

History in our Faces on Occupied Land: A Race Relations Timeline



Vancouver Status of Women
Feminist Working Group

2008
Vancouver, BC
Coast Salish Lands

History in our Faces on Occupied Land: A Race Relations Timeline

“We are acknowledging our history because Canadian History has not. This is not a comprehensive history, but it is a beginning. We urge you to continue this process.”

Benita Bunjun and Marian Gracias

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Vancouver Status of Women (VSW) recognizes the historical and current processes of colonization on Indigenous land and acknowledges that Canada remains under colonial occupation. We understand that our work towards social change takes place on traditional Coast Salish territory.

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The Vancouver Status of Women is a non-profit, feminist, community-based organization with a vision of freedom and self-determination for all through responsible, socially just, healthy and joyful communities both locally and globally. VSW’s mandate is to work with women to ensure our full participation in the social, economic, and political life of our communities

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Preamble

This timeline has been created as part of Vancouver Status of Women's Racialization of Poverty Project, a feminist, anti-racist and intersectional research project that analyses how Canada's historic and current legislation creates poverty for racialized communities in very specific and pervasive ways. Our analysis locates the violent history of European colonization of Indigenous¹ Peoples in Canada as a central point of the discussion on legislated racism in Canada; as such, VSW recognizes that the challenges faced by Indigenous communities in Canada today are a direct result of Canada's systemic and institutional tactics of genocide and assimilation. As Cree historian Winona Stevenson's writes:

The colonization of [Indigenous] Peoples by Western European nations and later by Canada, has had a number of phases, each with its own set of overlapping economic, social, political and legal agendas. Mercantilists wanted our furs, missionaries wanted our souls, colonial governments, and later Canada, wanted our lands. Five hundred years later colonialist wants are still unsatiated – [Indigenous] Peoples across present-day Canada continue struggling to protect their natural resources (lumber, minerals, and water), to protect their traditional ways of life from missionary incursions, currently in the form of Protestant fundamentalism; and to reclaim stolen lands and self-government jurisdictions. (Stevenson 49)

As Stevenson points out the complexity of Canada's colonial enterprise, VSW also seeks to reveal here the myth of Canada as an originally White nation; neither history nor the existence of the land now called Canada begins with the arrival of White Europeans to this land. In The Colour of Democracy: Racism in Canadian Society Frances Henry and Carol Tator explain that, "before contact with Europeans, [Indigenous] nations were fully independent and 'organized in societies and occupying the land as their [ancestors] had done for centuries'" (Henry & Tator 106). VSW also acknowledges that throughout this colonial history, Indigenous Peoples in Canada and elsewhere have proven tenacious, demanding that their inherent rights and title to Indigenous lands, water, air, and minerals be recognized and respected (Stevenson 49). With this timeline, we have attempted to demonstrate some events in history where racialized people and their allies have resisted and challenged state racial discrimination; human resilience and social movements always contest, resist, and transform oppressive structures.

Through this timeline we also seek to highlight that the hard work of racialized immigrants has in large part built this nation-state now called Canada. The Canadian state has historically relied on and exploited the work of racialized immigrants to further White

¹ In this document we use the term 'Indigenous' to describe the original inhabitants of the occupied and ancestral lands of what is now called Canada. Unlike the terms 'Indian,' 'Native,' 'Aboriginal,' and 'First Nations,' the term 'Indigenous' is not state imposed. However, granted the effects of colonization and state regulation of Indigenous identities, in some instances we do use the term 'Indian,' specifically when referring to legislation, such as the Indian Act. Elsewhere, we problematize the term 'Indian' by holding it within quotation marks.

Canada's plan for the building of a new (White) nation. We seek to honour all the people and communities who passed on, suffered, and continue to suffer under the laws and exploitative labour programs of this nation-state. We also seek to remember the courage racialized communities have shown historically and continue to show with resistance, struggle, and resilience in the face of this oppressive regime.

Furthermore, while this timeline attempts to bring forward Canada's history of legislated racism, it is evident that we have not been able to incorporate all peoples' histories at all moments. For this reason we hope that all readers will go beyond this timeline and integrate their own community and family histories. We encourage you to continue this process.

For those of us who have worked on this timeline, the process has at times evoked pain, anger, and sadness. This same process has also meant a form of collective remembering and an act of social change and healing in itself. May this timeline's collective remembering also serve to honour all those who have struggled before us, as well as those that continue to do so today, while recognizing the many journeys towards healing and resistance. We are deeply thankful for those who have persevered and challenged the Canadian policies of exclusion, discrimination, genocide and hatred outlined in this timeline. With our thankfulness, we also bear a responsibility to continue to bring this history forward and to struggle for an end to legislated oppression at multiple fronts.

May this timeline honour you, your strength and your courage.

History in our Faces on Occupied Land: A Race Relations Timeline

Pre-
Colonization

Before contact with Europeans, Indigenous nations were fully independent, organized in societies, and occupying the land as their ancestors had done for centuries.¹

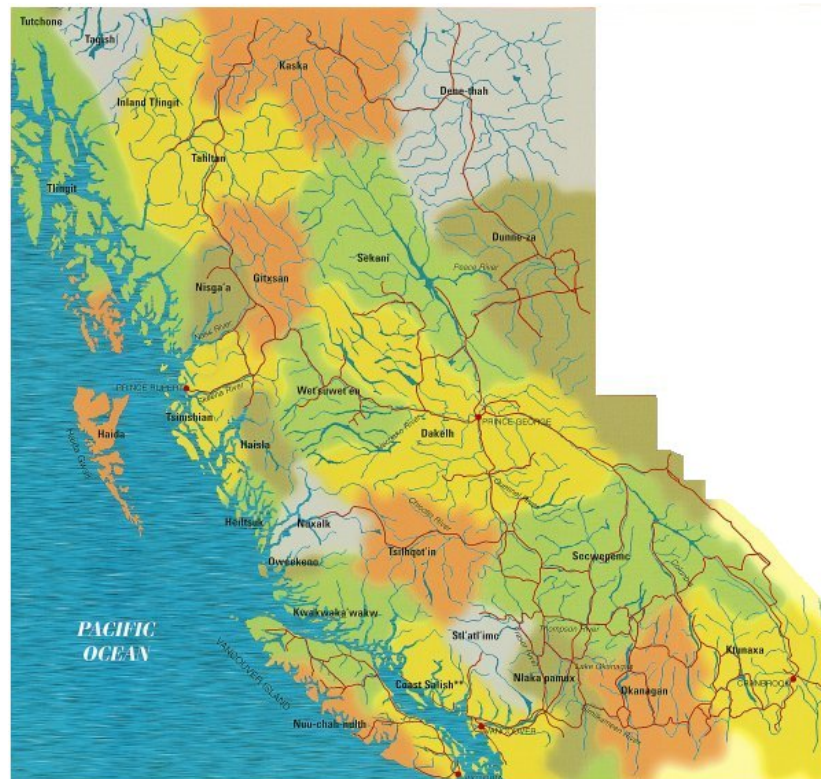


Image 1: 'First Nations' of BC Map, designed to illustrate the diversity of the Indigenous Peoples of British Columbia.

- 1492 Christopher Columbus arrives on what becomes known as the Americas.²
- After his arrival, the violence of European colonization spreads rapidly throughout the continent.
- 1493 **Papal Bull: Inter caetera.** As a decree issued by the Pope Alexander VI, this Papal Bull grants Spain a large part of the continent of the Americas.³ As such, this decree “helped Christian nations justify their seizure of Indigenous lands.”⁴
- 1497 English settler John Cabot arrives on the east coast of what becomes Canada and begins to claim land. He “travels the coast of Labrador and

Nova Scotia. He names New Found Isle, later known as Newfoundland.”⁵

- This encourages European exploitation of Indigenous resources through practices such as cod fishing and whaling.

- 1534 Jacques Cartier enters the Gulf of the St. Lawrence River.⁶
- European incursion increases into what becomes Canada.
- 1537 **Papal Bull: Sublimus Deus.** As a decree issued by Pope Paul III, this papal bull states: “We define and declare by these our letters [that] the said Indians and all other people who may later be discovered by Christians, are by no means to be deprived of their liberty or the possession of their property, even though they be outside the faith of Jesus Christ; and that they may and should, freely and legitimately, enjoy their liberty and the possession of their property; nor should they be in any way enslaved.”⁷
- 1608 First permanent European Settlement established by Samuel de Champlain in what becomes Canada.⁸
- 1608 French introduce Black slavery into Canada.⁹
- 1613 The Beothuck People in Nova Scotia cover themselves in red ochre, thereby becoming known as the “red Indians.” From 1613, French and English fishers practice genocide and attempt to extinct them.¹⁰
- 1629 French bring first African slave from Madagascar into New France.¹¹
- 1692 The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy creates an historic pact with the English, recorded in the Two Row Wampum. The two rows symbolize two peoples, two paths, peace, friendship, respect, and the agreement that both nations would retain complete economic, political, and cultural sovereignty in their dealings with the other nation. Many treaties recorded on Wampum Belts are made and broken.¹²
- 1709 Intendant Jacques Randot issues a proclamation making slavery legal in French Canada.¹³
- 1756-1763 The **Seven Years War** takes place between the English in New Canada and the French in New France. European settlers compete with each other in order to obtain Indigenous land.¹⁴
- 1763 European settlers compete with each other and exploit, kill, and infect Indigenous people with tuberculosis and smallpox in order to obtain Indigenous land. For instance, in 1763 Lord Jeffrey Amherst practices germ warfare by giving out smallpox-infected blankets.¹⁵

1763 The **Royal Proclamation** acknowledges a nation-to-nation relationship between Indigenous people and the Crown. The Proclamation outlines the process by which “England must obtain the consent of the [Indigenous] Nation in whose territory the English want to settle.”¹⁶ Without treaty or purchase of Indigenous lands by the Crown, **THE CROWN HAS NO JURISDICTION OVER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ON THOSE LANDS.**¹⁷

1763 **Treaty of Paris** marks the end of the Seven Years War and through this treaty France cedes Canada to Britain.¹⁸ New France ceases to be and the Canadian territory seized by Britain from France becomes the colony of Québec.¹⁹ One effect of this transfer in power is the legal strengthening of slavery in Canada. At this time, 1500 Black slaves have landed in Canada.²⁰ Under the Treaty of Paris, a clause is included by which “British law collude[s] with French law to further the enslavement of African people in Canada.”²¹ Furthermore, whereas under French law Black enslaved people were recognized as human beings, under English law, they were regarded as chattel.²² It is important to note however, that this does not mean that the French treated Black enslaved people any better than did the English.²³

- Slave- owners include high officers of state, politicians, and judges.

