

From Far and Wide?

How has immigration shaped Canadian stories over time?

When I was just a baby, Mom had a chance to come to Canada to be a nanny. She couldn't bring me or anyone else with her for a long time. It was very hard for our family. But now we are together.



► Members of Vancouver's Filipino community at Pinoy Fiesta, the biggest Filipino cultural event in BC



▲ Italian immigrants arriving at Union Station, Toronto, 1951

My mom's grandma had a big fight with her family when she was 16 and ran away from her home in Italy. She got to New York and worked in a factory. She married another Italian and they moved to Canada.



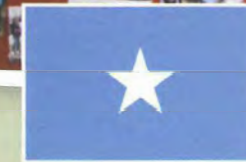
DISCOVER

- Why immigrants choose to live in Canada
- How immigration has affected First People
- What influences people to leave their home country or stay
- How immigration has changed Canadian society
- If Canadian immigration laws are fair

BIG IDEA

Immigration and multiculturalism continue to shape Canadian society and identity.

My family left Somalia when I was seven years old. We left because of war. I speak five languages: Somali, Swahili, Ugandan, Arabic, and English.



▲ Ahmed Hussen, born in Somalia, appointed Canada's Minister of Immigration in 2017



My great grandfather was born in England in 1908. When his mother became ill, his father put him into an orphanage. The orphanage sent him to Canada when he was nine years old to be a farm worker in Nova Scotia. He was a Home Child.

◀ Harry Knight, born in England in 1908

After moving from Iran to Halifax, I thought everyone was just into the outdoors. I was thrilled that some of my favourite bands, who happen to be some of the best bands in the world, do visit Halifax.



Find Out For Yourself

Do some investigating! Find out how a person or a group of people of your choice found their way to Canada. Refer to this story when you complete the final activity for this unit.

Investigate **How Would You Describe Canadian Society Today?**

Time immemorial refers to a time farther back than anyone can remember.

What do you value most about living in Canada?

We all have stories to tell. No matter how or when you and your family came to Canada, you are part of Canada's story. Your family may have lived here since **time immemorial**. Or perhaps you are able to trace your family history back many generations. You and your family's history have helped to shape Canada's society and identity.

To understand Canada's story, you need to find out about the people, their history, and cultures.

Nuumtunat's Story



My name is Nuumtunat, but most people call me Florence. I am connected to the traditional land of Songhees Nation. Even if our lands are built over, that connection continues through our ancestors.

When I think of my family's history, I think about my great-great-grandfather, James Somiax. He was hereditary chief and was appointed chief of the Songhees by Sir James Douglas, who recognized his qualities of leadership. Stories about my grandfather inspire me.

◀ Florence, at Ogden Point, part of the traditional lands of the Songhees Nation

Did you know that First Peoples are not immigrants? They are the original people of the land.

THINKING LIKE... a Social Scientist

Social scientists look for clues to find out what people think and how they feel about the events they experience. They look at written descriptions, photographs, drawings, graphs, and diagrams. They also listen to people's stories.

Read the stories about Florence, from the Songhees Nation, and the newcomers to Canada on the next page. What can you learn from their stories?



Fardin's Story



Fardin Naibkhil from Kabul, Afghanistan, says he "came to Canada to have a better life because there are lots of opportunities. Canada is a freedom country and it's a multicultural country. Everyone has equal rights.... My future plan is to complete my education and get my degree to serve all people."

◀ Fardin left Afghanistan. His country was at war from 2002 to 2014.

What do you think Fardin means by saying that Canada is a "freedom country"?

Tynan's Story



"Our parents hoped to move us abroad to a more stable country, with far less crime and more opportunity... Eight years on...it humbles me to be the best Canadian I can be. Who needs Canada? I need Canada, my family needs Canada, immigrants need Canada."

◀ Tynan left South Africa with her family to find safety and opportunity in Canada.

What does Tynan mean when she says, "It humbles me to be the best Canadian I can be"?

What influenced Tynan's family to choose to immigrate to Canada?

Mohammed's Story



Syrian refugee Mohammed Matar Haj Ale was a last-minute addition to the New Brunswick under-16 soccer team. Then, he scored the winning goal to get to the finals!

"All my team was happy, and me too. I was so happy... I did the celebration like Cristiano Ronaldo," said Mohammed. "Canada is so good. I like Canada."

◀ Mohammed spent three years in a refugee camp before moving to New Brunswick.

What do you think Mohammed values about living in Canada?

Which push and pull factors are related to human rights?

Each year, **immigrants** come to Canada from many places in the world. Canada accepts about 250 000 immigrants each year.

Push Factors

Some people come to Canada to escape bad conditions. These are considered **push factors**. Push factors push people away from their homeland.

