The years 1900 to 1913 were a period of remarkable growth and change for Canada. There were major advances in technology. Bicycles and automobiles were replacing horses and carriages as a means of getting around. The telephone and wireless radio changed communications. Suddenly the world seemed much smaller.

With the discovery of electricity, industries grew at an astonishing pace. People flocked to factories in cities and towns looking for jobs and new opportunities. Canada was becoming more urban. By 1913 over 2 million new immigrants had also come to Canada. It was the greatest wave of immigration in Canada’s history and changed the face of society.

In 1901, there were great inequalities between rich and poor, men and women, workers and their bosses. The rights of Aboriginal peoples were ignored. People in Black and Asian communities faced discrimination. New immigrants also found themselves treated differently from others in society. Movements for social change, however, were gaining momentum.

Canada was also beginning to take its first steps onto the world stage and to assert its independence. Both internal and external forces were shaping Canada’s identity in the early years of the new century.

1. The painting on these pages is called  *Lights of a City Street (1892)* by F. M. Bell-Smith. Look closely at the people in the scene. Who are they? What are they doing? What does this painting tell you about everyday life in the city around the turn of the century?

2. What evidence of technology can you see?

3. Do you think this painting represents everyday life for all people in Canada just before the turn of the century? Why or why not?
1896
- Wilfrid Laurier becomes prime minister
- Canada introduces an "open door" policy to certain immigrants

1900
- Reginald Fessenden sends first wireless voice message

1901
- Twentieth century begins
- Marconi receives first transatlantic wireless radio signal

1899-1902
- Canada sends troops to Boer War in South Africa

1903
- Alaska Boundary Dispute begins

1904
- Labour Day is established as a national holiday
- Charles Saunders successfully grows Marquis wheat

1905
- Saskatchewan and Alberta become provinces

1906
- One of world's first movie theatres opens in Montreal

1907
- Early flights take place in Nova Scotia
- Tom Longboat wins the Boston Marathon

1908
- L. M. Montgomery's "Anne of Green Gables" is published
- Child Labour Act of Ontario is passed
- Samuel McLaughlin begins mass production of automobiles in Canada
- Naval crisis occurs

1909
- Canada and United States form an International Joint Commission

1911
- Laurier is defeated in 1911 election
- Robert Borden becomes prime minister

1912
- Boundaries of Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec are extended
- Stephen Leacock's "Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town" is published

1913
- Over 400,000 new immigrants arrive in Canada
Expectations

By the end of this unit, you will be able to:

- describe life in Canada at the turn of the twentieth century
- explain the effects of major developments in technology
- identify major groups that immigrated to Canada and their contributions
- evaluate changes brought about by urbanization
- assess the effectiveness of movements for social reform
- examine the role of government and political figures such as Wilfrid Laurier
- analyze the crises in Canada's relations with Britain and the United States
- explain the growth of Quebec nationalism and differences between English and French Canadians over issues such as imperialism
- evaluate Canada's policies in war, peace, and security from 1900 to 1913
- assess Canada's economic development to 1913
- appreciate the contributions of individuals to Canada's growth and identity
- apply good note-making skills
- effectively analyze and interpret political cartoons
- use primary and secondary sources effectively
A New Century

At midnight church bells started to peal. Bonfires were lit and cannons roared a salute to the twentieth century. Across Canada citizens enthusiastically celebrated the New Year. While some joined in fancy champagne suppers, others enjoyed simple family gatherings. Many people telephoned or sent telegrams to friends wishing them “Happy New Century.”

The year 1901 marked the beginning of an exciting new era for Canada. The world had gone through an economic depression in the 1890s and Canada had felt the pinch. But now that was over. This country of 5.3 million people was flushed with prosperity.

Canada was only 33 years old, but in the short time since Confederation it had grown tremendously. In 1867, it had been a country of just four provinces in the East. By 1900, Canada stretched across the continent from Nova Scotia in the East to British Columbia in the West and north to the Arctic Ocean. Industries were growing in cities and towns, and farmland in the West was waiting to be cultivated.

It was said that the nineteenth century had belonged to the United States. The United States had become a powerful nation and a land of opportunity for new immigrants from
around the world. In 1904, Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier boldly stated that the twentieth century would belong to Canada. Many Canadians believed he was right. Canadians entered the twentieth century with a sense of optimism and confidence.

1. a) Examine the poster. What images does it present?  
b) How does it reflect the feelings of optimism in Canada at the beginning of the twentieth century? Do you think everyone shared in this optimism? Why or why not?
2. Why do you think Laurier believed that the twentieth century would belong to Canada?