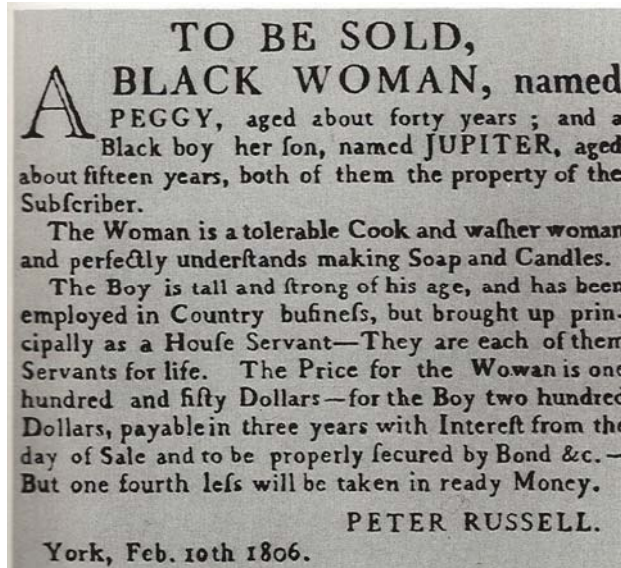


Image 2: Enslaved woman and son advertised for auction sale by owner Peter Russell, member of Executive Council of Ontario

1778 Captain Cook arrives at Nootka Sound in British Columbia.²⁴

1784 In recognition of Six Nations (Haudenosaunee Confederacy) support of the British Crown during the American War of Independence, the

Crown issues the **Haldimand Proclamation**. This proclamation officially recognizes Six Nations land as land stretching six miles on either side of the Grand River, from Lake Erie to Dundalk. This is approximately 950,000 acres of land. Starting in 1795, the Crown begins to violate this proclamation and continually steals more and more land for occupation by settlers, sale to developers, and road construction. The area officially designated by the Canadian government as the Six Nations reserve is now less than 5% of the original area promised by the Crown in 1784.²⁵

- 1784 Race riot in Shelburne and Birchtown, Nova Scotia: A mob destroys Black people's property and drives Blacks out of the townships.²⁶
- 1795 The Crown's ongoing theft of land continuous and the violation of the 1784 **Haldimand Proclamation** begins. Lieutenant-Governor John Simcoe decides to reduce the area formally recognized as Six Nations land by the Crown to 275,000 acres.²⁷
- 1829 Shanawdithit, the last person of the Beothuk People, dies from tuberculosis at the age of 26.²⁸ She dies in St. John, where Newfoundland governors had taken her captive in their racist and misguided effort to 'preserve' the Beothuk culture.²⁹ After her death, no more Beothuk People are found in Newfoundland.
- 1850 **An Act for the Better Protection of Lands and Property of the Indians in Lower Canada** - First laws governing 'Indian' status - The government of what was then the colony of Canada, passes the first law arrogating itself the authority to define who is and who is not a member of the an Indigenous Nation- designating the term "Indian." This legislation was put in place to "protect the property of Indians" and it was pronounced that the act was applied to "Indians and those who were intermarried with Indians."³⁰
- 1850 The Canadian government places Indigenous People categorized as having 'Indian Status' on reserves.³¹
- 1850 First wave of Chinese settle in Canada as part of the gold rush.³²
- 1850 James Douglas, who is both Governor of the colony and Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company, made a series of 14 land purchases from Aboriginal peoples between 1850 and 1854.³³ The Douglas Treaties – these same 14 land purchases – cover approximately 358 square miles of land around Victoria, Saanich, Sooke, Nanaimo and Port Hardy, all on Vancouver Island.³⁴ A dispute over who would bear the cost of the treaties (the colony, the Hudson's Bay Company or the imperial government) blocks treaty making after 1854.³⁵ No treaties

are made after 1859, including no treaties for the mainland of British Columbia.³⁶

1851-1857 After escaping enslavement herself in 1849 by traveling North from Maryland, Harriet Tubman becomes a renowned Underground Railroad ‘conductor’. Between 1851-1857, Tubman makes an estimated nineteen trips back into enslaved territory and rescues over 300 people from bondage. Tubman’s incredible life rests within the context of thousands of untold and unknown women who endured similar risks and hardships, exhibiting similar courage and tenacity in the fight for freedom and justice for themselves and their people.³⁷



Image 3: Harriet Tubman (1820-1913) is the best-known ‘conductor’ to have worked on the Underground Railroad.

1857

Gradual Civilization Act established.

- This Act provides for the voluntary enfranchisement– meaning, the relinquishment of Indian Status– to individuals of ‘good character.’³⁸
- Upon this (dis)enfranchisement, individuals would no longer be considered “Indians” and would take a portion of tribal land with them.³⁹

- The Act represents a direct attack on the integrity and land base of Indigenous communities.⁴⁰
 - Indigenous communities strongly opposed this Act and largely succeeded because only one man is known to have volunteered for (dis)enfranchisement in the two decades following the passage of this Act.⁴¹
- 1858 **Establishment of the Crown colony of British Columbia.**⁴²
- Consolidates British governance over the traditional Coast Salish Territory where Vancouver now stands.
- 1860 European settlers introduce smallpox to British Columbia in Victoria.⁴³
- 1861 Smallpox rampages up the West Coast and into the Interior. The Haida People, who receive first contact in Victoria, lose 80% of their kin. Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en Nations lose 30% of their people.⁴⁴
- Protestant and Catholic missionaries attempt to usurp the power of the medicine people.⁴⁵
- 1864 Until the Administration of British Columbia into confederation in 1871, Indian policy comes under the influence of Joseph Trutch who represents the ideology of the frontier: "The Indians have really no right to the lands they claim, nor are they really of any actual value or utility to them, and I cannot see why they should...retain these lands to the prejudice of the general interest of the colony."⁴⁶
- 1864 Captain Denman destroys a village in Clayquot Sound on the coast of British Columbia.⁴⁷
- 1866 Vancouver Island and the mainland of British Columbia are united into one colony – with no treaties signed for BC. Joseph Trutch, who had been the dominant Aboriginal policy maker in British Columbia since 1864, did not accept the existence of Aboriginal title and described Indians as savages incapable of holding concepts of land title and ownership. It was Trutch's position that Indian title had always been explicitly denied in the province.⁴⁸
- 1867 **Confederation** – Federal dominion of Canada formed on July 1st 1867. The British Parliament passes the **British North American Act** for the legal creation of Canada as a nation.⁴⁹ Under Section 91(24), the BNA gives the federal government of Canada exclusive jurisdiction over the administration of Indigenous People and lands reserved for Indigenous People.⁵⁰
- 1868 The new Canadian Parliament passes an "**Act for the Gradual Assimilation of Indian Peoples.**" This legislation consolidates all previous colonial regulations concerning Indian Status, lands, and

revenues and establishes the bureaucratic organization called the Indian Department.⁵¹ Under this policy the Indian Act becomes a key legislative tool for assimilation. There are three functions under the Indian Act intended to assimilate Indigenous Peoples:

1. Creation of vastly reduced “reserve” lands which do not reflect the traditional tribal territories of the Indigenous nations.
2. Creation of puppet Band Councils which replace and undermine the authority of traditional tribal governments.
3. Defining who is an “Indian” under the Indian Act.⁵²

1869

Gradual Enfranchisement Act passed.

- This Act interferes with tribal self-government by establishing the supremacy of bureaucratic authority over traditional leaders.⁵³
- The Governor in Council is given power to impose the Band Council system of governance on Indian reservations and to remove from office those considered ‘unqualified or unfit.’⁵⁴
- This Act restricts the jurisdiction of band councils to that of municipal governments.⁵⁵
- This Act also seeks to regulate Indigenous identity as it expands the differentiation between officially registered “Status” ‘Indians’ and nonregistered “non-status” ‘Indians.’⁵⁶
- Through this Act, Indigenous women with ‘Indian Status’ who married non-Indian/non-status Indian men lost their own status, thus maintaining European assumptions about women taking on the identity of their husbands. This discriminatory section of the Indian Act remains in place until 1985.⁵⁷

1870

Under Louis Riel, Métis People in the Red River Valley declared a provisional government and demanded entry into the confederation as Métis People.⁵⁸

1871

British Columbia joins the Dominion of Canada without the consent of Indigenous Peoples. The terms of the Union acknowledge the Royal Proclamation of 1763.⁵⁹ For a while the Indigenous Nations of British Columbia are hopeful that this may mean a different policy toward them and the land. But through “Article 13” and political chicanery, BC’s Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, Joseph Trutch, manages to retain the status quo and Indigenous People suffer racism and political disenfranchisement.⁶⁰

1870s

First wave of Japanese settle in Canada.⁶¹

1872

In response to the burning of twelve Gitksan houses and six poles caused by a group of miners, Gitsegukla Chiefs blockade the Skeena River to all trading and supply boats. After gunboats arrive at the mouth of the Skeena from Victoria, the “Skeena Rebellion” ends peacefully

when Gitsegukla Chiefs meet with Lieutenant Governor Joseph Trutch and receive compensation for the burning.⁶²

1875

Chinese Canadians are disenfranchised:⁶³

- Prohibited from voting provincially & municipally.
- They cannot serve in juries or work in public service.
- They are barred from professions of law & medicine.
- Excluded from white labour unions.

1876

Canada passes the **Indian Act**.

- The Indian Act, as a policy of cultural genocide, is specifically designed to eradicate Indigenous culture and expropriate land and resources for profit and settlement.⁶⁴
- The 1876 Indian Act further strengthens the 1869 Gradual Enfranchisement Act's provisions instituting elected rather than traditional band councils.⁶⁵
- The Act prohibits Indigenous women from running for Band council or voting on land surrenders.⁶⁶
- The Indian Act defines, dislocates, disenfranchises, removes political sovereignty, coercively assimilates and culturally impedes Indigenous People.

1879

- The Department of Indian Affairs leases lands without band consent. Provisions in the Indian Act weaken Indigenous control over reserve lands.⁶⁷
- Indian Act Amendment bill passed which includes the "Trespass, Timber, and Illicit Sale or Exchange" law. This law enables complete government control over the most micro-economic transactions of commerce including collection of debt, passing on inheritance to a family member, or division of family estates.⁶⁸
- The "Incitement of Indians to Riot" law includes 2-6 months imprisonment for the celebration of the Potlatch, a ceremony which played a central role in Indigenous politics, social, economic, and spiritual systems.⁶⁹

1880s-1996

Government/Church-run residential schools established.

