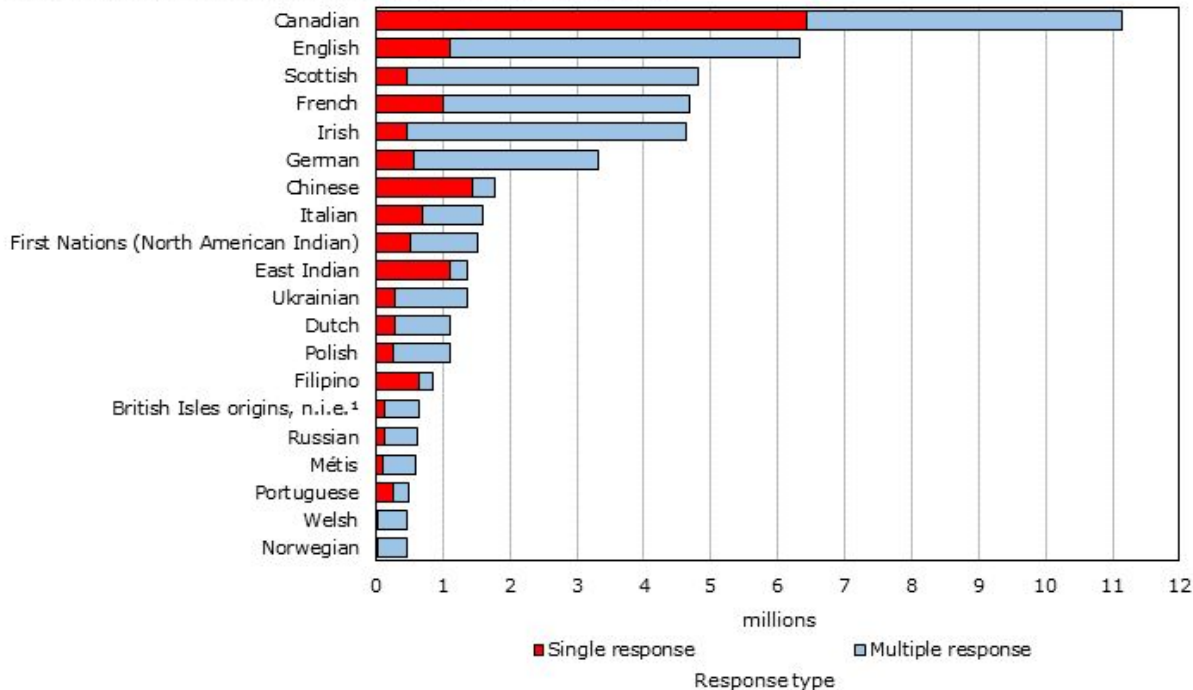
Arrivals (left); as a percentage share of Canada's population (right)



Sources: Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada; Statistics Canada;
cicnews.com

Chart 1

The top 20 ethnic origins reported alone or in combination with other origins (single or multiple response), Canada, 2016



1. "British Isles origins, n.i.e." includes general responses indicating British Isles origins (e.g., "British," "United Kingdom") as well as more specific responses indicating British Isles origins that have not been included elsewhere (e.g., "Celtic").

Note: In this chart, the sum of the ethnic origins is greater than the total population because a person can report more than one ethnic origin in the census questionnaire.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Population, 2016.

What will the population of Canada look like in 2068?

To help planners and policy-makers prepare for the world to come, Statistics Canada produces population projections. These projections make different assumptions about things like:



How many children Canadian women might have in the future



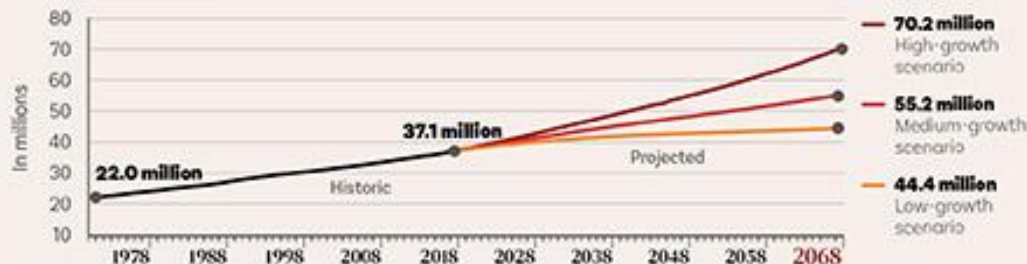
How long the average Canadian might live in the future



