

## Historical Timeline of Racism in Canada

1698 - Code Noir - allowed for the full use of slaves in the French Colonies

1709 - Black slaves could be bought and sold in New France

1749 - Black slaves brought to help build Halifax

1792 - Anti-slavery Law of Lower Canada (Quebec) to limit slavery is defeated (1793- Upper Canada (Ontario) does limit slavery)

1833 - Slavery abolished in the British Empire

1871 - BC enters Confederation - Aboriginal peoples and Chinese expressly denied the vote

1874 - In BC, pharmacists, lawyers, and provincial and municipal civil servants were required to be on the provincial voters list so Canadians of Japanese, Chinese or Aboriginal descent were legally barred from these professions

1876 - Creation of the Indian Act (Federal Government)

1884 - The Potlatch and cultural ceremonies abolished (Federal Government)

1885 - Chinese Immigration Act imposed a \$50 Head tax on Chinese immigrants and restricted the number of Chinese (primarily male labourers) who could disembark from ships entering Canada. Head tax went to \$500 after 1903

1892 - Indian Act amended to empower the Department of Indian Affairs to establish residential schools.

1895 - Persons of "Asiatic Heritage" were prohibited from voting in BC (including Japanese, Chinese, and "Hindoos")

1908 - Continuous Journey Stipulation (Canada Immigration) - restricted people from India from coming to Canada unless they could reach Canada by direct journey without stopping enroute.



1914 - 376 Indians (from India) were detained on the Komagata (ship) for 2 months, then denied entry to Canada

1920 - Universal voting rights for all "British subjects". The Act allowed for discrimination "for reasons of race" if a province already had the exclusion.

1942 - Uprooting of Japanese Canadians in World War 2 - sent to internment camps, property confiscated - destroyed social and economic base of the thriving Japanese Canadian community (not released until 2 years after the war. Not compensated by the government until 1988).

1947 - Those without adequate knowledge of French or English were disqualified from voting (eliminated in 1982).

1948 - South Asians attain the right to vote Federally and Provincially.

1951 - Indian Act amendment that finally awarded Native peoples the right to leave reserves without seeking permission from the Indian agents.

1951 - Residential schools begin to close.

1960s - Canada moved to less race specific immigration policies but point system still curbs immigration from less developed countries.

1986 - Last residential school closed.

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