Indigenous children are taken from parents to be "civilized and educated" and "to kill the Indian in the child." Conditions at these government funded residential schools include the following:⁷⁰

- Indigenous children are not allowed to speak their languages or engage in traditional practices.
- Extreme physical, emotional, sexual abuse.
- Schools are poorly built and maintained, overcrowded and under unsanitary conditions –nutrition is deplorable.

- These conditions lead to numerous deaths and serious illnesses
- Residential schools begin to close down in the 1960's and the last federally run residential school, named "Gordon Residential School," closes in Saskatchewan in 1996.

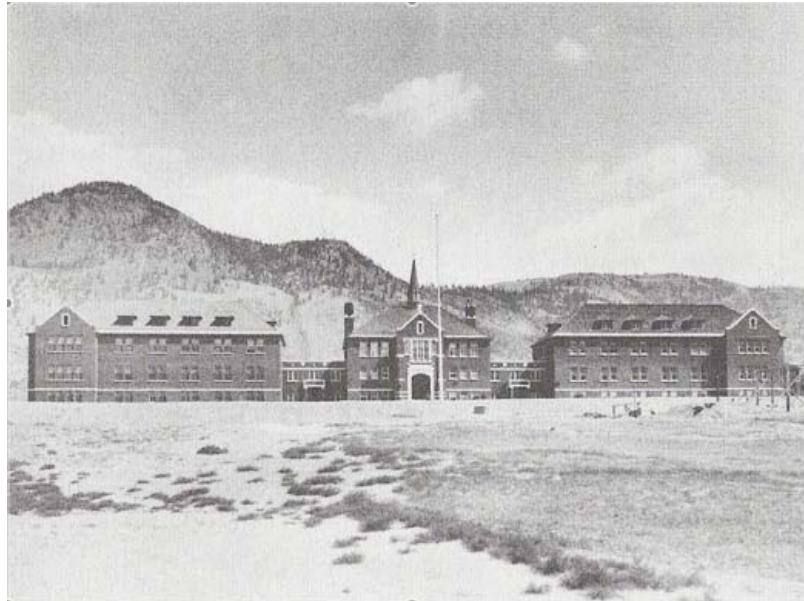


Image 3: Kamloops Indian Residential School, view from the south.

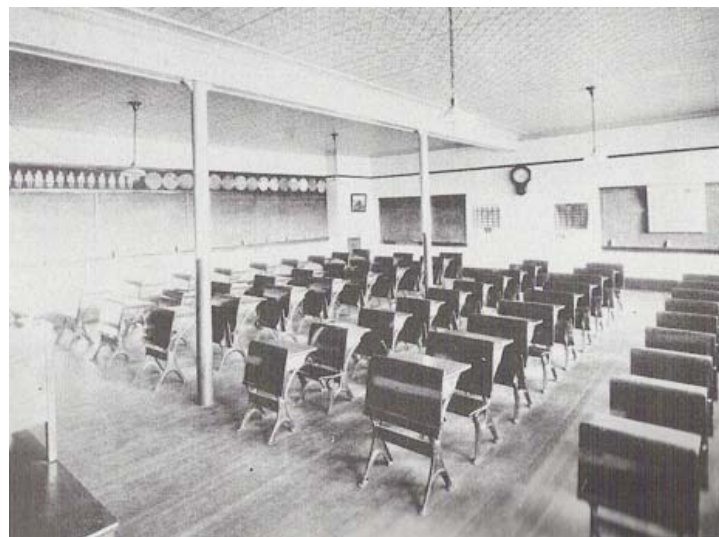


Image 4: Interior of a classroom at Kamloops Indian Residential School.

1880's

Canada recruits over 1500 Chinese labourers to help lay the track for the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) in British Columbia.⁷¹

- Chinese workers are paid wages 1/4 to 1/2 less than white labourers.⁷²

- The Chinese build the most dangerous sections of the CPR through the Fraser Canyon and one Chinese worker dies for every quarter mile of railway built through the Canyon.⁷³
- Hundreds of Chinese workers die from disease, malnutrition, and exhaustion.⁷⁴



Image 6: Chinese workers building the Canadian Pacific Railroad.

- 1879 The Indian Act creates the Department of Indian Affairs and empowers its Superintendent General to impose the elective system of Band Council government. This legislation deprives remaining traditional leaders of recognition by stating that the only spokespeople for the Band are those elected according to the Indian Act.⁷⁵
- 1881 Amendment to the Indian Act makes it illegal for Indigenous people to “sell, barter, or traffic fish.”⁷⁶
- 1881-1883 Canada recruits 13,245 Chinese male labourers to compensate for shortage of White workers. These Chinese labourers not allowed to bring spouses and children.⁷⁷
- 1884-1886 Amendments to the **Indian Act**:
- Accelerate assimilation.⁷⁸
 - Outlaw Indigenous cultural practices, including the Potlatch. The Potlatch provided a central organizational framework for Indigenous cultures. In the Potlatch, new leaders were installed, wealth distributed, names given and recorded, political councils and decisions made, and history instruction and spiritual guidance offered.⁷⁹

- Superintendent General of the Department of Indian Affairs can lease Indigenous land to non-Indigenous People.⁸⁰

1884 **Indian Advancement Act** confers certain privileges for more ‘advanced’ bands of Indigenous People of Canada with the view of training them for municipal affairs. It gives the Band Council power to levy taxes and extends council’s power over police and public health matters. Most reserves refuse to come under Act.⁸¹

1885 In the same year when the Canadian Pacific Railroad is completed, the Federal government passes the **Act to Restrict and Regulate Chinese Immigration into Canada – The Chinese Immigration Act** – the first anti Chinese bill.⁸² This Act limits immigration in response to White Canada’s fears of further Chinese immigration⁸³ and introduces the Head Tax -- \$50 in 1885 and \$500 in 1903.⁸⁴ At this time, \$500 was equivalent to 2 years of labour.⁸⁵ The Canadian government collects more than \$23 million from the Chinese through the Head Tax (this is over \$1billion today).⁸⁶



Image 7: Chinese Head Tax certificate under the Chinese Immigration Act

1885 Permit system instituted for ‘Indians’ absent from reserves.⁸⁷

1885 The Métis rally against the Canadian government and the government responds with changes to the **Indian Act** that codify extreme measures to suppress resistance in Indigenous communities. On **November 16 1885**, eight Crees and Louis Riel are hung in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and 50 other Crees are given lengthy sentences.⁸⁸

- 1885 Concerned about the influx of missionaries and settlers into traditional Nisga'a territories in the Nass Valley in northern British Columbia, in 1881 the Nisga'a Nation sends a protest delegation to Victoria. In 1885, three Tsimshian chiefs from the Nass area travelled to Ottawa and met with Prime Minister John A. Macdonald to discuss land grievances.⁸⁹
- 1886 The Nisga'a in the Upper Nass Valley refuse to allow surveying by provincial crews, and begin an organized land claim process.⁹⁰ In 1968, over 100 years later, the Nisga'a Nation goes to court with their land claim, which continues into the 1970s and 1990s.⁹¹ By 1890 the Nisga'a has formed its first Land Committee.⁹² However, from 1927 to 1951, the Nisga'a cannot pursue their goal for a treaty because Canadian laws make it illegal for Indigenous people to raise money to advance land claims.⁹³ After these laws are repealed in 1951 the Nisga'a Land Committee re-established itself as the Nisga'a Tribal Council in 1955.⁹⁴
- 1887 Chinese expelled from Vancouver.⁹⁵
- 1889 **Federal Fisheries Act** passed, prohibiting Indigenous People from selling fish or owning fishing licenses. Indigenous People who work for fish companies are paid five cents a fish, while White fishermen make 10 cents a fish.⁹⁶
- 1890 British Columbia establishes the **Coal Mines Act** which prevents Chinese workers from performing skilled jobs in mines.⁹⁷
- 1893 Regarding residential schools, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs makes it clear that the federal government intends to destroy Indigenous languages and lifeways.⁹⁸
- 1894 Changes to the **Indian Act**:
- To create an additional definition of an 'Indian' solely for the purpose of the liquor section of the act. This definition included any Indigenous person with or without 'Indian' status who was reputed to belong to a particular band or who follows the 'Indian' mode of life, or the child of such a person.⁹⁹
 - To authorize the forced relocation of Indigenous children to residential boarding schools where Indigenous language, culture, traditions, customs, values, and clothing are forbidden and punished.¹⁰⁰
 - Bands lose the power to decide whether non-Indigenous people can use reserve lands and individual band members are permitted to lease their allotment tickets to non-Indigenous people, regardless of the needs/desires of the band.¹⁰¹

- 1895 Indian Act amended so that traditional Indigenous leaders elected to Band Council office, but deemed unfit and thrown out by the Department of Indian Affairs, could not be re-elected by the people as was practiced in resistance to colonialism and in the fight for self-determination. Traditional Sundances, Pow-wows, and again the Potlatch are outlawed.¹⁰²
- 1895 The **Provincial Elections Act of B.C.** reveals blatant racism by prohibiting voting rights on racial terms. This Act states: "No Chinaman, Japanese or Indian shall have his name placed on the Register of Voters for any Electoral District, or be entitled to vote at any election."¹⁰³
- 1897 The **Female Refuges Act** is passed and not repealed until 1964. This Act targeted and criminalized women for 'immoral' behaviour. Indigenous women who are considered "immoral (for not conforming to European values about marriage, sex and parenting) were sent to Mercenary reform and punished in a similar way that children in residential schools were tortured. Although the Act began in Ontario, women from Gitnyow (a Gitxsan village) and other nations in BC were treated under this law.¹⁰⁴
- 1898 An **Indian Act** statute allowed Indigenous People to be forcibly removed from reserves adjacent to or partly within towns of 800 inhabitants or more. At the same time the Department of Indian Affairs sells lands to non-Indigenous Peoples.¹⁰⁵
- 1900 Genocide has reduced the Indigenous population north of the Rio Grande to 300,000 – same population estimated at 12-15 million in 1492.¹⁰⁶
- 1900 Head tax on Chinese immigrants is increased from \$50 to \$100.¹⁰⁷
- 1900s The Immigration Branch of the Federal Department of the Interior overtly informs immigration agents in the U.S. that the Canadian Government is "not particularly desirous of encouraging the immigration of negroes."¹⁰⁸ Instead of placing an explicit ban on immigration, officials engage in a campaign to discourage Black American applicants for settlement and reject them on the basis of medical or other grounds.¹⁰⁹
- Ontario legislature establishes segregated schools for Black people (in place until 1964).¹¹⁰
 - Residential segregation is legally enforced through racially restrictive covenants of deeds and leases.¹¹¹
 - Black people are refused service and separated in restaurants, theatres, and recreational facilities.¹¹²