How many immigrants might come to Canada in the future



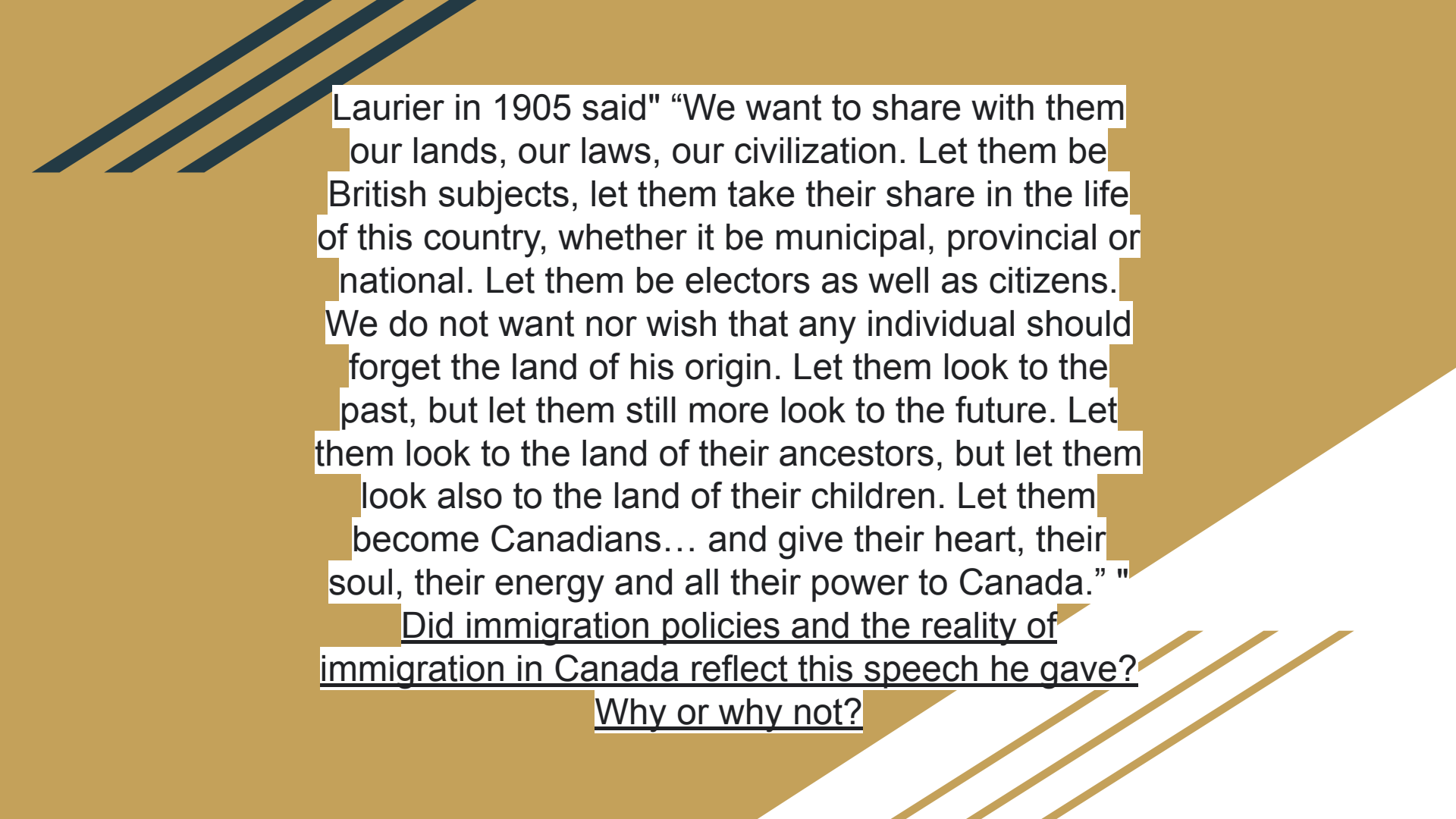
POPULATION GROWTH



Canada's population was 37.1 million in 2018. It is projected to reach between

44.4 million
and
70.2 million
by 2068.

