

APOLOGY FOR HISTORICAL WRONGS AGAINST

CHINESE BRITISH COLUMBIANS

What is an Apology?

- a. Did something wrong?
- b. What did you do wrong?

Historical Wrongs

- a. Right now, it is too general.
- b. Be specific, not everything about Chinese in general.
 - very doubtful about our Head Tax
 - what has been legislated or what is legal.

I will start with some background about Chinese in Canada, with a focus on British Columbia. The first record began in 1788 with Captain John Meares bringing Chinese artisans to Nootka.

FEDERAL:

1. 1885 – The Chinese Immigration Act required Chinese origin to pay \$50 head tax upon entering Canada.
2. 1902 – An Act to amend the Chinese Immigration Act.
This amendment allowed provinces to receive one/half of the net proceeds from the head tax.
3. 1903 – The Chinese Immigration Act where the head tax was increased from \$100 to \$500.
4. 1947 – The Chinese Immigration Act of 1923 was finally repealed.

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

From 1872 to 1949, our Provincial Government passed 91 Acts or Amendments to Acts that discriminated Chinese British Columbians.

1. 1876 – the Provincial Act stated ‘no ‘Chinaman’ entitled to vote in Provincial elections.
2. 1884 – An Act to prevent the immigration of Chinese to British Columbia. These statutes passed in British Columbia were the first anti-Chinese Immigration Laws.
3. 1885 – Crown Land Act, Section 27 prohibited Chinese from acquiring Crown Lands.
4. 1890 – Coal Mines Regulations Amendment Act. Section 4 of this Act prohibited Chinese people from being employed in coal mines below ground.
5. 1897 – Alien Labour Act. This Act tried to prevent Chinese people from working on government associated projects such as bridges and railway construction.
6. 1897 – Companies Act. Section 145 of the Act prohibited all Chinese companies from doing business in British Columbia.
7. 1919 – Municipal Act Amendment. This Act was British Columbia’s version of the ‘‘white womens’ labour laws’’ which were group of provincial laws prohibiting the employment of white women by Chinese.

8. 1921 – Oriental Orders in Council Validation Act. This Act stipulated that all contracts, leases and concessions entered into by the British Columbia government must include provisions barring the employment of Chinese workers.
9. 1923 – Brookes-Bidlake vs Attorney-General for B.C.
The Privy Council held that it was valid for a province to stipulate in its timber licenses that no Chinese person be employed by the license holder.
10. 1947 – Provincial Election Amendment Act. This amendment gave Chinese men and women the right to vote in provincial elections.

To summarize, the B.C. Provincial government's 91 Acts and Amendments, of the wrongs against the Chinese British Columbians were:

1. No Chinese were entitled to vote in Provincial elections
2. No Chinese be employed by the Provincial Government or government related projects.

ASIANS IN CANADA, with a focus on BRITISH COLUMBIA

Chronological Highlights

[[Research interests](#)][[Notes](#)][[References](#)]

1788	Captain John Meares arrives at Nootka from China with Chinese artisans who help build a vessel there
1858	April, first rush of gold seekers from San Francisco June, first Chinese arrive from San Francisco
1860	first Chinese woman to arrive in British North America (wife of the owner of the Kwong Lee Company, Victoria, BC) increase in Chinese arrivals, mostly from Hong Kong
1861	Won Alexander Cumyow, first Chinese baby born in Canada (Port Douglas, BC)
1862	gold discovered in Cariboo's Williams Creek
1867	Confederation of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia
1871	Chinese employed in Nanaimo coalfields British Columbia joins Confederation increase in anti-Chinese sentiment
1873	Anti-Chinese Society formed in Victoria
1874	Chinese construct Grand Trunk Road to Hope
1875	Chinese barred physically from voting in Nanaimo BC Legislature passes law to disqualify Chinese from voting motion to bar Chinese from employment on Victoria city works passed
1877	Manzo Nagano, first Japanese person known to land and settle in Canada (Victoria)
1878	bill to exclude Chinese from provincial works passed bill levying \$30 licence on all Chinese passed, leading to a general strike of Chinese in Victoria