- 1900s The South Asian population is growing and anti-south Asian sentiment is rising in Canada. The White population views South Asians with the same racial bias, hostility, and resentment as directed to other racialized groups.¹¹³ The South Asian presence in British Columbia is viewed as a “Hindu invasion” and articles and editorials appear in B.C. newspapers emphasizing the importance of maintaining an Anglo-Saxon superiority.¹¹⁴ The first south Asians to enter Canada are Sikhs, who come to B.C. in the late nineteenth century.¹¹⁵
- 1901 Many Wet’suwet’en families are forced out of their homes as a result of a scheme in the South African War (a war in South Africa between the British Empire and two independent Boer/farmer republics) whereby volunteers from British Columbia who had served in the War are given 160 acres of “unoccupied, unclaimed, and unreserved land” – land belonging to the Wet’suwet’en.¹¹⁶
- 1903 Head tax on Chinese increased to \$500 – at the time this is worth two years of labour.¹¹⁷
- 1906 A Southern British Columbia Indian delegation goes to England to raise the land question with the crown.¹¹⁸
- 1906 Immigration Act. According to Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior, the purpose of the Act was “to enable the Department of Immigration to deal with undesirable immigrants” by providing a means of control. Grounds for deportation included becoming a public charge, insanity, infirmity, disease, handicap, becoming an inmate of a jail or hospital and committing crimes of “moral turpitude.”¹¹⁹
- 1907 An organization known as the **Asiatic Exclusion League** forms with the goal of restricting Asian admission into Canada.¹²⁰ Following the arrival of over a thousand Japanese and a few hundred Sikhs, the Asiatic Exclusion League carries out a major demonstration, which culminates in the worst race riot in the history of British Columbia.¹²¹
- Demonstrators, estimated as high at 30,000, carry placards declaring support for “A White Canada.”
 - White Vancouverites go to Chinatown and destroy property of Chinese and Japanese Canadian businesses.¹²²
- 1907 All people from India, not of Anglo-Saxon parentage, have their voting rights taken away in BC (later to be expanded throughout Canada). This results from White Canadians’ fear of “Hindu invasion” and despite citizens of India being British subjects.¹²³ The effect of this is an amendment to the B.C. Elections Act that adds South Asians to other “Asian undesirables.”¹²⁴ South Asians
- Are denied municipal and provincial contracts.¹²⁵

- They cannot enter professions such as education, law, and pharmacy.¹²⁶
 - Cannot own property in some sections of Vancouver.¹²⁷
 - Experience racial stereotyping and physical abuse.¹²⁸
 - Cannot go to a movie in wearing traditional head dress.¹²⁹
- 1908 The Canadian Federal government passes the **Continuous Passage Act**.¹³⁰
- This Act stipulates that all immigrants must arrive by an uninterrupted journey, on through tickets, from their country of origin.¹³¹ At this time there are no airplanes and people travel by boat. An uninterrupted journey is made impossible since the Canadian government instructs steamship companies to *not* provide this service.¹³²
 - The Canadian government requires that Indian immigrants have \$200 on arrival while European immigrants need only \$25.¹³³
 - Prime Minister Mackenzie King argues that it is desirable, natural, and necessary that Canada should remain a “white man’s country” on economic, social, political, and national grounds.¹³⁴
- 1908 The **Municipal Elections Act** of Victoria B.C. regulates voting on racial terms. This act “makes it clear that no “Asiatic” or “Indian” may vote in municipal elections.”¹³⁵
- 1908 A Gitksan delegation meets with Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier, in Ottawa. They speak eloquently about White incursions in their territories.¹³⁶
- 1909 Kispiox Chiefs stop road building in their valley; the RCMP arrests seven.¹³⁷
- 1910 Amendments to the **Indian Act** prohibit Indigenous People from using band funds for land-claim actions without the approval of the superintendent of Indian Affairs. Kiwancool and Kitwanga Chiefs pin notices of their land claims along the trails in Hazelton district and invoke the Royal Proclamation of 1763 to challenge the white presence.¹³⁸
- 1910 **Canadian Immigration Act** creates a list of preferred and non-preferred countries, with British and White European immigrants on ‘preferred’ list and the rest of the world, made up largely of people of colour, on ‘non-preferred’ list.¹³⁹

- 1910 Black Oklahoman farmers developed an interest in moving to Canada to flee increased racism at home. In 1911 an order in council was drafted prohibiting the landing of “any immigrant belonging to the Negro race, which race is deemed unsuitable to the climate and requirements of Canada.”¹⁴⁰
- 1911 The **Oliver Act** established. The Indian Act allowed for public authorities to expropriate reserve lands for public works, without a surrender of lands. The Oliver Act allowed judges at this time to move reserves near municipalities if it was “expedient” to do so.¹⁴¹
- 1912 The McKenna-McBride Commission is established to address the question of Indian reserves. During the Commission hearings, the Gitksan and Wet’suwet’en Chiefs insist on talking about their territories and reject the idea of reserves.¹⁴²
- 1912 **Saskatchewan Female Employment Act** prevents “Oriental” males from hiring white women, in order to “protect” white women from the alleged danger of working for “Orientals.”¹⁴³
- 1914 The **Komagata Maru** incident. On May 23, a shipload of 376 would be immigrants from India arrives in Vancouver’s harbour aboard Komagata Maru.¹⁴⁴ They are all denied entry except for 20 who have resident status. The Canadian government holds the passengers aboard the ship for nearly three months; they endure heavy hunger and thirst during this time.¹⁴⁵

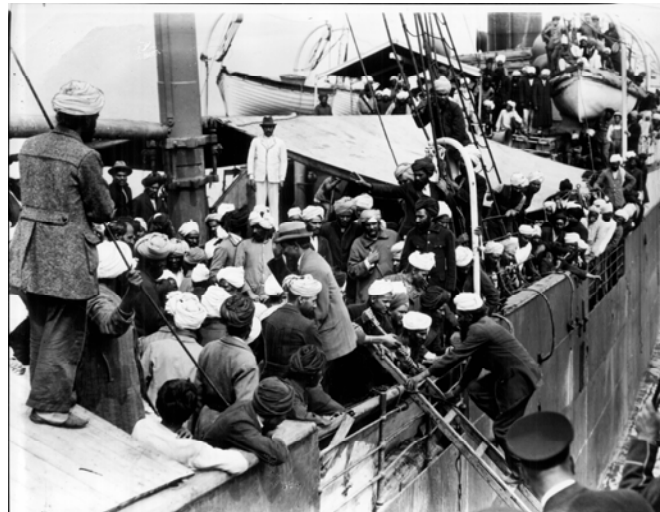


Image 8: View of crowded conditions on the Komagata Maru

- 1914 **War Measures Act** is passed, giving the government wide powers to arrest, detain, deport, and expropriate Indigenous land.¹⁴⁶

- 1915 The first pan-tribal organization in British Columbia – The Allied Tribes of B.C. – is created to address “the land question.”¹⁴⁷
- 1917 **War-Time Elections Act (Military Voters Act)** grants White women - who are British subjects and have close relatives in the armed forces- the right to vote on behalf of their male relatives in federal elections.¹⁴⁸ This act also disenfranchises all persons from “enemy alien” countries who had been naturalized since 1902.¹⁴⁹
- 1918 **An Act to confer the Electoral Franchise upon Women** grants White women the right to vote in Federal elections. In effect as of 1919. Indigenous women and women of colour are excluded from this right.¹⁵⁰
- 1918 Socialist and anarchist groups such as the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW, known as the “Wobblies”) are declared illegal. Another order in council banned publications using Finnish, Russian, Ukrainian, Hungarian and German as a result of fears of enemy alien subversion and pressure from industrialists interested in suppressing labour activism.¹⁵¹
- 1919 A Women’s Division is created within the Immigration Department. Immigrant women who engage in sexual relationships outside marriage are liable to be deported (sometimes on the grounds of prostitution, or if they had an illegitimate child, on the grounds that they had become a public charge, since they would generally be forced out of their job).¹⁵²
- 1919 The governor- in council is authorizes to make regulations allowing leases for mining operations on reserves without band permission.¹⁵³ Later in 1936 the responsibility of Indian Affairs is transferred from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Mines and Resources (RCAP).¹⁵⁴ In the 1920s, legislation ensures that Indigenous “squatters” on band lands, even those who went there to fish, were to be evicted and jailed.¹⁵⁵
- 1920 The Federal government passes legislation making it mandatory for all Indigenous children, 7 years or older, in BC (the least Christianized province) to attend residential schools or face fines and prison terms.¹⁵⁶
- 1920 Amendments to the **Indian Act** remove the power from the band to allow women who “married out” to continue receiving payments and distributions; consequently, these amendments further complicated women’s ability to retain some link to the home community.¹⁵⁷ The act lodged the power in the hands of the superintendent general of Indian affairs.¹⁵⁸

- 1920 **Indian Act** amended for the compulsory enfranchisement (the relinquishment of Indian Status) in return for voting privileges. Compulsory enfranchisement replaced voluntary enfranchisement because from 1857-1918 only 102 people (dis)enfranchised. This legislation was aimed at the elimination of Indigenous People as a legal and social fact.¹⁵⁹ Regarding this amendment, Deputy Minister of Indian Affairs, Duncan Campbell Scott, states: “*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 objective of this bill*”¹⁶⁰
- 1920s Japanese men are paid up to 2/3 of what White labourers earn for the same type of labour.¹⁶¹
- British Columbia legislature pressures federal government to restrict fishing licences to Japanese Canadians.¹⁶²
- 1922 Compulsory enfranchisement was ended.¹⁶³
- 1922 The RCMP seizes over 600 objects in a potlatch raid at Alert Bay on Vancouver Island and divides the stolen objects between the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto and the National Museum in Ottawa.¹⁶⁴
- 1922 **Opium and Narcotic Drug Act** provides for the deportation of “domiciled aliens” (i.e. immigrants who had been in Canada 5 years or more) with drug-related convictions. This measure was particularly directed against the Chinese. In 1923-1924, 35% of deportations by the Pacific Division were under these provisions.¹⁶⁵
- 1923 Canadian Mounties storm and occupy Six Nations Council at Oshewekon and read aloud a proclamation dissolving the ancient assembly; they seize all legal documents and Wampum belts. The government installs band councils under police protection.¹⁶⁶
- 1923 **Chinese Exclusion Act** bans Chinese immigration until 1947.¹⁶⁷
- 1923 Order in Council excludes “any immigrant of any Asiatic race” except agriculturalists, farm labourers, female domestic servants, and wife and children of a person legally in Canada. (“Asia” was conceived broadly, going as far west as Turkey and Syria).¹⁶⁸
- 1923 The Vancouver Park Board issues a map showing the location of “squatters” in Stanley Park. The “squatters” are actually eight Indigenous families and a court case begins to attempt to expel them from Stanley Park.¹⁶⁹