5 Winds of Change

In the early 1900s, cities such as Montreal, Hamilton, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Vancouver were becoming bustling centres. In the evenings when the workday was done, business people and workers rode home on their bicycles or rushed to catch the electric tram. Families walked home from a day’s shopping or an outing in another part of the city. Newsboys on street corners hawked papers with the latest news of the day. Impressive store fronts lined the streets and telephone wires hovered on tall poles along the sidewalks. At dusk, electric streetlights lit the way for pedestrians and automobiles.

This was only one side of life in Canada at the turn of the century, however. For most people, life still centred around the farm and village. Over 60 percent of Canada’s population in 1901 was rural. Across the country, life was a mix of old and new.

A Look Across the Country

In the Maritimes, farmers still hauled wood from the bush with oxen. Families carded wool from their own sheep for yarn to make clothes. A few towns, such as Sydney were industrial centres thriving on coal and steel. Times were changing. Maritimers looked less and less to Britain, the United States, and the West Indies—their old trading partners across the seas. Now they began to make new connections inland with the rest of Canada. But for Maritimers, the future seemed to lie in the West and not in their home provinces. Many packed their belongings, jumped onto trains, and took up homesteads on the booming Prairies.

Montreal at the turn of the twentieth century was a great world port filled with warehouses and noisy taverns. Church steeples and factory chimneys dominated the skyline. Forty millionaires were said to live on one stretch of Sherbrooke Street known as the “Golden Mile.” But rural Quebec had not changed much for almost a century. Families still lived on strip farms along the rivers and kept their traditional habitant customs and lifestyle.

In Winnipeg, new wooden homes seemed to be rising every week. But farther west, the newest immigrants still lived in sod huts. Settlers began moving into the Prairies so rapidly, however, that by 1905
the federal government created two new provinces, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Treaties were signed with Aboriginal peoples and many were moved onto reserves. It became increasingly difficult for them to follow their traditional ways of life.

In Ontario and Quebec, new industries and business enterprises were beginning to develop. Canada's major banks established a firm foothold and provided funds for businesses and western development. Workers were finding new jobs in factories that turned out manufactured goods. New railways were being built and the ribbons of steel distributed goods manufactured in the East across the country.

To the people in the East, British Columbia in 1901 was a land apart. It was separated from the rest of Canada by high mountains. Only the transcontinental railroad provided a link. It was a province of isolated ranches, fruit farms, mining camps, and canneries. Vancouver was a growing city, bustling after business. It was quickly becoming a major port for exporting prairie wheat and British Columbia coal. The capital of Victoria, on the other hand, was said to be "more English than England."

New Technologies
As Canadians moved further into the first decade of the new century, life progressively became more "modern." The early years of the twentieth century were a great

1. Contrast this painting with the one on pages 10–11 at the beginning of this unit.
2. What impression does this painting give of rural life in the early twentieth century?
age of science and technology around the world. The technological changes had an effect on almost every aspect of life in Canada.

From **Horses to Wheels**

In 1900, horses still played an important role in many peoples' lives. When a baby was born, a horse-drawn carriage brought the doctor to the house. At the end of a person's life, the undertaker's sleek black horses pulled the hearse to the cemetery. Farmers used horses to pull their ploughs and town dwellers kept them for transport. Every bakery, dairy, and coal company had to have horses to pull its delivery wagons. Horse-drawn streetcars were also still in use in many Canadian towns and cities.

New means of transportation were coming on the scene, however. The bicycle was one of the most exciting new inventions at the turn of the century. For people who were used to getting around with horses and carriages, the bicycle brought a new sense of freedom and mobility. After all, horses had to be fed and housed. Bicycles didn't, and they were cheaper to buy. By the turn of the century, one in every 12 persons owned a "wheel."

The bicycle had a major impact on society. It not only made transportation easier, but had an effect on work, leisure, and fashions. People could live farther from their place of work and get to their jobs more easily. On the job, mail carriers, police officers, delivery boys, ministers, and many others could use bicycles to get around. Schools were started where people could learn the fine points of riding. Cycling clubs organized tours, rallies, and races. Many women became cycling enthusiasts. Cycling helped to change women's fashions. Now women could wear less restrictive and more sensible clothing, such as divided skirts.

The bicycle also helped to break down social barriers. Here was a vehicle the poor as well as the rich could afford. On any given day, a factory worker or domestic servant might be riding to work beside his or her bank manager.

