1.1: Immigration

Unit 1: Canada @ the Turn of the 20th Century (1900-1914)
Introduction

- As we have discovered, at the beginning of the 20th century, Canada was very much a young country.

- Following the emergence of Wilfred Laurier as our Prime Minister in 1896, new immigration policies appeared that would transform Canada forever.

- While the Laurier government began targeting select groups to encourage settlement & growth, particularly in Western Canada, simultaneously, it discouraged others from moving here.
Sir Wilfred Laurier

- Laurier served as our Prime Minister from 1896 – 1911 during a period of growth & prosperity
- Our 1st French-Canadian PM, he came to power as a world-wide economic depression was ending
- “The nineteenth century was the century of the United States. I think that we can claim that it is Canada that shall fill the twentieth century”
Immigration

- One of Laurier’s greatest achievement was increasing immigration

- Between 1901-1914, Canada’s population jumped from 5,370,000 to 8,000,000 with many people originating from areas other than Great Britain & the USA

- The foundation was laid then for the cultural mosaic that we currently have
Number of Immigrants, 1896–1914

1896: 16,835
1898: 31,900
1900: 41,681
1902: 89,102
1904: 131,252
1906: 211,653
1908: 143,326
1910: 286,839
1912: 375,756
1914: 150,484
• **Immigrants**: People who come into a country
• **Emigrants**: people who move within a country
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>1901</th>
<th>1911</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Halifax</td>
<td>40 000</td>
<td>47 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saint John</td>
<td>41 000</td>
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Immigration

- Why people would leave their country to move to another country?

- Why might people move within their own country?
Immigration

The influx of hundreds of thousands of immigrants during this time was sparked by both push factors & pull factors.
Push & Pull Factors

- Push factors are those factors which force people to move one area for another

- Examples include: Unemployment, war, political / religious persecution, natural disasters, famine, crowded cities, limited freedom
Push & Pull Factors

- Pull Factors are those factors which attract people or entice them to move from one region to another.

  - Examples include: Peace, employment, freedom, education, opportunities, available land.
Clifford Sifton

- He was the Interior Minister in Laurier’s cabinet who was responsible for immigration.

- Sifton’s job was to encourage settlers to come to Canada, particularly the West.

- Gvt immigration policy at this time was “Open Door” but very selective.

- Some groups were encouraged to immigrate while others were discouraged.
Clifford Sifton

- Policy at this time encouraged British, USA, north – central Europe
- but discouraged Jews, African American & East Asia
Sifton believed that "a stalwart peasant in a sheepskin coat" made the most desirable immigrant, and set out to attract people suited for farming.

The federal government approved of the entry of many groups because they were adept at farming:

- Mennonites from Europe
- Doukhobors from Russia
- Mormons from the United States
Last Best West

The Last Best West was a phrase used to market the Canadian Prairies to prospective immigrants.

What are some methods that governments can use today to inform people about various policies?
Last Best West

- Back during Laurier’s rule, Sifton flooded the ‘desirable countries’ with pamphlets, posters, & advertisements promising free land in the “Last, Best West”
Last Best West

- Settlers were enticed to come here with the promise of free land

- British, Americans, German, Swedes, Ukrainians, Dutch, Icelanders, Norwegians, Russians, & others
Last Best West

- On the following slides are images associated with the Last Best West immigration advertising campaign that was launched by Clifford Sifton & the Laurier government.

- As we view, make note of the various pull factors contained within them that was intended to showcase Canada as an attract place to live for the prospective immigrants.
The Last Best West

Canada
in the
Twentieth Century
Western Canada
vast Agricultural Resources
Homes for Millions

OWN
Your Own
Home in Canada
and apply for a
Ready-Made Farm
to the nearest
Canadian Pacific Agent

Canadian Pacific
While Sifton advertised that settlers could claim up to 160 acres of free land in Canada, this claim wasn't entirely true.

Settlers still had to pay a land registration fee of $10 - or roughly $150 in modern-day currency once inflation is factored in - under the Dominion Lands Act.
• This also didn't cover the cost of equipment and animals for the land, not to mention the cost of building shelter.

• Many settlers during their first year would build sod houses (soddies), as they simply couldn't afford to build their own homes out of lumber.
A Changing Canada

- While the majority of immigrants in the years 1900-1914 came to farm the West, many Europeans also settled in other parts of Canada.

- Immigrants found work on the expanding railways and mines, in lumber camps of Northern Ontario & the Maritime, or in factories of growing cities.
### The Growth of Cities, 1901, 1911

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By 1905, enough people were living in the Northwest Territories that the federal government decided to create two new provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan.
Racial Exclusion

- When Frank Oliver favoured immigrants to Canada's West from certain regions believed to have the settlers best suited to life on the Prairies.
- He tended to support the immigration of those who came from the following regions in this exact order of preference:
  - nearby Canadian provinces
  - Britain
  - the United States
  - northwestern Europe
Racial Exclusion

- Legislation was passed in 1908 requiring all immigrants to come to Canada directly from their country of origin.

- This shut off immigration from India, since there was no direct steamship line.

- On May 23, 1914, 376 prospective East Indian immigrants arrived in Vancouver Harbour on board the Komagatu Maru.
Racial Exclusion

• It stayed there with its human cargo for two months while the legality of an exclusion order was tested.

• The order was upheld and the vessel and passengers were sent back to sea cheered on by local residents.
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Urban and Rural Population, 1891, 1901, 1911

- 1891
- 1901
- 1911

- Millions of Persons
- Millions of Persons
- Millions of Persons

- Canadians living in the country
- Canadians living in town and cities
- http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/immigrants/
- Not Welcomed Anymore (CBC Archives)
- http://canadachannel.ca/HCO/index.php/5._The_Immigration_Boom_1895-1914_Multiple_Choice
- http://canadachannel.ca/HCO/index.php/5._The_Immigration_Boom_1895-1914_Multiple_Choice
- http://www.nfb.ca/film/Strangers_at_the_Door_/