- 1927 The Canadian federal government amends the **Indian Act** making it a criminal offence, punishable by imprisonment, to raise money to press for land claims.¹⁷⁰
- Illegal feasts in Gitksan territory continue with the aid of lookouts.¹⁷¹
 - In Hazelton, a horn is sounded at 9pm every night to signal Gitksan to leave town and go back to the reserve.¹⁷²
- 1927 \$73 million held in “trust” fund for Indigenous People, accumulated through mineral and resource extraction from Indigenous lands, is liquidated to create Canada’s social programs.¹⁷³
- 1928 Alberta passes its **Sexual Sterilization Act** which allows for the sterilization of any Residential School inmate.¹⁷⁴
- 1931 Black Canadians challenge racist practices of separation and refusal of public services and take their cases to court. One such case in 1919, a Québec court rules that racial discrimination is not contrary to public order or morality in Canada.¹⁷⁵ In another known case, a Montreal tavern refuses to serve a Black customer in 1931; the customer takes the case to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1939, where the nation’s highest tribunal concludes that racial discrimination is legally enforceable.¹⁷⁶
- 1933 BC passes its **Sexual Sterilization Act** which allows for sterilization of Residential School inmates.¹⁷⁷
- 1933 Compulsory enfranchisement is re-introduced and remains in the books until 1951.¹⁷⁸
- 1938 Memo to Mackenzie King by Departments of External Affairs and Mines and Resources states: “We do not want to take too many Jews, but in the circumstances, we do not want to say so. We do not want to legitimise the Aryan mythology by introducing any formal distinction for immigration purposes between Jews and non-Jews. The practical distinction, however, has to be made.”¹⁷⁹
- 1939 The Supreme Court of Canada concludes that racial discrimination is legally enforceable - in relation to a Montreal tavern refusing to serve a Black customer in 1931.¹⁸⁰
- 1940-50s South Africa’s minority White regime officially institutes the apartheid system of Bantustans or “homelands” for Indigenous Africans. For their racist project, South African officials look to Canada’s system of segregation of Indigenous peoples and the use of reserves to conceive of their apartheid system.¹⁸¹ South Africa sends Commissions to

- Canada and the United States in order to study their reservation systems.¹⁸²
- 1942 Canada closes its doors to Jewish refugees fleeing Hitler's Final Solution. They arrive on the ship St. Louis, also known as the Voyage of the Damned. The ship St. Louis, carrying Jewish refugees from Europe, attempted to land in Halifax as well as in many other ports in North and South America and was denied entrance to all ports. Of all the Western countries, Canada admits the fewest Jewish refugees.¹⁸³
- 1942 Under the **War Measures Act** (1914), in 1942 the Canadian federal government expropriates land belonging to the Stony Point band in order to build a military camp - Camp Ipperwash. In the years that follow, Stony Point band tries to get the land back, stating that it holds a burial ground destroyed when the camp was built. In 1995, a violent police assault takes place on a peaceful Indigenous protest at Camp Ipperwash in protection of that land. During this police assault, the Ontario Provincial Police fires two bullets and ends Indigenous activist George Dudley's life.¹⁸⁴
- 1942-1947 Japanese Canadians are interned.¹⁸⁵
- Canadians of Japanese origin, including Canadian-born and naturalized citizens (men, women and children) are detained, relocated, and expelled from their British Columbia homes.
 - 23,000 Japanese Canadians, including 13,000 Canadian born, are sent to detention camps in the interior of BC, Southern Alberta, and Manitoba.
 - The government confiscates their property, sells their businesses, and impounds their savings.
 - Many are incarcerated in jails, internment camps, and sent to work on road construction projects in British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario.
 - Not until 1988, after many appeals for justice, does the government take responsibility and give a formal apology and compensation to 12,000 (out 23,000) Japanese Canadians.



Image 9: Japanese people forcibly relocating.



Image 10: Camp to house dispossessed Japanese people –high in the Rockies.

- 1947 Chinese Canadians are given right to vote in federal elections.¹⁸⁶
South Asians win the right to vote in federal and provincial elections.¹⁸⁷
- 1947 Prime Minister Mackenzie King makes a statement in the House outlining Canada's immigration policy. Regarding discrimination, he makes it clear that Canada is "perfectly within her rights in selecting the persons whom we regard as desirable future citizens. Large-scale immigration from the orient would change the fundamental composition of the Canadian population."¹⁸⁸
- 1947 Twenty-three countries sign the **General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt)** in Geneva, Switzerland, to try to give an early boost to trade liberalisation.¹⁸⁹
- 1948 The first of a total of 9 boats carrying 987 Estonian refugees arrives on the east coast of Canada. They sailed from Sweden, where they were

living under threat of forced repatriation to the Soviet Union. All but 12 were accepted (and the 12 were deported).¹⁹⁰

- 1948 Japanese Canadians are given back the right to vote in federal elections.¹⁹¹
South Asians are given right to vote in municipal elections.¹⁹²
- 1947 Indigenous People are able to engage in legal actions or political resistances.
- For the first time, provincial and national Indigenous organizations were consulted about changes in the **Indian Act**.
- 1950 Indigenous People are given the right to vote in B.C. as a by-product of the enfranchisement of other racial groups.¹⁹³
Chinese Canadians win right to vote in provincial elections in B.C.
Japanese Canadians win right to vote in provincial elections in B.C.
- 1950 The Department of Citizenship and Immigration is formed.¹⁹⁴
- 1951 Changes to the Indian Act:¹⁹⁵
- Indigenous People are able to engage in legal actions or political resistances.
 - For the first time Indigenous, provincial and national organizations were consulted about changes in the Indian Act.
 - Laws pertaining to restrictions on ceremonies, dances, and intoxicants were removed.
 - Sixty-seven years after it is outlawed, the Potlatch Law is repealed.
 - Indigenous People do not require permission from the Indian Agent to travel or sell goods.
 - Indigenous women are given the right to vote.
 - Compulsory enfranchisement stopped.
 - Section 87 of the Indian Act makes provincial laws applicable to reserve communities. This section gives provincial child welfare agencies jurisdiction over reserves, enabling them to apprehend Indigenous children in Mass. This led to the “sixties scoop”, where an abominable number of Indigenous children were abducted by the state and put in non-Indigenous homes in the 1960s.
 - Indigenous women, who married non-Indigenous men, are subject to dislocation from their culture, families and lands.
 - Section 12(1) (b) of the Indian Act rules that an Indigenous woman is deprived of her ‘Indian status’ and all her ‘Indian rights’ on marrying a non-registered ‘Indian’ or a ‘non-Indian’. Her children would be ‘non-status Indians’. An Indigenous man under this section, who marries a ‘non-Indian’ or non-registered Indigenous woman, extends his status to her and she gains the ‘Indian status’ and their children would automatically be “Indian”. First Act to

incorporate the key sex-based discrimination provisions on membership and political rights.

- 1952 Indigenous women exercise their right to vote in B.C. They achieved the vote in 1949, but since the next provincial election did not take place until 1952, they did not exercise their right until this year. White women achieved the vote in 1917.¹⁹⁶
- 1952 A new **Immigration Act** is passed, less than a month after it is introduced in the House of Commons (it came into effect 1 June 1953). It provides for the refusal of admission on the grounds of nationality, ethnic group, geographical area of origin, peculiar customs, habits and modes of life, unsuitability with regard to the climate, probable inability to become readily assimilated, etc. Homosexuals, drug addicts and drug traffickers are added to the prohibited classes. The Act provides for immigration appeal boards, made up of department officials, to hear appeals from deportation.¹⁹⁷
- 1955 **Canadian Domestic Workers Program** is established to deal with the chronic shortage of Canadian workers prepared to accept low wages and undesirable working conditions. Initially the program targets Black women from the Caribbean region, and later focuses on women from the Philippines. Many of the immigrants entering as domestics are racialized women and qualified professionals who are otherwise unable to immigrate to Canada because of racist immigration practices. Through this racist program, women immigrating face significant discrimination when seeking other employment.¹⁹⁸
- 1959 Wet'suwet'en women throw rocks off the Hagwilget Bridge to discourage the Fisheries Department from blowing up a huge rock used by the Wet'suwet'en of Tse Kya and the Gitksan of Gitanmaax for fishing. Local collaborators restrain the women. After the rock is blown up the people become fish-poor and experience split-ups in many families.¹⁹⁹
- 1960 **Canadian Bill of Rights** established.²⁰⁰
- 1960 'Status Indians' living on reserves receive the right to vote in federal elections for the first time.²⁰¹
- 1966 Jamaican workers start to migrate to Canada under the **Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP)**. Workers under this program report the outright racism imbedded in both the labour conditions as well as in the program's design (i.e. recruiting people from the global south to do unsafe work that few White Canadians chose to do.) Seasonal agricultural workers also receive less pay for their work, making this immigration policy incredibly profitable to

Canada while further marginalizing the seasonal agricultural workers. The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) is a guest worker program that attempts to respond to the labour shortage in the Canadian agricultural sector. This program is authorized by the federal government through the Department of Human Resources and Skills Development (HRSDC) and administered by privately run user-fee agencies.²⁰²

- 1967 Through the **Immigration Act**, the Canadian federal government introduces **Point System** – An immigrant selection method that purports to eliminate racial prejudice while it selects ‘suitable’ immigrants through a Eurocentric point system. Points are allocated according to six categories: education, languages (English or French), work experience, age, arranged employment in Canada, and Adaptability.²⁰³
- 1969 **White Paper Policy** – Explicitly rejects any special status for Indigenous People.²⁰⁴ Jean Chrétien and Prime Minister Trudeau put together the White Paper policy which repeals the Indian Act and amends the Constitution to eliminate all references to “Indian” people. Because of organized Indigenous resistance, Trudeau is forced to shelve the white Paper policy and consult with Indigenous Peoples about their rights.²⁰⁵
- 1970 **Environmental Racism of Africville**: The Black settlement near Halifax, Nova Scotia is forced to relocate (without the consent of the residents) due to the poverty and health risks imposed upon them. Risks include: human waste disposal pits, an infectious disease hospital, slaughter houses, open city dumps, a coal-handling facility, a tannery, a shoe factory, etc. all of which white Haligonians did not want in their backyards due to environmental racism and classism.²⁰⁶
- 1970 Vancouver City Council destroys **Hogan's Alley**, Vancouver’s Black community, with the construction of the Georgia Street Viaduct.²⁰⁷
- 1971 Helen Betty Osborne – remembered – a 19 year-old Cree woman, is abducted, sexually assaulted, and brutally killed by four white men in The Pas, Manitoba. A provincial report has stated that the police investigation into the case was racially biased – it took more than 16 years to bring one of the four murderers to justice. The provincial report also concludes that police had long known about white men’s assaults on Indigenous women in The Pas, but had done nothing about it.²⁰⁸
- 1971 **Multiculturalism Policy** recognizes “the pluralist Canadian society in that it contains Canadians of British and French origin, aboriginal [sic] peoples, and ‘others.’”²⁰⁹