**Automobiles**

By 1900, the automobile was just being introduced. Henry Ford had founded the Detroit Automobile Company in 1899, nine years after Daimler started his company in Germany. King Edward VII was an enthusiastic supporter of "horseless carriages" and helped to make them popular. In Ontario, the first motorist was John Moodie of Hamilton, who imported a $1000 Winton from the United States in 1898.

By 1908, an Oshawa carriage-maker, Sam McLaughlin, was producing automobiles in Canada. McLaughlin had signed a contract with the Buick Motor Company in the United States. McLaughlin built the body of the cars and Buick provided the engines. The Oshawa firm in 1908 produced only 200 automobiles, but it was the beginning of the mass production of cars in Canada. The automobile industry would become one of the foundations of manufacturing in Canada.
A collision in Vancouver. Automobiles were beginning to complicate traffic on city streets.

Until the 1920s, the automobile was considered a rich person’s toy. But with the development of the assembly line, the prices of cars dropped and moved within the grasp of many more people. Certainly no one at the turn of the century could predict the problems of accidents, parking, and congestion that the new invention would bring.

**Flight!**
In 1903 the American brothers, Orville and Wilbur Wright, successfully flew the first airplane. That flight, on the beach of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, lasted just 12 seconds. But the Wright brothers proved that a machine heavier than air could fly. The Air Age had begun.

Meanwhile in Canada, Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, also worked on the problem of flight. At Baddeck, Nova Scotia, he formed a group known as the Aerial Experiment Association (AEA). In 1908, Casey Baldwin, a member of the AEA, flew a plane called the Red Wing. It traveled a distance of 97 m! By the summer of 1909, Douglas McCurdy was making flights of 32 km over the water at Baddeck in the Silver Dart. The Silver Dart was the finest and most easily flown aircraft of its day.
**ArtsTalk**

**Anne of Green Gables Published June 1908**
A delightful new novel by a Prince Edward Island writer, Lucy Maud Montgomery, has just been published. The novel is *Anne of Green Gables*. It is the enchanting story of Anne Shirley, a lively and talkative red-haired orphan. By mistake, Anne is sent to live with the Cuthbert family who have requested a boy to help on their farm. The adventures that follow are hilarious and heartwarming. The novelist captures the spirit of growing up in Prince Edward Island in Victorian times. Lucy Maud Montgomery's novel is so successful that she is already working on the sequel, *Anne of Avonlea*.

**Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town Hailed 1912**
Stephen Leacock is the funniest man in Canada. His new book, *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*, is a wonderful satire of life in a small Ontario town. The town is called Mariposa. Many people believe it is inspired by Leacock's home town of Orillia, Ontario. Leacock's satire makes fun of characters and small town life in a good-natured way. The people described in Leacock's story are just like people all of us know. Leacock allows us to laugh at ourselves and our everyday follies.

1. Lucy Maud Montgomery and Stephen Leacock are only two of many writers who published important novels and poems at the turn of the century in Canada. Find out more about one of the following. Write a short review like those above about one of their works or create a history card with a picture and short biography of the writer. You could also research writers not in this list.
   - Pauline Johnson
   - Frederick Philip Grove
   - Louis Hémon
   - Charles G. D. Roberts
   - Duncan Campbell Scott
   - Robert Service
   - Bliss Carman
   - Isabella Valancy Crawford
   - Archibald Lampman
   - Phillipe-Joseph Aubert de Gaspé

2. Every summer, the Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour is given to a Canadian writer for the most humorous book of the year. Find out who the most recent winner is and present a short report about the writer.

It would be a long time before large airplanes would be carrying passengers overseas, but McCurdy and Baldwin tried hard to convince the Canadian government of the airplane's military value. However, when the *Silver Dart* crash-landed during the flight trials, military officials rejected the idea of using airplanes in warfare. Ironically, 30 years later, the Canadian government asked McCurdy to become director of government aircraft production during World War II.

**Instant Communications**
Around the turn of the century, more people were getting telephones. Businesses thrived as people ordered goods from stores by phone. Friends and families
New Forms of Entertainment

Twenty years elapsed before radio broadcasting became a means of mass entertainment. In the first years of the twentieth century, people were more dependent on home-made entertainment such as the piano, banjo, and amateur theatrical productions. The phonograph or gramophone was coming in, but the thick, flat discs sounded scratchy and tinny. Not until the invention of electrical recording in the 1920s did the sound made from records improve.

Another form of entertainment was about to become immensely popular—moving pictures. The first films were silent and in black and white. Dialogue was shown on the screen as captions. A pianist often added music and sound effects. Movies became so popular that Ernest Quimet opened one of the world’s first deluxe movie theatres in Montreal in 1906. It had a thousand seats and a six-piece orchestra.