AGE STRUCTURE



Laurier in 1905 said "We want to share with them our lands, our laws, our civilization. Let them be British subjects, let them take their share in the life of this country, whether it be municipal, provincial or national. Let them be electors as well as citizens. We do not want nor wish that any individual should forget the land of his origin. Let them look to the past, but let them still more look to the future. Let them look to the land of their ancestors, but let them look also to the land of their children. Let them become Canadians... and give their heart, their soul, their energy and all their power to Canada." "

Did immigration policies and the reality of immigration in Canada reflect this speech he gave?

Why or why not?

Francophone Catholic minorities

As immigrants arrived in Western Canada, Francophone communities in the area became outnumbered. They started to have limited political rights and by 1890, the Manitoba government adopted an act to separate schools for Francophones in Manitoba. The Francophones contested with the support of Francophones in Quebec.

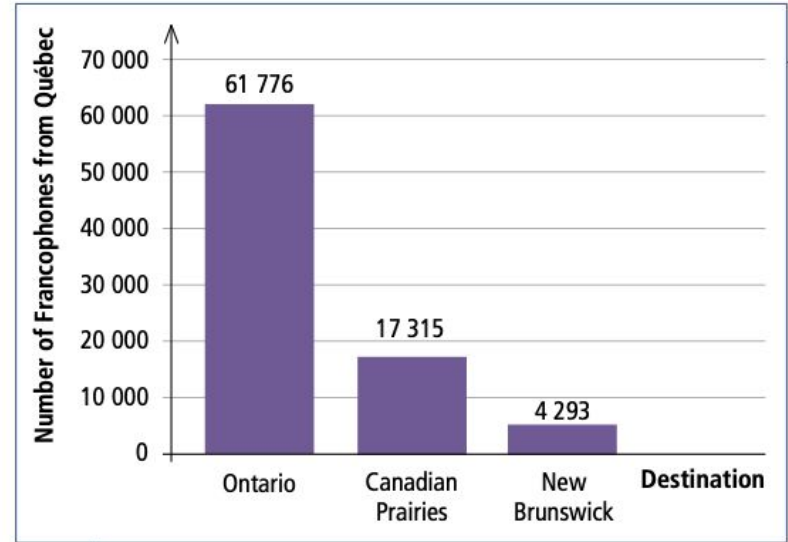
21 A Francophone school in Manitoba, early 20th century



Regulation 17

In 1912, the Ontario government adopted Regulation 17 which had the objective of making sure that instruction was given mostly in English. Instruction in French was limited to the first two years of elementary school. It was only in 1927 that Franco ONtarians were allowed to receive instruction primarily in French