- 1972 A letter from Jean Chrétien to Pierre Trudeau spells out Canada's new land claim policy.²¹⁰
- To promote negotiations and avoid courts as a way of resolving title, since courts could rule in favour of Indigenous Peoples.
 - To avoid confirmation of title
 - To shift jurisdiction of Indigenous People to the provinces,
 - To negotiate only with those groups willing to accept the extinguishment of their title.
 - To give priority to those areas of development potential.
 - To set rigid time limits on negotiations and threaten legislated settlements
 - To avoid Indigenous political organizations.
- 1973 The Nisga'a Nation continues their land claim under the "Calder Case", named after Frank Calder in 1973. Thus, prompting the Federal Government to develop policies to address unsettled land claims across Canada. It isn't until 1973 that the Supreme Court of Canada unanimously recognizes the possible existence of Indigenous right to land and resources.²¹¹
- 1973 Jeannette Corbiere Lavelle and Yvonne Bedard, upon losing their 'Indian Status' under section 12 (1) (b) of the Indian Act, take their cases to court, where they are denied. The Supreme Court of Canada rules that the Canadian Bill of Human Rights does not apply to Section 12 (1) (b) of the Indian Act and allows discrimination on the basis of sex to continue for Indigenous women.²¹²
- 1973 Overthrow of Salvador Allende's government in Chile. Groups in Canada, particularly the churches, urge the government to offer protection to those being persecuted. In contrast to the rapid processing of Czechs and Ugandan Asians, the Canadian government response to the Chileans was slow and reluctant. Critics charged that the Canadian response was ideologically driven.²¹³
- 1974 A Quebec Supreme Court Injunction stops the massive James Bay hydroelectric project in Northern Quebec from drowning 8000 square km of Inuit and Cree Homeland. Quebec negotiates with Inuit and Cree: the first settlement in Canada since 1921. The people are given \$225 million and reserve lands. Their title is extinguished, as per Trudeau's policy.²¹⁴
- 1974 The Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) extends from using the services of Jamaican workers to also employing Mexican workers. Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) (Antigua and Barbuda,

Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada; Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, and The Grenadines) also join thereafter. The SAWP operates in Alberta, Quebec, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Ontario which receives 90% of workers. Under the SAWP, workers face language barriers, mobility problems and cultural differences manifesting themselves in outright racism. These barriers segregate and exclude migrant workers from the rest of their host rural communities.²¹⁵

1976 Canada starts negotiations with the Nisga'a Tribal Council. The Canadian federal government adopts a land claim policy, which provides that only six land claims can be negotiated in Canada at any one time, and only one in each province. The final agreement is signed in 1998.²¹⁶

1976 The FBI knowingly uses false evidence to obtain the illegal extradition of AIM activist Leonard Peltier from Canada to the U.S. - to face charges for the deaths of the two FBI agents who die at the Pine Ridge Reservation shoot-out in 1975 in South Dakota, U.S. Amnesty International has condemned the fact that the FBI knowingly used false evidence to obtain Peltier's extradition from Canada.²¹⁷ Amnesty International also considers Peltier to be a political prisoner whose avenues of redress have long been exhausted.... Amnesty International recognizes that a retrial is no longer a feasible option and believes that Leonard Peltier should be immediately and unconditionally released.²¹⁸

1977 The Federal Government accepts the Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en declaration for land claims negotiations.²¹⁹

1978 **Canadian Human Rights Act** established.²²⁰

1978 Sandra Lovelace takes the case of 'Indian status' removal and discrimination under the Indian Act to the United Nations International Human Rights Commission, which rules in her favour.²²¹ The UN finds Canada in breach of Article 27, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

1978 **Immigration Act, 1976** introduced. This Act created four new classes of immigrants who could come to Canada:²²²

- Family class
- Humanitarian class (Refugees and persecuted or displaced persons who do not qualify as refugees under the UN)
- Independent class
- Assisted relatives

- 1980 The **Constitutional Express**, an action organized by the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, takes approximately 1000 people across Canada to Ottawa to protest to Federal Government's proposal for Partition of the Canadian Constitution, which would entail Indigenous People's loss of their Indigenous rights.²²³
- 1980 Ministers monitorium on section 12(1) (b) and section 12(1) (b) (a) (iv), known as the "double mother clause," which provides that a person whose parents married on or after 4 September 1951 and whose mother and paternal grandmother had not been recognized as 'Indians' before their marriages, could be registered at birth, but would lose their 'Indian status' and band membership on his or her 21st birthday.²²⁴
- 1980s 'Business class' immigrants added to the **Immigration Act, 1976**.²²⁵
- 1981 The federal government issues a restatement of its 1973 "White Paper" policy in a booklet entitled "In all fairness."²²⁶
- 1981-1992 **Foreign Domestic Movement Program** established. This program targets women from the Philippines and is a form of modern day enslavement. Through this immigration program, the Canadian government subjects racialized women workers to all forms of abuse, to 24-hour work, and to little or no access to health care and other social services. Later this program becomes the Live-in Caregiver Program (LCP).²²⁷
- 1982 **The Constitution Act** is established and includes:²²⁸
- **Charter of Rights and Freedoms** in Canada's constitution, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of "race, national or ethnic origin, colour, or religion" among other factors. It protects affirmative action programs from constitutional litigation so that it assures equity for all Canadians.
 - "Recognizes and affirms" existing Indigenous and treaty rights.
- 1984 The **Canadian Security Intelligence Service Act** transferred responsibility for security aspects of immigration from RCMP to the newly created **CSIS**.²²⁹
- 1984 **Chinese Head Tax Redress** campaign launched by the Chinese Canadian National Council (CCNC) for the 62 years of legislated racism. Over 4,000 head taxpayers and families registered with CCNC across Canada. Currently, there are only a couple of hundred head tax payers or surviving spouses alive today and they are all over 82 years old.²³⁰
- 1985 Equality provisions of the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms** come into effect.²³¹

- 1985 As a result of Sandra Lovelace's success- where the UN finds Canada in breach of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - Section 12 (1) (b) of the Indian Act is repealed. The **Introduction of Bill C-31** attempts to re-instatement Indian status to the women who lost it under Section 12 (1) (b), the discriminatory clause of the Indian Act. However, this section is replaced by a hierarchical structure of status with seven levels. Women who regain their status under Bill C-31 are relegated to the lowest status level, which denies the right to pass status onto grandchildren. Thus, discrimination under the Indian Act has not been removed; it has merely been partially suspended for two generations. This has grave consequences for Indigenous women and their communities.²³²
- 1985 Gwiis Gyen, Stanley Williams, stands in front of a train on the main line from Prince Rupert to force the Canadian National Railways to compensate Gitwangak for 100 acres taken from the reserve in 1910. The Grand Trunk Railway was built right through the village cemetery.
- In opposition to pesticide spraying, Gitwangak Chiefs stage a successful blockade of the Canadian National Railways tracks.²³³
- 1986 Federal government adopts the **Employment Equity Act** – which requires employers to identify and eliminate barriers to employment opportunities for historically disadvantaged groups (racialized people, Indigenous People, women). However, until 1994 amendments, this act lacks effective sanctions for companies who fail to implement the Act and applies to federally regulated employees only but not to the federal public service.²³⁴
- 1987 The case of *Delgam Uukw vs. Her Majesty the Queen* begins. The Gitksan and Wet'suwet'en People put the colonial government of trial. The trial does not end until 1990.²³⁵
- 1987 A group of Sikhs land in Nova Scotia and claim refugee status. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney issues an emergency recall of Parliament for the tabling of Bill C-84, the Refugee Deterrents and Detention Bill. Despite the so-called emergency, the draconian bill was not passed for a full year.²³⁶
- 1989 Canada-United States **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** signed– which lays the crucial groundwork for future agreements such as NAFTA. The stated goals of FTA included the 'elimination of trade barriers' and the 'liberalization of investment.' These provisions later developed into the infamous "investor rights provisions" of Chapter 11 of NAFTA, which essentially allow corporations to sue governments for

labour, environmental or other public interest laws which they consider to be unfairly impeding their ability to maximize profits.

- The FTA and NAFTA both work to deepen poverty for racialized communities, especially women.
- While the FTA initially promised more and better jobs as well as rising living standards, nothing could be further from the outcomes; a 2008 study by the Centre for Policy Alternatives has shown that the leading companies/supporters of the FTA have actually shrank their workforces dramatically while their revenues have grown astronomically.²³⁷

- 1990 **OKA Crisis:** The Mohawk people of Kahnesatake near Oka, Québec, defend their sacred burial grounds from a golf course expansion. In solidarity, the Mohawks of Kanawake blockade the Mercier Bridge into Montreal. In a series of racist incidents against Mohawks, the police stand by while rocks thrown at children and elders kill one man and wound a baby. Canadian federal forces move in.²³⁸
- 1990 The **Sparrow Case.** The Supreme Court of Canada decision in Musqueam’s Sparrow Case rules that section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982, provides a “strong measure of protection” for aboriginal rights and it also rules that aboriginal and treaty rights are capable of evolving over time, and must be interpreted in a generous and liberal manner. The Sparrow decision was the first ruling of the Supreme Court interpreting section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982, to uphold an aboriginal right. The Sparrow Case also strongly states that the government must not be adversarial in its treatment of Indigenous People.²³⁹
- 1991 *Delgam Uukw vs. Her Majesty t0he Queen* is decided in favour of the government by Chief Justice Allan McEachchern, who describes Indigenous life as “nasty, brutish, and short” and announces that Indigenous title was extinguished in 1858. Academic and media commentary express shock at the reasons for judgment.²⁴⁰
- 1991 The Canadian government introduces the **security certificate**, deployed under division 9, section 77 of the **Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)**.²⁴¹ The security certificate is a legal document that authorizes the government to imprison indefinitely, and without charge or trial any non-Canadian citizen it deems a ‘threat’ to ‘national security.’²⁴² The security certificate gains new prominence and legitimacy by the Chretien-Martin Liberal government and Canada’s political establishment as a whole after they join the Bush administration in proclaiming a “war on terror” in response to September 11, 2001.²⁴³