Very few movies were made in Canada, however. Movies came from the United States. Hollywood was beginning to develop as the centre of the movie industry in the early 1900s. Canadian-born star Mary Pickford made her first film in 1909, and Charlie Chaplin made his in 1911. Hollywood would continue to have a major impact on Canadian movie goers and the Canadian entertainment industry for years to come.

Changing Lifestyles

In the early 1900s, changes were taking place in life around the home as well. For one thing, modern bathrooms with running water and indoor toilets became more common. Before this time, toilets were outdoor pits—basically holes dug in the ground. Water came unpurified from rivers and lakes, and since there were no sewer systems, people commonly tossed

Marconi waits for the first transatlantic radio message from England at Signal Hill in St. John’s, Newfoundland.
Chapter 1: Canada at the Turn of the Century

their slop out of doors. Diseases from contaminated water and food were not uncommon.

Wealthier homes had refrigerators and electric lights. Electric washing machines took some of the drudgery out of washday. Other gadgets included sewing machines, vacuum cleaners, and even electric hearing aids. Canadians who could afford them purchased these gadgets from the Eaton’s catalogue. The catalogue was considered by several generations to be the most popular book in Canada. Rural families in particular depended on the catalogue for everything from fence posts to fashionable hats.

It was some time before most Canadians could afford all the modern conveniences, however. The new appliances allowed wealthier women more leisure time, but for most families, work around the home still involved a great deal of hard physical work.

**SPOTLIGHT ON...**

**Tom Longboat**

Watching professional sport was a very popular form of entertainment at the turn of the century. In Canada, tremendous attention was focussed on Tom Longboat. He was the greatest long-distance runner of his day. Tom Longboat was an Onondaga born in 1877 on the Six Nations Reserve near Brantford, Ontario. As a boy he raced at local town field days. By age 19, Tom could outrun all of his opponents.

In 1906, Longboat burst onto the Canadian sporting scene by winning the Hamilton Around-the-Bay race. Longboat had a deceptive running style with long, smooth strides. In 1907 he raced the tough, hilly course of the Boston Marathon. Against 125 opponents, Longboat set a record of 2 hours, 21 minutes, 24 seconds, battling snow, rain, and slush. He ended the race 400 m ahead of the second place runner. His record was not broken until the course of the Boston Marathon was changed to make it easier.

In 1908 he ran in the Olympics in London, England, but collapsed after 32 km. However, later that year in New York, he won the professional marathon championship. In 1909 at Madison Square Gardens in New York, he took part in the "race of the century.” He raced against a professional runner, Alfie Shubb. At the 39 km mark, Longboat passed Shubb and went on to win the race. Longboat was proclaimed the world’s best long-distance runner. Each time Tom Longboat ran, crowds flocked to see him.

Tom Longboat later enlisted in the Canadian army and fought overseas in World War I. He served on the Western Front as a dispatch runner. He got a job with the Toronto streets department in 1926, and retired from there in 1945. He died in 1949 at the Six Nations Reserve.

1. Research other famous Canadian sports figures of the early twentieth century. Prepare a mural with photos and captions telling about the individuals or teams and their accomplishments.
new immigrants went to farm in the West, however. By 1913, a large number had also moved into Canada’s growing cities.

They came for many reasons. Some were fleeing political upheavals in their home countries. Others, such as Doukhobors and Mennonites from Russia, came to find religious freedom. The Russian government had ordered them to serve in the army. It was part of their faith that they should never go to war. In Canada, the government passed an Order-in-Council guaranteeing that they would not have to serve in the army. The government also offered them (and many other groups) blocks of land where they could settle together and follow their own cultural traditions.

Other people from Britain and Europe came to escape problems caused by industrialization and a growing population. In Eastern Europe, farms were being divided into smaller and smaller plots to provide for more people. Some farmers found they had hardly enough land to make a living. Their children grew up with little hope for a better future.

In European cities, many working people faced poverty and hunger. Cities were becoming overcrowded as young people from farming areas came looking for jobs in the growing industries. Working people had few opportunities for better jobs, higher wages, or an education. Most people could never afford to own their own land or their homes. With such prospects, many people were willing to put together their few belongings and cross the ocean to Canada.