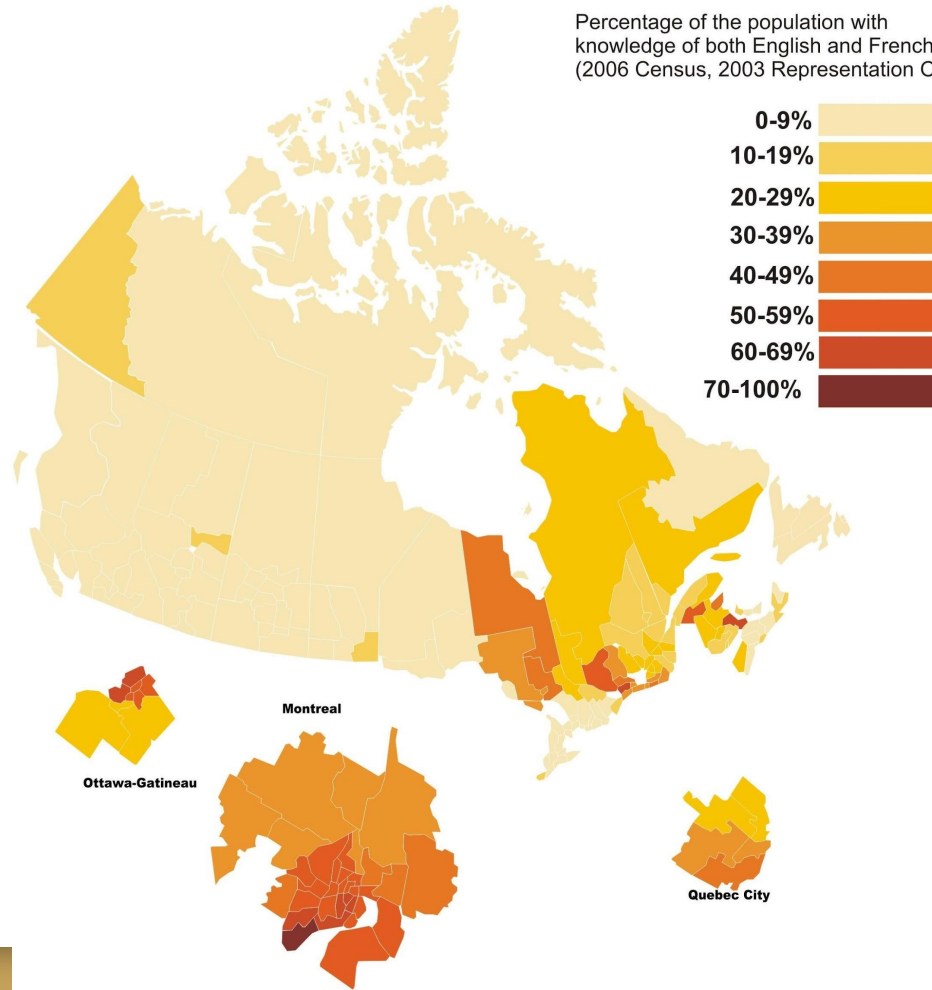
20 Francophones from Québec living elsewhere in Canada, 1901



Data from: Paul-André Linteau et al., *Histoire du Québec contemporain*, vol. 1, *De la Confédération à la crise (1867–1929)*, 1989.

Bilingualism in Canada

Percentage of the population with knowledge of both English and French
(2006 Census, 2003 Representation Order)



22

A classroom in an Indian residential school, in Alberta



In 1920, attendance at residential schools was made mandatory in Canada for all Indigenous children between the ages of 7 and 16.

Changes in indigenous policies

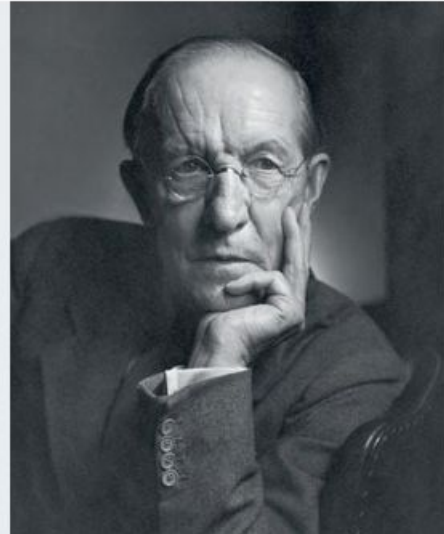
The government began to increase its control over indigenous populations. They amended the Indian act and added more controlling measures. They continued the policy of assimilation.

23 Duncan Campbell Scott and assimilation

In 1920, Duncan Campbell Scott, then deputy superintendent general of Indian affairs, proposed a bill to amend the *Indian Act*. The amendments proposed in this bill sought above all to give the government the right to enfranchise First Nations people without their consent and to require First Nations children to attend residential schools.

“ Our objective is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic and there is no Indian question, and no Indian Department, that is the whole object of this Bill. ”

Excerpt from a speech by Duncan Campbell Scott, 1920.



Traditionally, the Inuit did not use surnames. In the 1940s, the federal government introduced an identification system to facilitate the administration of the Inuit. Each Inuk received a necklace with a small disc that had a personal identification number—a system considered by many as discriminatory.

24 A numbered disc



The Inuit population

As Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba had their borders stretched to the North in 1912, the federal government began to discuss who was legally responsible for the Inuit. It was in 1939 that the Supreme Court ruled that the Inuit should be considered “Indians”. They were still not fully made subject to the Indian Act. The federal government did try to help the Inuit in later years when they needed medical services and help with administration