What places in the world have you heard about that have high push factors?

Discrimination
Some immigrants flee countries where they are not safe. They may be discriminated against because of their ethnicity, gender, political beliefs, religion, or sexual orientation.



Violence
Some immigrants are from countries affected by war. They want safety for themselves and their families.



Lack of Work
Many people cannot get work, or they may be paid very little money. They want a better quality of life for themselves and their families.



Natural Disasters
Some countries experience hurricanes, earthquakes, or drought. People have to move to find a safe place to live.



Pull Factors

Some people choose to move to Canada because they want opportunities. These are considered **pull factors**. Pull factors pull people toward a country.

Which pull factor would be most important to you and your family?

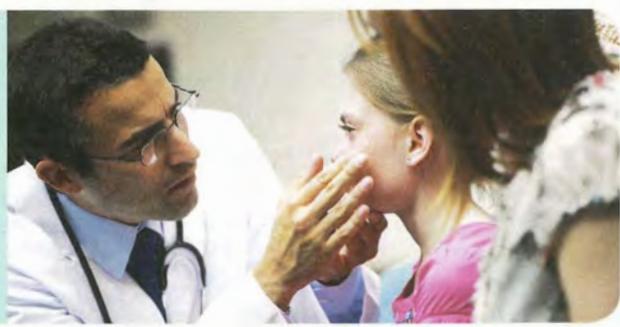
Safety
Canada is viewed as a safe, peaceful country. It is politically and economically stable.



Education
Canada's education system is one of the main reasons immigrants come to Canada.



Health Care
All citizens of Canada have guaranteed health care, regardless of income level.



Economic Opportunity
Canada is rich with natural resources. The opportunities for work vary, depending on where newcomers settle in Canada.



What is Canada's reputation around the world? How can you find out?

Coming to Canada

Three Classes of Immigrants

1 **Economic immigrants** have the skills, training, and experience to adapt quickly to Canada.

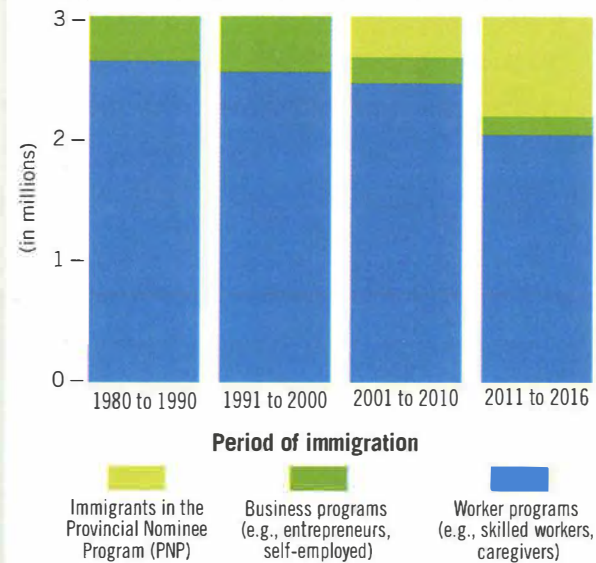
About 5 of every 10 immigrants in 2016

2 **Immigrants sponsored by family** must have adult family members in Canada who are citizens or permanent residents and who could support them financially.

About 2.5 of every 10 immigrants in 2016

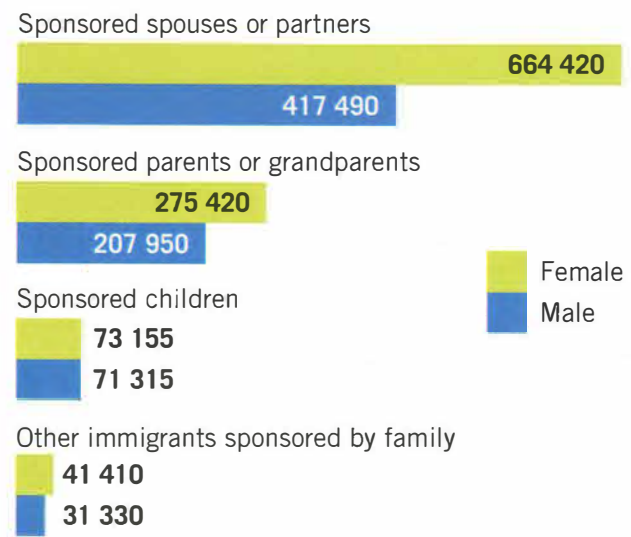
Economic immigrants

Close to 3 million immigrants came to Canada under economic programs and still lived here in 2016