1880	<p>April, construction of CPR in BC begins</p> <p>June, Euro-Americans/Europeans and Chinese/Japanese labourers arrive from San Francisco, followed by Chinese labourers from Hong Kong in July</p>
1881	<p>Chinese labourers arrive in larger numbers</p> <p>shortage of Chinese labour in Victoria</p>
1882	<p>peak of Chinese immigration (8,083) from San Francisco and Hong Kong</p> <p>US bill prohibits immigration of Chinese</p>
1883	Chinese killed in riot at CPR construction site
1884	<p>Chinese labourers break strike in Dunsmuir mines</p> <p>establishment of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association (Victoria, BC) by Chinese Canadian merchants</p> <p>provincial Chinese Regulation Act passed, later disallowed</p> <p>provincial act to prevent Chinese immigration passed, later disallowed by the federal government</p> <p>First Royal Commission on Chinese Immigration (1884-85)</p>
1885	<p>province again passes act to prevent Chinese immigration, later disallowed by the federal government</p> <p>head tax on Chinese set at \$50</p> <p>Franchise Act excludes Chinese</p>
1886	<p>province inserts anti-Chinese clauses in all private bills</p> <p>Chinese construct CPR extension to New Westminster</p> <p>Chinese population decreasing</p>
1888	US suddenly passes absolute exclusion bill causing an increase in Chinese immigration to BC
1890	BT Rogers offered bonus and tax concessions for sugar refinery in Vancouver, provided he employ NO Chinese
1891	increased Chinese immigration
1893	request to raise head tax to \$100 passed, refused by federal government

1895	Franchise Act excludes Japanese
1897	increased Chinese and Japanese immigration first Sikhs in Canada, soldiers of the British Army (Sikh Lancers & Infantry), visiting after celebrating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee
1900	head tax increased to \$100, effective 1901 increased Japanese immigration
1901	Second Royal Commission on Oriental Affairs (1901-02)
1903	13 BC anti-Oriental bills disallowed by the federal government head tax increased to \$500, effective 1904
1904	first Sikh to bring the Guru Granth Sahib Ji (holy scripture) to Vancouver
1904-08	<u>first immigration wave</u> of Indians (almost all Sikhs)
1906	treaty between Japan and Canada: subjects of each power granted "full liberty to enter, travel, and to reside in any part of the dominion and possessions of the other contracting party" first Sikh organisation, Khalsa Diwa Society, established in Canada (Vancouver, BC)
1907	increased immigration of Chinese, Japanese, and Indians the <i>Kumeric</i> , from Hawai'i, docked in Vancouver carrying 1,177 Japanese Asiatic Exclusion League organised in Vancouver anti-Asiatic riot in Vancouver's Chinatown and Japantown Gentlemen's Agreement (Hayashi-Lemieux), limits Japanese immigration of male labourers and domestic servants (400 per annum) Bowser Amendment to Election Act, adds "Hindus" to the list of other Asian undesirables (disenfranchised, although British subjects) BC legislature passes act preventing Asians from entering certain professions, and buying property in some parts of Vancouver

	Third Royal Commission on Oriental Affairs
1908	<p>importation, manufacture, and sale of opium prohibited</p> <p>Civic Charter excludes Indians</p> <p>first Gurdwara Sahib built in Canada (Vancouver, BC)</p> <p>Federal government requires <u>Indian immigrants</u> to have \$200 in their possession on arrival [European immigrants required to have only \$25]</p> <p>Continuous Voyage Order, an Order-in-Council, immigrants must come by direct passage from their native country (directed at Japanese and Indians)</p>
1909	<p>Grand Trunk Pacific complains of inability to import Chinese labour</p> <p>Professor Teja Singh establishes the <u>Guru Nanak Mining and Trust Company</u> to organise and secure the economic welfare of the Sikh community</p> <p>Continuous Voyage Order used to exclude Indians</p>
1910	<p>Canadian Northern and Kettle Valley Railway Bills pass with stipulation that white labour be used</p> <p>Fourth Royal Commission on Chinese Immigration</p> <p>Chinese immigration again increasing</p> <p>Immigration Act sanctions Continuous Voyage Order; orders all Asian immigrants, except Japanese/Chinese, to be in possession of \$200 upon landing</p>
1912	<p>Republic of China established</p> <p>Chinese immigration continues to increase</p> <p>first Sikh baby, Hardial Singh Atwal, born in Canada (Vancouver, BC)</p>
1914	<p>Naturalization Bill stipulates 5-year residence and adequate knowledge of French or English</p> <p><u>Komagata Maru affair</u>, refusal to allow Indians (376) to land in Vancouver, BC</p>
1914-18	<p>World War I</p> <p>200 Japanese volunteer for service with Canadian army in</p>