Canada’s West offered wide open spaces, free land (65 ha under the Dominion Land Act of 1872), and a chance for a fresh start. Furthermore, by 1890, the best land in the American West was already taken up. Canada was “the last, best West.” Americans also came in large numbers since they could sell their land at a good price and then receive 65 ha free in Canada. Later, they could buy more land at a few dollars per hectare and still have money left over to buy new machinery or horses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Immigrants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>41,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>49,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>89,102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1903</td>
<td>138,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>131,252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>136,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1906</td>
<td>211,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907</td>
<td>272,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1908</td>
<td>143,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1909</td>
<td>173,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1910</td>
<td>286,839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>331,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>375,756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>400,870</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Dominion Bureau of Statistics

From where did the majority of immigrants come in 1871? How had this percentage changed by 1911?

Immigration to Canada, 1871 and 1901 – 1911

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of immigrants, 1871</th>
<th>Source of immigrants, 1901 – 1911</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.9% United States</td>
<td>10.2% United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.9% Europe</td>
<td>7.5% Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84.0% Great Britain/British Empire</td>
<td>82.3% Great Britain/British Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8% Northern Europe</td>
<td>19.2% Great Britain/British Empire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.2% Asia</td>
<td>0.4% Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total immigrants to Canada 594,027
Total immigrants to Canada 1,681,041

*The majority came from the United Kingdom
IMPACT ON SOCIETY

THE SEEDS OF ETHNIC DIVERSITY

The immigration boom at the beginning of the twentieth century brought many different ethnic groups to Canada. Though they faced resentment, isolation, and economic challenges in their early years, they eventually became an integral part of Canada's social fabric and made important contributions to Canada's growth and diversity. The following are just some of the groups who settled in Canada during the greatest immigration wave in our history.

British Home Children
The Home Children were destitute children and orphans from homes run by charities in England. Between 1867 and 1924, as many as 100,000 British children came to Canada. The majority were between the ages of 7 and 14. Most were placed in foster homes across the country, usually in rural areas. Boys often worked on farms, while girls became domestic servants in small towns or in farm homes. Life was lonely and difficult for these children, especially since they were mainly treated as "just the hired hands." When their work terms were done, many went to work in manufacturing, logging, mining, and service industries. Few became rich and famous, but they contributed to Canada's growth and secured better prospects for their children.

Doukhobors
The Doukhobors faced persecution in their home country of Russia for their religious and political beliefs. It was against their faith to serve in the military or to swear allegiance to a King or Queen. Close to 7500 Doukhobors came to Canada in 1899. The Canadian government guaranteed they would not have to serve in the military. It also granted them about 750,000 ha of land in what is now Saskatchewan so that they could live in villages and share their land, rather than register individual ownership. They believed in a communal system, in which land was shared by those who worked it. Men often worked on the railways to supplement their farm incomes, and women ploughed the fields.

However, in 1906 a new Minister of the Interior replaced Clifford Sifton and the government changed its policy. Many English Canadians found it difficult to accept the Doukhobors' religious beliefs and communal lifestyle. Suspicion increased when a small radical group of Doukhobors marched into Winnipeg looking for a new "promised land." The Canadian government insisted that the Doukhobors follow standard procedures, and register individual ownership of their lands. This included an intention to become a citizen and swear an oath of allegiance to the Crown. Many Doukhobors refused on religious grounds.

In 1907, 2500 homesteads were cancelled and the Doukhobors lost about 400,000 ha of land. The community was divided. Some stayed on in a special reserve provided by the government based on 6 ha per villager. Others moved away, many to British Columbia.

Ukrainians
The Ukrainians were the largest group of immigrants from central and eastern Europe. Over 170,000 came between 1896 and 1913. Many were attracted by the promise of ukrainian zemli (free land). The first group of 4000 settled together in Alberta about 65 km east of Edmonton. Ukrainian settlements soon grew into prosperous villages marked by clay houses with thatched roofs and a community church. Many Ukrainians worked as farmers, on the railways, in mines and logging camps, and in city businesses. They were viewed as hard-working people, who like many other immigrants were willing to labour for low wages just to become established. But the fact that they encouraged their children to speak in their heritage language, wear national dress, and pre-
serve their cultural traditions made the Ukrainians suspect among English Canadians. Many people in the West wanted to “Canadianize” immigrants. English was made the only language of instruction in schools. Petro Humeniuk, one of the first Ukrainian teachers in Canada, told this story.

In the year I began teaching, the bilingual education law was abolished. Although there were many more Ukrainian students at Stuarthburn school than when I was a student, I could not teach them in Ukrainian. The new law said that during school hours I had to teach all my students in English.

... After school I taught the Ukrainian students to read and write in their own language. I wanted them to know the history and geography of the country their parents came from. I wanted them to learn Ukrainian crafts, literature, and our beautiful songs and dances. If the children knew their past they would be proud of our Ukrainian customs and traditions. Then they would feel good about themselves in their new country and pass on our Ukrainian culture to their Canadian children and grandchildren.