Immigrants sponsored by family

About 1.8 million immigrants were sponsored by their family since 1980 and still lived in Canada in 2016



Refugees

Close to 860 000 refugees were admitted since 1980 and still lived in Canada in 2016

Top countries of birth of refugees

Country	2011 to 2016
Syria	26 550
Iraq	15 505
Afghanistan	6 105
Eritrea	5 125
Democratic Republic of the Congo	5 020

Country	2001 to 2010	1991 to 2000	1980 to 1990
Colombia	25 685	Sri Lanka 29 920	Vietnam 50 450
Afghanistan	19 005	Bosnia and Herzegovina 22 590	Poland 42 845
Iraq	14 770	Poland 13 145	El Salvador 17 645
China	14 555	Iran 13 135	Cambodia 12 775
Sri Lanka	14 160	Afghanistan 12 155	Iran 9 765

Notice the different countries listed under the dates (right). Why do the countries change with the dates? What part of the world have most of the refugees come from?

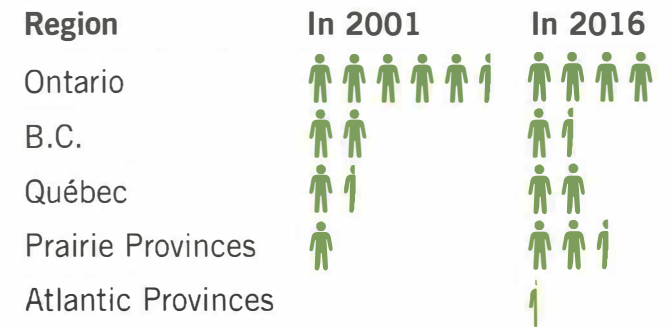
SOURCE: Statistics Canada: Gateways to immigration in Canada, 2016 Census of Population

Living in Canada

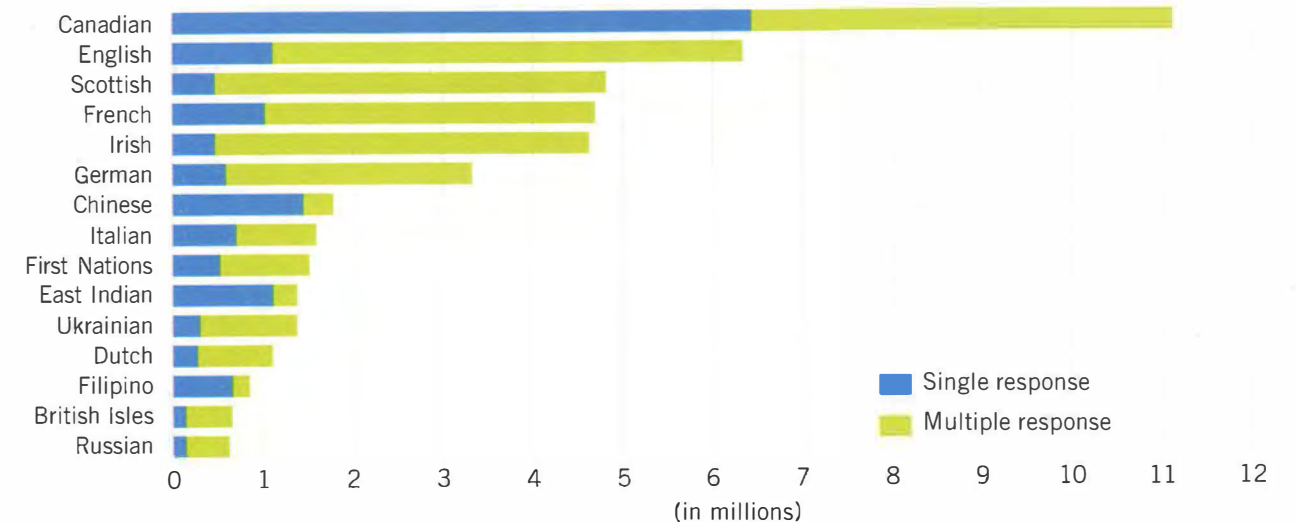
In **2016** nearly 5 in 10 people in Toronto, 4 in 10 people in Vancouver, and 2 in 10 people in Montréal had come to Canada as immigrants.

Why do you think so many immigrants settle in cities?

Where did they go? For every 10 persons ...