- 1991 Baltej Singh is the first man to wear an official RCMP turban. 200, 000 Canadians oppose and attempt to convince the Federal government to prohibit any changes to the uniform worn by the national police force initiated in 1871. He is the 14th Sikh with a turban to apply to the RCMP.²⁴⁴
- 1991 **Valentine’s Day Women’s Memorial March** begins – In 1991 one Coast Salish family performs a ceremony to remember their missing family member – Indigenous women continue to organize and lead the March annually in remembrance of the many missing women of the Vancouver Downtown Eastside; many of the missing women are Indigenous, which reveals this violence a colonial and racialized violence.²⁴⁵
- 1992-now **Live-In Caregiver Program (LPC)** established – Federal program whereby (mostly) migrant racialized women enter Canada as live-in domestic workers. The LPC:²⁴⁶
- Subjects mainly migrant racialized women, many from the Philippines, to modern-day enslavement.
 - Subjects racialized migrant women to abuse, 24 hour work, and little or no access to health care and other social services.
 - Enables the Canadian government to capitalize on the economic inequalities of globalization through its marginalization of racialized migrant women.
- 1993 Five Sikh veterans invited to *Remembrance Day Parade* are denied entry to the Royal Canadian Legion in Newton B.C. because of the 1946 rule which bans all forms of head gear from the premises.²⁴⁷
- 1994 **North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)** formed between Canada, the United States, and Mexico, deepening poverty for racialized communities. NAFTA includes a chapter on “investor rights provisions,” the infamous Chapter 11, which essentially allows corporations to sue governments for labour, environmental, or other public interest laws which they consider to be unfairly impeding their ability to maximize profits.²⁴⁸
- 1995 **Gustafsen Lake stand-off.** A group of Indigenous People and allies come together to protect the Sundance grounds at Ts’Peten, Gustafsen Lake, British Columbia and were met with massive RCMP force – including 77, 000 rounds of ammunition, land mines, bison, APC’s with the police and media smear, and a dis-information campaign. The Sundance site is unceded Indigenous land, territory of the Secwepenc (Shuswap) People. The Federal and Provincial governments continue to attempt to bury the land issue and its messengers. Call for public inquiry into Gustafsen Lake stand-off continues to be a demand.²⁴⁹



Image 11: Indigenous supporters at a Gustafsen Lake wave to the incoming RCMP helicopter bearing arrested members of the camp, 17 September 1995.

- 1995 **World Trade Organization (WTO)** established, in which Canada plays a main role and which deepens poverty for Indigenous and racialized people all over the world. Examples of protests to WTO summits include:²⁵⁰
- Seattle, Washington, U.S. - 1999
 - Cancun, Mexico – 2003
 - Hong Kong, China - 2005
- 1995 As part of the federal budget, the government imposes the **Right of Landing Fee**, widely known as the Head Tax. The fee of \$975 applies to all adults, including refugees, becoming permanent residents. In February 2000, the government rescinds the Right of Landing Fee for refugees, but maintains it for immigrants.²⁵¹
- 1995 Canada officially proclaims February as Black History Month.²⁵²
- 1995 The Governments of Canada and BC attack the Indigenous Traditionalists at Ts’Petn and in doing so break their own constitutional law, along with international laws.²⁵³
- 1995 Death of Dudley George: Unarmed members of the Stony Point Band move back onto their land, converted into Ipperwash military camp in 1942. Thirty protesters then build barricades at nearby Ipperwash Provincial Park to underline their land claim and to protest the destruction of their traditional burial ground. Dudley George is one of the group's leaders. Twelve years later in 2007, Justice Sidney Linden, commissioner of the inquiry into the death of Dudley George, rules

that the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP), the government of former Ontario premier Mike Harris and the federal government all bear responsibility for events that led to his death. The inquiry finds that it was an OPP sniper, acting Sergeant Kenneth Deane, who killed Dudley George.²⁵⁴

- 1996 Elimination of the **Canada Assistance Plan (CAP)**, resulting from Canada's signing on to NAFTA and the WTO, and the introduction of the **Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST)**. The CHST allows provincial governments to structure social assistance programs without federal interventions and allows the federal government to eliminate four economic rights:²⁵⁵
- The right to welfare in need.
 - The right to an amount of welfare that meets basic requirements.
 - The right to appeal welfare decisions you disagree with, and
 - The right to not have to work or train for welfare.
- 1996 **BC Forest Act** established – Chapter 157 of RSBC²⁵⁶
- Works as a premise for colonial resource extraction on Indigenous territory.
 - Grants BC government authority over BC timber, BC forests, and over road construction through forests.
 - Later government amendments (2002-2006) will reduce the provincial government's control and increase the control of corporate resource companies over BC forests, at the expense of Indigenous communities.
- 1996 **BC Land Act** established – Chapter 245 of RSBC²⁵⁷
- Works as a premise for colonial resource extraction on Indigenous territory.
 - Stipulates the penalties for when a person uses or occupies Crown lands without lawful authority.
 - Establishes how BC can dispose of Crown land or grant right-of-ways or easements.
- 1996 **BC Water Act** established – Chapter 483 of RSBC²⁵⁸
- Works as a premise for colonial resource extraction on Indigenous territory.
 - Grants right of ownership of all stream water in BC to government.
 - Grants the government the power to license private rights over stream water.

- 1997 The Governments of Canada and BC convict the Indigenous Traditionalists at Ts'Petn.²⁵⁹
- 1997 BC government approves a \$70 million development plan, allowing Sun Peaks Ski Resort to expand over traditional Skwelkwekwelt, Secwepemc land in Interior BC, 30 km NE of Kamloops. Secwepemc have never ceded, surrendered or released their land in any way. The expansion includes putting ski runs on the previously undisturbed Mt. Morrissey. The Secwepemc attend stakeholder meetings and clearly said no to the development. Land and Water BC however, clearly disregard their voices and grant new leases to Sun Peaks Ski Resort to facilitate their expansion. In June 2001, Land and Water BC obtains a court injunction to forcibly remove Secwepemc from their lands. To date, the Canadian government, police, and corporate interests have made 54 arrests with charges from criminal contempt and intimidation by blocking a road to resisting arrest.²⁶⁰
- 1997 Implementation of the **Canada Child Tax Benefit (CCTB)**, which excludes families on social assistance from increased support and lowers support for 90% of all children, especially children of families living in poverty.²⁶¹
- 1998 On August 4th, 1998, the **Nisga'a Final Agreement** is signed.²⁶²
- 1998 Frank Paul, a Mi'kmaq man, dies of exposure after being dragged out of the Vancouver police station and into an East Vancouver alley. A 2003 Police Complaints Commissioner recommends that a public inquiry offer an official explanation as the VPD simply brushed Frank Paul's death aside. Indigenous people in BC continue to express grave and growing concerns about police conduct in cases where Indigenous people die while in police custody.²⁶³
- 1999 As of April 1st, the **Nunavut Act** creates the third and newest territory of Canada with its own Indigenous Inuit government. The Nunavut agreement is the biggest land rights agreement signed in Canadian history.²⁶⁴
- 2000 Skwelkwekwelt Protection Center established at Skwelkwekwelt to protect the land and oppose the BC government approved expansion of Sun Peaks Ski Resort.²⁶⁵
- 2000 World March of Women – rallying for the elimination of poverty, the end to violence against women, in opposition to war, military interventions, and opposing restrictions on immigration and refugee policies.²⁶⁶

- 2001 The first **World Social Forum** takes place in January at Porto Allegro, Brazil, and advocates for civil societies' greater participation in international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and the World Trade Organization (WTO).²⁶⁷
- 2001 September 11th attacks of the World Trade Centre buildings in New York, U.S.
- False security measures begin to further target racialized groups, particularly those of South Asian and Muslim communities.
 - The Canada-U.S. border closes temporarily after the attacks of the World Trade Center buildings.²⁶⁸
 - Citing 9/11, Thomas d'Aquino, president of the Business Council on National Issues (now the Canadian Council of Chief Executives), says that Canada "should engage in more fundamental harmonization and integration" with the U.S. if we are going to keep the border open to trade.²⁶⁹
 - Thomas d'Aquino and other unnamed "leaders" send a letter to Jean Chrétien and George W. Bush calling for a "smart border" between Canada and the U.S. that would "use technology to enhance both security and the flow of goods and people across the border."²⁷⁰
 - These, among other steps, lead to the establishing of government measures (i.e. the SPP, the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, Security Certificates, Anti-Terrorism Act) that serve corporate needs at the expense, surveillance, and exclusion of marginalized people.
- 2001 **Immigration and Refugee Protection Act** passed in House of Commons. The Act comes into force in 2002 and as a 'security' measure taken in the wake of the September 11 attacks, the Act erodes basic rights in Canada, with some of the worst impacts being experienced by refugees and immigrants. In August 2003, 23 Pakistani and Indian men are arrested and detained as suspected terrorists. It soon becomes clear that the suspicions are unfounded, but by then the detainees have been publicly labelled "terrorist suspects." Since 2001 there has been increased use of "**security certificates**", which allows the government to make accusations without showing the accused, or even their lawyer, the evidence against them.²⁷¹
- 2001 **Anti-Terrorism Act** (Bill C-36)
- Grants the Canadian State and police forces extraordinary investigative and surveillance powers, authorizes arrests without warrants and preventive detention for interrogation on the basis of mere suspicion. Canada's definition of terrorist activity is vague, imprecise and over-expansive.²⁷² Example: at 6am on September

21st 2002, the Integrated National Security Enforcement Team (INSET) - an RCMP unit created under the Anti-Terrorism Act – raided the home of Nitanis Desjarlais and John Rampanen in Port Alberni, British Columbia. Under allegations that Mr. Rampanen was "stockpiling arms," INSET evacuated the neighbourhood before kicking down Desjarlais & Rampanen's home door. Hours later, and after threatening and interrogating them, the search revealed no arms and was cleared.²⁷³

2002

Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA) becomes law in Canada, replacing Canada's Immigration Act, 1976. The IRPA:²⁷⁴

- Broadens government powers to arrest, detain, and deport landed immigrants on the mere suspicion or secret evidence that they might be or become a security threat – detainment carried out through **security certificates**.
- Tightens the requirements needed to immigrate to Canada as a refugee.
- Makes it harder for people to immigrate as skilled workers or labourers under the Points System.
- Puts people who are in same-sex relationships or common-law relationships on an equal footing for immigration purposes as traditional married couples.