Black Settlers
In 1901, the Black population in Canada was about 18,000. In the early 1900s, a number of Black Americans moved north into Canada’s West from the state of Oklahoma. When Oklahoma became a state in 1907, Black settlers faced segregation (laws requiring that they live in separate communities, go to Black-only schools, etc.) and anti-Black violence. They were being pushed from their land. Some saw Canada’s West as a safe haven and were attracted by the offer of free land. By 1909, hundreds of Blacks had formed communities on the Canadian Prairies from Alberta to Thunder Bay, Ontario.

But as more Black settlers moved north, they began to meet resistance. In 1911, an article in the Edmonton Journal stated: “Whether well-founded or not, we have to face the fact that a great deal of prejudice exists against the coloured man and that his presence in large numbers creates problems from which we naturally shrink.” Many Canadians at this time wanted to keep Canada British and white. Some people associated Blacks with racial violence and crime. In response to public pressure, the Canadian government tried to block more Black immigrants. Immigration officials were rewarded for turning back Black settlers and tried to declare many unfit on medical grounds. In 1911, the government stated that Blacks were “unsuitable to the climate and requirements of Canada.” Despite these obstacles, about 1500 Blacks came to Canada between 1909 and 1911. Black immigration did not reach large numbers, however, until the 1950s.

1. a) Why do you think many Canadians resented the new immigrants who arrived during this period?

   b) Have attitudes toward new immigrants changed today? How and why?

2. Choose one immigrant group who came to Canada during the period 1896 to 1913. Create a short profile of the group including how many people came, why they came, where they settled, and their contributions to Canada. You may want to highlight some key individuals as well. Gather the profiles from your class and mount them on a bulletin board display.
Immigrants who went to the cities found work in the growing factories and in construction. They hoped to earn a decent income and get an education for their children. To many, Canada offered at least a brighter future for their children. Some immigrants, especially British and Americans, came looking for adventure and new business opportunities.

**Contributions**
The flood of immigrants contributed to Canada's growing population and workforce. In the West, immigrants were the driving force behind the agricultural boom. Many established prosperous homesteads and began farming wheat in large quantities. In the cities, many immigrants worked in the factories and in construction. They often took the most dangerous or difficult jobs laying streetcar tracks, digging sewer systems, and labouring in the expanding textile factories. Some also took seasonal jobs working in mines, logging camps, or in railway and road construction.

With the immigration boom, the population of western Canada increased rapidly. Towns sprang up, roads were built, and railway lines branched out. Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, and Edmonton mushroomed in size. Two new provinces were created. In 1905, Alberta and Saskatchewan became the newest members of Confederation.

By 1911, over 80 per cent of the people in the West were born outside Canada. Immigrants played an important part in Canada's rising economic prosperity and in the development of the country.

**A Discriminatory Policy**
But while British, European, and American immigrants were welcomed into Canada, other groups were discouraged. Canada's immigration policy was discriminatory. People of African (Black), Italian, Asian, Arab, Greek, and Jewish origin, for example, were not welcomed into Canada during this period, though some came nonetheless. It was thought they would not make good farmers and would not easily assimilate or become absorbed into Canadian society.

Most people of British heritage in Canada supported the idea of Anglo-conformity. In other words, they believed immigrants should abandon their cultural traditions and adopt the behaviour and values of English-Canadian society. At the same time, many French Canadians feared that “foreigners” would lessen their chances for French language rights and separate schools in the West. As a result, new immigrants often faced attitudes of suspicion and resentment.

After 1900, Canada's immigration policies became even more restrictive, particularly toward people from Asia. A number of Chinese immigrants had come to Canada in the 1880s to work on the Canadian Pacific Railway. Without them, Canada is one of the most multicultural nations in the world. Our ethnic diversity is largely the result of waves of immigration during the twentieth century. In 1901, Canada's population was 60 per cent British, 30 per cent French, and 10 per cent other groups. By the 1990s, no one ethnic group represented a majority in the Canadian population. The 2 million immigrants who came to Canada between 1901 and 1911 laid the groundwork for our cultural diversity. They still represent the greatest wave of immigration in Canadian history.
the railway could not have been built. But when the railway was complete, the Canadian government acted to discourage more Chinese immigration to Canada. All Chinese immigrants were required to pay a head tax of $50 in 1885. This tax was raised to $100 in 1900 and to $500 in 1903—a staggering amount of money at the time.