	France (1916-1917); 54 killed and 92 wounded
1917	Provincial laws make it illegal for Chinese-owned restaurants and laundromats to hire white women (also in SK, MB, ON)
1919	Japanese fishermen control nearly half of the fishing licences (3,267); DOF reduces number by limiting to "white residents, British subjects and Canadian Indians [Natives]" resident Indian men allowed to bring <u>wives and children</u> under 18
1919-21	increased opposition to Orientals and Europeans from veterans and businessmen
1921	BC passes resolution in favour of complete exclusion
1923	new Immigration Act, in effect excludes Chinese; consuls, merchants, and students exempt Gentlemen's Agreement, same categories as 1908 but now limited to 150 annually
1928	revisions to Gentlemen's Agreement, wives and children are now included in the 150 per annum quota
1931	enfranchise Japanese veterans of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (80)
1936	Japanese Canadian Citizens League delegation goes to Ottawa to plead for franchise (unsuccessfully)
1937	revival of anti-Asian agitation (result of the Manchurian Affair)
1939-45	World War II; Chinese join armed forces voluntarily
1941	despite citizenship, Japanese are excluded from military service registration of all Japanese (March 4); later required to carry registration card that have their thumbprint and photo (August 12) attack of Pearl Harbor (December 7)
1942	Chinese protest lack of franchise, their restriction from certain professions, and anti-Chinese clauses in government contracts evacuation and internment of Japanese; men to road camps and women/children to detention camps (Greenwood, Kaslo, New Denver, Slocan, Sandon, and Tashme, BC); confiscation and disposal of property without owners' consent

1944	Chinese conscripted
1945	150 Japanese volunteer for service with Canadian army in Asia (January-May) Japanese, Chinese, Indians, and Natives who served in WWII are granted the provincial vote
1946	"repatriation" of Japanese and Japanese Canadians (3,964) to Japan <u>Gretta (Wong) Grant</u> becomes the first Chinese Canadian woman lawyer called to the bar (Ontario)
1947	Chinese wives and unmarried children allowed to enter Canada repeal deportation of Japanese Canadians repeal of The Chinese Immigration Act of 1923 repeal discriminatory clause in BC Provincial Elections Act (included Chinese and Indians, but excluded Japanese); allows entry into previously barred professions such as pharmacy, accountancy, and law
1948	federal franchise granted to Japanese Canadians
1949	enfranchisement of Japanese and Native Canadians in BC
1950	Narjan Grewall, Canada's first Sikh city councillor (Mission, BC)
1951	anti-Chinese clauses in Crown leases dropped
1955	Harban Singh (Herb) Doman establishes <u>Doman Industries</u> Ltd., which becomes one of Canada's largest lumber companies
1957	Douglas Jung becomes the first Chinese Canadian Member of Parliament (Vancouver Centre)
1962	racial discrimination in immigrant selection removed (emphasis on education and skills)
1967	immigration based on point system; all Asian Canadians are allowed to sponsor relatives
1978	second wave of Vietnamese refugees escaping after the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam in 1975
1982	Mr. Justice Wallace (Wally) Oppal appointed to the BC Supreme Court

1986	Monmohan (Moe) Sihota becomes the first Indo-Canadian MLA
1988	Canadian Government's formal apology for the wrongful incarceration, seizure of property and the disenfranchisement of thousands of Canadians of Japanese ancestry David Lam becomes BC's Lieutenant Governor
1993	Harban (Herb) Dhaliwal (Vancouver, BC) and Gurbax Singh Mahli (Malton, ON) become the first Indo-Canadians elected to Parliament
1995	\$975 application fee for immigrants and refugees
1998	Vivienne Poy becomes the first Chinese Canadian senator
1999	Adrienne Clarkson becomes the first Chinese Canadian Governor-General
2000	Ujjal Dosanjh becomes the first Indo-Canadian premier (BC)

NOTES:

Lack of franchise excluded Asians from:

- ☛ voting in federal and municipal as well as provincial elections
- ☛ nominations to the provincial legislature or municipal office
- ☛ juror's duty
- ☛ voting for school trustees or being elected as a trustee
- ☛ certain professions, e.g., law, pharmacy, or civil service