2002

Security Certificates re-Introduced.²⁷⁵

- Enabling the Canadian government to detain suspected terrorists without charging them or giving them full access to the evidence against them.
- Enabling the Canadian state to deport individuals for reasons they will never know.
- Making it impossible for accused to mount a defence and taking away the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.
- Targeting individuals (mostly men) of Arab, Middle Eastern, and South Asian heritage and/or Muslim faith and so revealing Canada as a racist state.
- Security certificates are first introduced in 1991 – Between 2001-2003, five Muslim men are arrested under security certificates without charge, without trial, with denied access to phone and canteen, and with restricted access to lawyers.

2002

Canadian and Syrian citizen Maher Arar detained and deported to Syria (even though he carries a Canadian passport) by U.S. and Canadian authorities.²⁷⁶

- The basis of his deportation is an erroneous accusation of links to terrorism and al-Qaeda.
- It is not until 2006 when Justice Dennis O'Connor clears all terrorist allegations against Arar and states the RCMP's

complicity in Arar's unjust detainment, deportation, and torture.

- 2002 **Hogan's Alley Memorial Project (HAMP)** founded - - with the goal of preserving public memory of Vancouver's Black community, Hogan's Alley - a community destroyed by the city of Vancouver in 1970.²⁷⁷
- 2003 John Graham is arrested in Vancouver in early December on an American indictment.²⁷⁸ Graham supporters believe that the charges against Graham have been manufactured by the FBI as part of their ongoing war against the AIM and against self-determination for Indigenous People.²⁷⁹ Graham is charged with the murder of Anna Mae Aquash, who was a friend and comrade of his in the American Indian Movement; Graham has repeatedly stated that he is not guilty of this crime.²⁸⁰ Further, in the weeks before she disappeared, Anna Mae confided to Graham that she had been detained and threatened by FBI Officer David Price who told her that she would not live out the year if she didn't become an FBI informer.²⁸¹ Amnesty International has serious concerns about the role of U.S. law enforcement officials in these events and strongly urges Canadian authorities to ensure that there is rigorous scrutiny of any evidence brought against Graham.²⁸²
- 2003 The Canadian government recruits Indigenous Maya Quiche farm workers from Guatemala to work in Quebec for the first time in the summer of 2003 through a "low skill" type of guest worker program - program similar to the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP), under which workers face multiple barriers including language, mobility, racism, segregation, and exclusion.²⁸³
- 2004 Canada and the U.S. implement the **Safe Third Country Agreement** - Agreement by which each government closes the door on most refugee claimants at the US-Canada border. This Agreement represents a new Continuous-Passage-style act and is made under the "Smart Border Declaration." The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) strenuously opposes the Agreement, because the U.S. is not a safe country for all refugees. The CCR also denounces the purpose and effect of the agreement as reducing the number of refugees who can seek Canada's protection. Safe Third Country Agreement effects:²⁸⁴
- Asylum seekers attempting to cross the US/Canada border are forced to officially seek asylum in the first country (US or Canada) that they landed in, instead of being able to travel to the "3rd country" and seek asylum there.
 - Because few asylum seekers move from Canada to the US to make a refugee claim, the Agreement is about preventing people who are in the U.S., or travelling through the U.S., from making a refugee claim in Canada.

- the Agreement enables the immediate removal of any refugee claimant who enters Canada via the United States.
- Reduces the number of refugee claimants within Canada by approx. 40% and limits the ability of people seeking asylum to decide what country they re-settle in, leaving refugees who would claim status in Canada to the whims of the U.S. system.

2004

The Canadian federal government divides the Canada Health and Social Transfer into the **Canada Health Transfer (CHT)** and the **Canada Social Transfer (CST)**. These two transfers are now designed to support health care on the one hand (CHT) and post-secondary education, social assistance, related social services, and early childhood and early learning programs on the other (CST).²⁸⁵

2004

British Columbia Women's Centres lose 100% of the Provincial government core funding. Members of the BC Coalition of Women's Centre refuse to leave an office at the BC Legislature after meeting with Ida Chong, Minister of State for Women's and Senior's Services. All of the representatives are arrested. These cuts to Women's Centres have an intensified impact on racialized communities both in urban and rural areas of BC.²⁸⁶

2004

The BC Provincial government closes twenty-six Ministry of Human Resources (welfare) offices across the province. The BC Liberals also pass the two-year limit legislation on welfare, a poor-bashing and anti-woman legislation that significantly impacts single mothers, seniors, and racialized groups.²⁸⁷

2004

British Columbia incorporates into the **Seasonal Agricultural Work Program (SAWP)**, a program that brings workers from the Caribbean and Mexico to work in unsafe and underpaid positions. Under the SAWP, workers face language barriers, mobility problems and cultural differences manifesting themselves in outright racism. These barriers segregate and exclude migrant workers from the rest of their host rural communities.²⁸⁸

2004

Gladys Radek wins a favourable decision from the BC Human Rights Tribunal four years after being discriminated against based on race and ability in a Vancouver mall. The Tribunal states: "To be singled out for treatment of the kind described in this decision, because of one's race or disability or a combination of those factors, constitutes a clear violation of the human dignity of all those so affected [...] The practices of the respondents had the effect of systematically denying the

Aboriginal and disabled people of the Downtown Eastside [the] opportunity [to walk peacefully in mall].”²⁸⁹

- 2005 Communities along the **Highway of Tears** hold “Take Back the Highway” marches September 13th-17th. The 724 km stretch of highway between Prince Rupert and Prince George is known as the Highway of Tears after a large number of Indigenous women and girls have been assaulted, murdered and gone missing along Highway 16. “Take Back the Highway” symbolizes a struggle to end violence against women by drawing attention to women who have gone missing there.²⁹⁰
- 2005 The province of Ontario passes the **Places to Grow Act**, which provides a legal framework for the provincial government to designate any area of land (including unceded Indigenous land) as a “growth plan area” and decide on its development.²⁹¹
- A regulation was also passed identifying the “Greater Golden Horseshoe area” (which includes unceded Six Nations land) as the first area for which a growth plan will be prepared.
 - Six Nations People and supporters hold an information picket at Douglas Creek to raise awareness of Canada’s ongoing theft of Six Nations land.
- 2005 The **Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP)** is established between the leaders of Canada, the U.S. and Mexico as a result of intense lobbying from the richest North American corporations.²⁹² The SPP is not an official treaty nor is it an official law; rather, it is being presented as a vague ‘dialogue based on shared values.’ Therefore it has been able to escape any public scrutiny and will never be debated in the House of Commons.²⁹³ The SPP is a NAFTA-plus-Homeland-Security model and will involve the harmonization of over 300 areas of regulation.²⁹⁴ In a post-9/11 world, where for the Bush administration “security trumps trade,” the Canadian and Mexican governments have agreed to fully integrate their security apparatuses with that of the U.S. and fully participate in the “war on terror” in return for vague assurances of continued market access for their largest corporations.²⁹⁵
- 2006 Six Nations People and supporters assert their rights to the land and block construction by Henco Industries in Southern Ontario.²⁹⁶
- Clan Mothers issue a statement reaffirming Haudenosaunee (Six Nations) sovereignty and calling for nation-to-nation negotiations.

- Hundreds of people gather in support of Haudenosaunee sovereignty, including an action involving 50 women (including Clan Mothers) blocking construction crews.
- Ontario Provincial Police swarm the Six Nations camp in cruisers and vans, using batons, tear gas cannons, and tasers. The people resist the invasion and manage to push the police back and hold the line.

- 2007 Canada votes NO against the adoption of the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**. 143 countries sign onto the Declaration, 11 countries abstain, and only four countries vote 'no': Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand.²⁹⁷
- 2007 Through Sharon McIvor's challenge to the law, the B.C. Supreme Court rejects part of the existing legal definition of "Indian Status" on the grounds that it discriminates against Canadians who trace their Indigenous roots through their mothers/grandmothers rather than their fathers/grandfathers. The federal government claims to have addressed the long-standing discrimination in 1985 through Bill C-31. But the B.C. Supreme Court says that Bill C-31 does not go far enough and creates problems for future generations. With estimates that more and more Indigenous people marry non-Indigenous people, the current law's "second-generation cut-off" means an increasing number of Indigenous people are unable to pass on their status to their children. The B.C. Supreme Court's decision puts pressure on the Canadian Federal government to reform legislation.²⁹⁸
- 2007 In February 07, The Supreme Court of Canada rules that **Security Certificates** violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The court suspends its judgment from taking legal effect for a year, giving Parliament time to write a new law.²⁹⁹ However, by October 2007 the government introduces a new law, Bill C-3, which is almost identical to the old law, with the addition of a 'special advocate'. The special advocate addition does nothing to ensure justice as it remains within an unjust process where a court's decision can still rely on secret evidence.³⁰⁰
- 2007 The Canadian federal government closes twelve of sixteen Status of Women offices, including those of Toronto and Vancouver, both of which service mostly racialized women. In response, women's groups from BC and the Yukon organize a sit-in at the Vancouver office to protest the regressive cuts and changes. Prime Minister Harper pledged in the 2006 federal election that, if elected, his government would respect and implement the rights of women to which Canada has obligated itself internationally. But, since the election, the Conservatives have cancelled the national child care programme, cancelled the Court Challenges Programme, refused to move forward

on pay equity, cut \$5 million from Status of Women Canada, closed 12 Status of Women offices, and imposed a no-lobbying, no-advocacy rule on women's organizations receiving federal funding.³⁰¹

Image Credits

- Image 1: “Map of First Nations in BC.” *First Nations Peoples of British Columbia*. British Columbia Ministry of Education. <www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/map.htm> Dec 2007.
- Image 2: “Enslaved woman and son advertised for auction sale.” We’re Rooted Here and They Can’t Pull Us Up: Essays in African Canadian Women’s History. Peggy Bristow et al. Toronto: University of Toronto Press Inc. 1994.
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- Image 4: “Kamloops Indian Residential School, View from the South.” Resistance and Renewal: Surviving the Indian Residential School. Celia Haig-Brown. Vancouver: Tillacum Library. 1988. 87.
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- Image 6: “Chinese workers building the Canadian Pacific Railroad.” Chinese Canadian Historical Photo Exhibit: Historical Info. <<http://www.ccnc.ca/toronto/history/>> Oct. 2007.
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- Image 8: “View of crowded conditions on the Komagata Maru.” Special Exhibitions: Sikh Community: Over 100 Years in the Pacific Northwest. The Wing Luke Asian Museum. 2006 <<http://www.wingluke.org/home.htm>> March 2006.
- Image 9: “Japanese people forcibly relocating.” The Exodus of the Japanese. Patton, Janice. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Lmt. 1973.
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