In British Columbia, riots broke out in 1907 to protest immigration from China, Japan, and India. British Columbians were concerned that they would lose their jobs to the newcomers, who were often willing to work for lower wages. Japanese immigration was restricted to 400 persons a year. In 1914, a number of Sikhs on board a steamer called the Komagata Maru were not allowed into Vancouver. While the ship waited in the harbour as government officials decided what to do, people in the streets protested against allowing the newcomers into the city. The 5000 Sikhs who had settled in Vancouver earlier deeply resented the treatment of the people aboard the Komagata Maru. Tensions remained high in the city for many years afterwards. Restrictions on Asian immigration remained in effect for another 60 years.

Urbanization

With the growth of industries and increased immigration, Canada was also becoming more urban. Urbanization is the movement of people into cities and towns.

Before 1900, the vast majority of people in Canada lived on farms, in villages, or in small towns. With the development of new farm machinery, however, fewer workers were needed on the farms. Many young people flocked to cities and towns looking for work in the new factories. Since farms were usually passed on to the oldest son, many younger sons and daughters moved to the cities looking for new opportunities. New immigrants also fueled the growth of cities such as Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, and Vancouver.

Canada’s two largest cities, Montreal and Toronto, doubled in size by 1921, but the most spectacular growth was in the cities of the West. Winnipeg, Vancouver,
Alberta and Saskatchewan became provinces of Canada in 1905. In 1912, the boundaries of Manitoba, Quebec, and Ontario were extended. With their larger territories, these provinces gained new resources and new opportunities for development.

Edmonton, and Calgary became vibrant centres. Regina grew from a population of just a few at a lonely outpost to 30,000 by 1910. In Calgary, there were twice as many real estate offices as grocery stores. Cities expanded at a slower rate in the Maritimes, though Halifax and Saint John showed steady growth.

Most cities developed industrial centres. Along with the factories, workers lived here in tiny homes crowded together on small lots. Most workers were renters since they could not afford to buy their own homes. Landlords often spent little money on maintaining the buildings and many areas became slums. They had few public services such as sewage systems. City development was haphazard and unplanned.

Wealthy families, on the other hand, built large homes on spacious lots away from the noise, odours, and crowded conditions of the industrial areas. Cities developed distinct neighbourhoods. Sometimes railway lines coming into the cities were the dividing lines. If you came from "the wrong side of the tracks," you were from the poorer side of town.
Other neighbourhoods gradually developed on the outskirts of towns and cities. Electric trams, automobiles, and bicycles made it easier for people to live farther from their workplaces. These neighbourhoods were the first suburbs. Gradually, city governments began to plan development and provide more services such as sewage systems, water treatment plants, and more tram lines.

Inequalities in Society

Urbanization and industrialization also created social problems. Society in 1900 was marked by inequalities. One of the most striking was the wide gap between the rich and the poor. The rich were very rich. Taxes were so low that the wealthy were left with almost all of their money to spend. Most of it went on clothes, houses, horses, and carriages.

Sir Henry Pellatt was a prime example. Pellatt is reported to have made millions in the Toronto Electric Light Company and mining stocks. In 1910 he sank $2 million into the building of Casa Loma, a palatial home in Toronto. Casa Loma contained 30 bathrooms, 3 bowling alleys, 52 telephones, and the world's finest indoor rifle range. The stables had mahogany stalls and Persian rugs, and Pellatt once had a custom set of false teeth made for his favourite horse.

However, the average Canadian at the turn of the century still lit a kerosene or gas lamp and cooked on a wood stove. Women shopped every day, scrubbed clothes on a washboard, put up pickles and fruit preserves, and beat their rugs with a wire whip. At the bottom of the economic ladder were the recent immigrants. Most immigrants came to Canada with very little. Many who decided to live in towns or cities were forced to live in crowded basement rooms or attics where sanitation and ventilation were poor. Not all found the land of new opportunities and prosperity they hoped for.

In fact, up to half of urban workers lived below the poverty line (the income needed to meet basic necessities such as food, shelter). Many families sent young children out to work to help bring in extra income. Women took low-paying jobs in factories or worked in sweatshops.

