

Chinese people in Canada

1850s

Gold Rush

Thousands of Chinese came to the Fraser Valley in B.C. to mine for gold as prospectors and experienced racial discrimination. Subsequently, thousands of Chinese came to work in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the 1880s as cheap labour.



1880s

Chinese Immigration Act

Upon the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the federal government passed the Chinese Immigration Act which imposed a \$50 head tax on virtually every person of Chinese origin entering Canada.



1923

Chinese Exclusion Act

This completely stopped immigration from China for the next 24 years. In 1931, out of a total Chinese population of 46,519, only 3,648 were women.



1967

Points System

Canadian immigration allowed more educated Chinese move to Canada, which started a new era of Chinese immigration to Canada.



2018

Formal Apology

Vancouver mayor G. Robertson made a formal apology to Chinese community recognizing the city government's historic discrimination in legislation, regulation and policies against Canadian citizens of Chinese descent.



1875

Civil Rights

Chinese were deprived of the right to vote in 1875



1902

Increased Head Tax

The tax was increased to \$500. Considering that Chinese workers could save only \$43 per year, \$500 amounted to more than 10 years' saving for them. The high head tax prevented Chinese men from bringing in a wife or aged parents to Canada.



1947

Recognized as Canadian Citizens

The Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed, making it possible for the wives of Chinese Canadians, and their unmarried children under the age of 18, to immigrate to Canada. In the same year, the Chinese Canadians regained the right to vote.



2006

Government Apology

Prime Minister Stephen Harper formally apologized to Chinese Canadians for the Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act.