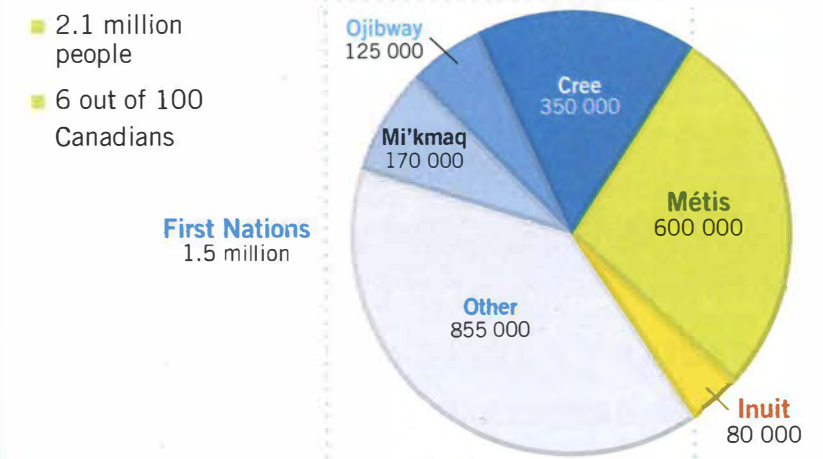
Top 15 ethnic origins reported in Canada, 2016



SOURCE: Statistics Canada, Canada Census, 2016

Two out of every five Canadian children under 15 have parents who were not born in Canada

Indigenous Ancestry in Canada, 2016



Multiculturalism is Canada's Policy

A **policy** is a way for a government to take action. On October 8, 1971, the Prime Minister of Canada announced that Canada would adopt a policy of **multiculturalism**. This policy would protect cultural freedoms and recognize the contributions of the many different cultures that make up Canada. Multiculturalism was established as law through the Canadian Multiculturalism Act of 1988 and section 27 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In Canada, multiculturalism is based on the belief that all citizens are equal and that **diversity** makes us stronger as a country.

How does the government support multiculturalism today? Try to think of examples you have seen or heard about.

multiculturalism means many cultures living together in one society



VOICES

...[A] policy of multiculturalism ... is basically the conscious support of individual freedom of choice. We are free to be ourselves. But this cannot be left to chance. It must be fostered and pursued actively. If freedom of choice is in danger for some ethnic groups, it is in danger for all.

—Former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, speech to Parliament, 1971

In **2006**, people were asked in a poll what made them
“proud to be Canadian.”
MULTICULTURALISM was in second place—ahead of hockey!
 The **CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS** was first.

The Canadian Multiculturalism Act

All citizens are equal and have the freedom to preserve, enhance, and share their cultural heritage. Multiculturalism promotes the full and equitable participation of individuals and communities of all origins in all aspects of Canadian society.

Toronto: The Most Multicultural City in the World?

In Toronto, residents speak more than 140 different languages and **dialects**. Almost half of the city's population comes from another country. Toronto rivals London and New York for the title of most diverse city in the world.

Why do you think immigrants often like to settle together in the same place?



Trea-Jah-Isle Records in Little Jamaica



Pastry shopping in Little India



The Anshe Minsk Synagogue in downtown Toronto



Cast of CBC's AWARD WINNING Kim's Convenience

▲ How does Toronto's diversity reflect many expressions of culture? How do you think Toronto's diversity compares with that of Vancouver? With that of your community?

All that is asked of immigrants is what is asked of any members of society: respect for the laws and institutions of the country, sociability, and contribution to the maintenance and improvement of public works... Herein lies the great success of Canadian multiculturalism; a society which integrates newcomers not by force but through generosity, benevolence, and sincerity to its values and principles.

—Murtaza Hussain

How has the information you have read expanded your viewpoint about multiculturalism?



Multiculturalism is exactly what made Canada...great. Multiculturalism resulted in some of the greatest minds in the world all settling in a place where their genius was allowed to grow and create.

—Danny Philp

It's kind of late to complain about immigration. There are 35 million people in Canada and only 1 million of us are members of the original First Nations. What difference will a few more make?

—Doug Cuthand, Little Pine First Nation

Check Your Learning

1. What challenges have immigrants to Canada faced? What advantages have some had?
2. What evidence can you find that immigration has changed over time?
3. In what ways has Canada *not* changed—despite a large increase in immigrants?

Make Connections

4. Interview a friend or a family member who has immigrated to Canada to find out their story. Find out what pushed or pulled them from their home country, why they chose Canada specifically, and the challenges they met in coming to Canada.

Investigate Why Is Immigration Important to Canada?

In the early 1900s, Canada wanted people to immigrate to the Prairies. Canadians were worried that the United States wanted to take over the land north of the border. Attracting immigrants to Canada became very important.

The Canadian government went to Europe and the United States to advertise settlement in Canada.



What opportunities is the poster advertising?



◀ This poster was produced by the Canadian government in the early 1900s. Ad campaigns like this were aimed at British and European immigrants to Canada. What is being communicated in the poster?