New immigrants on a Winnipeg street. Why did many new immigrants have difficulties finding homes?
grant groups, for example, formed mutual aid societies. Members of these societies helped each other when they were in need. In their home countries, families would have traditionally offered help and support, but in Canada many immigrants were on their own. Polish immigrants formed their first mutual aid society in 1872. The Hungarian Sick-Benefit Society was founded in 1901 in Lethbridge, Alberta. Germans, Lithuanians, Italians, Finns, Ukrainians, Chinese, and others formed similar groups. These groups:

- provided assistance to sick, disabled, and unemployed members and to those too old to work
- offered companionship to combat feelings of loneliness and isolation
- organized cultural events, festivals, and burial or religious ceremonies
- kept libraries of ethnic language books and newspapers to preserve their languages and traditions
- helped recent immigrants get settled by introducing them to social and legal aspects of life and offering translation services

The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Society in British Columbia ran homes for the sick, poor (including many railway workers who lost their jobs), and elderly. It also opened the first Chinese public school and pressured the government to end discriminatory practices against Chinese Canadians. In Montreal, the Coloured Women's Club worked to break down barriers women of colour faced in getting jobs and finding good housing, for example.

Many of these ethnic organizations remained active until after World War II when more government support programs were introduced. Some changed to meet the changing needs of their communities.

Black members of the Young Women's Christian Association outside the YWCA boarding house in Toronto. Groups like this offered help to those in need.
### Movements for Social Reform

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Concerns</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Factory and mine workers</td>
<td>Unsafe working conditions</td>
<td>Formed unions* and organized strikes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low wages, long working hours</td>
<td>Provincial government passed laws to deal with poor working conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>(e.g., Factory Act of Ontario 1884)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unsanitary, crowded housing conditions</td>
<td>Federal government established Ministry of Labour in 1900 to govern</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>disputes between workers and owners</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Labour Day was made a national holiday in 1904 to officially recognize</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>contributions of workers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>City governments began to provide more services such as sewage lines to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>housing areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>No political rights (e.g., right to vote, hold political office)</td>
<td>Formed organizations to teach women their rights and improve working</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor working conditions and lower wages than men</td>
<td>conditions (e.g., Women's Literary Club formed by Emily Stowe,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Few opportunities for post-secondary education and for careers outside</td>
<td>Coloured Women's Club of Montreal)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nursing</td>
<td>Gained political experience through pressure groups such as Women's</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Few opportunities outside unskilled jobs in offices, stores, and as</td>
<td>Christian Temperance Union that worked for laws against the sale of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>domestic servants</td>
<td>alcohol</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Organized groups to study nutrition, child care, sanitation, and</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>household management (e.g., Women's Institute founded by Adelaide</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hoodless 1897)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Developed leaders such as Nellie McClung and Emily Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Followed paths forged by pioneers in careers, such as Dr. Emily Stowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Malnutrition and other illnesses</td>
<td>Boards of Health began to work for better sanitary conditions</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High death rates</td>
<td>Church and private charities offered help</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alcohol abuse</td>
<td>Women's Christian Temperance Union battled against alcohol abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poor housing conditions</td>
<td>Provinces passed laws for compulsory elementary education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of educational opportunities</td>
<td>Social Services Council of Canada was formed in 1912</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* A union is an organization of workers who join together to improve their working conditions. The federal government legalized unions in Canada in 1872.
## Movements for Social Reform

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<tr>
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<th>Concerns</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Children and Youth</strong></td>
<td>High infant death rates from disease and malnutrition</td>
<td>Government introduced immunization programs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Child labour and unsafe working conditions</td>
<td>Provincial governments passed laws against child labour and for compulsory elementary education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of education for poor and farm children</td>
<td>Women organized groups to learn about nutrition, child care, etc.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Schools organized lunch programs and school nurses</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Private charities set up homes for abandoned, abused, and orphaned children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aboriginal nations</strong></td>
<td>Loss of traditional lifestyles; many lived on reserves</td>
<td>Voiced concerns but not yet politically organized enough to have an impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poverty and ill-health</td>
<td>Lives were controlled by Indian Act and Federal Department of Indian Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pressures to assimilate and loss of cultural identities</td>
<td>Concerns were largely overlooked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(children were separated from families and sent to residential schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>where they were forbidden from speaking their languages and following their cultural traditions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Immigrants</strong></td>
<td>Inadequate housing and unsanitary, crowded conditions</td>
<td>Formed mutual aid societies (members helped one another in need)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>Formed clubs and organizations to preserve their cultures and languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Isolation and loneliness</td>
<td>Joined unions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low wages and poor working conditions (often first laid off)</td>
<td>Requested consulates to represent their concerns to the Canadian government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Discrimination, resentment, pressures to assimilate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lack of political rights (could not vote until became citizens)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. For one of the groups in the chart, choose two actions taken to address its concerns. Do research to find out more about these actions and how effective they were. Present your findings in a bulletin board display. Include photos where possible.