*Info from http://www.ccnc.ca/toronto/history/timeline.html*

**1880-85**
The construction of the western section of the Canadian Pacific Railway employs thousands of Chinese workers.

**1883**
The Methodist Home for Chinese Girls opens in Victoria to help those escaping prostitution, slavery or marriage contracts.

**1884**
The federal government sets up a Royal Commission to look into Chinese immigrants.

**1885**
The Canadian Pacific Railway is completed.

The federal government introduces the Act to Restrict and Regulate Chinese Immigration into Canada, which requires that Chinese people entering Canada to pay a head tax of $50 per person.

**1886**
Following the completion of the railway, some Chinese people start small service-oriented businesses. Many move east to centres such as Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal in search of job opportunities and less discrimination.

**1895**
The Sino-Japanese War ends a shocking defeat for China. Reform leaders appeal to overseas Chinese for help to modernize and strengthen China.

Chinese Board of Trade formed in Vancouver.

One of Halifax's first Chinese-owned laundries opens.

**1900**
The federal government raises the head tax to $100, to take effect in 1902.

The Royal Commission on Chinese and Japanese Immigration holds hearings and concludes that limiting Chinese immigration will not damage trade between China and Canada.

**1903**
The federal government raises the head tax to $500.

**1906**
Newfoundland passes a law requiring all Chinese immigrants to pay a head tax of $300.

**1907**
An anti-Asian riot in Vancouver sweeps through Chinatown, and damages Chinese and Japanese businesses. The federal government pays the Chinese community $26,990 and the Japanese community $9175 for damage to their property.

**1916**
The Chinese Labour Association is organized in British Columbia.

**1917**
Toronto's YMCI (Young Men's Christian Institute) holds the first conference of Chinese students in Canada.

Employers in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan propose importing Chinese workers to relieve the labour shortage caused by W.W.I.

**1917-1918**
Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia pass laws making it illegal to hire White women in Chinese-owned restaurants and laundries.

The Chinese community challenge the law in the courts, but the ruling favours the province.

**1919**
A missionary report notes that the Vancouver has 6000 Chinese with 210 families, and Toronto has 2100 Chinese with 35 families.

*Info from Wikipedia - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\_of\_Chinese\_immigration\_to\_Canada*

**Immigration for the railway[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=History_of_Chinese_immigration_to_Canada&action=edit&section=2" \o "Edit section: Immigration for the railway)]**

When British Columbia agreed to join Confederation in 1871, one of the conditions was that the Dominion government build a railway linking B.C. with eastern Canada within 10 years. Canada's first [Prime Minister](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Canada), Sir [John A. Macdonald](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_A._Macdonald) insisted the project cut costs by employing Chinese to build the railway (instead of British citizens).

As was the case with non-Chinese workers, some of them fell ill during construction or died while planting explosives or in other construction accidents, but many deserted the rail workings for the province's various goldfields. The labour contractors hired Chinese workers willing to accept only [$](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_dollar)1 a day while white, black and native workers were paid three times that amount. Chinese railway workers were hired for 200 miles of the Canadian Pacific Railway considered to be among the more difficult segments of the projected railway, notably the area that goes through the [Fraser Canyon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraser_Canyon). As with railway workers on other parts of the line in the Prairies and northern Ontario, most of the Chinese workers lived in [tents](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tent). These canvas tents were often unsafe, and did not provide adequate protection against falling rocks or severe weather in areas of steep terrain. Such tents were typical of working-class accommodations on the frontier for all immigrant workers although (non-Chinese) foremen, shift bosses and trained railwaymen recruited from the UK were housed in sleeping cars and railway-built houses in [Yale](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yale%2C_British_Columbia) and the other [railway towns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Railway_town). Chinese railway workers also established transient Chinatowns along the rail line, with housing at the largest consisting of log-houses half dug into the ground, which was a common housing style for natives as well as other frontier settlers, because of the insulating effect of the ground in an area of extreme temperatures.

**Chinese in Canada after the completion of the CPR[[edit](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=History_of_Chinese_immigration_to_Canada&action=edit&section=3" \o "Edit section: Chinese in Canada after the completion of the CPR)]**

After the Canadian Pacific Railway was completed, many Chinese were left with no work and no longer seen as useful to both the CPR and the Canadian government. The government of Canada passed [*The Chinese Immigration Act, 1885*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Chinese_Immigration_Act%2C_1885) levying a "[Head Tax](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Head_Tax_%28Canada%29)" of $50 on any Chinese coming to Canada. After the 1885 legislation failed to deter Chinese immigration to Canada, the government of Canada passed [*The Chinese Immigration Act, 1900*](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Chinese_Immigration_Act,_1900&action=edit&redlink=1) to increase the tax to $100, and [*The Chinese Immigration Act, 1903*](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=The_Chinese_Immigration_Act,_1903&action=edit&redlink=1) further increased the landing fees to $500, equivalent to $8000 in 2003.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Chinese_immigration_to_Canada#cite_note-4) - as compared to the [Right of Landing Fee](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Right_of_Landing_Fee&action=edit&redlink=1), or [Right of Permanent Residence Fee](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Right_of_Permanent_Residence_Fee&action=edit&redlink=1), of merely $975 per person paid by new immigrants in 1995–2005, and further reduced to $490 in 2006.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Chinese_immigration_to_Canada#cite_note-5) In addition to federal legislation, municipal ordinances restricted employment opportunities even in industries not desirable to white Canadians, such as laundries.[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Chinese_immigration_to_Canada#cite_note-6)

[*The Chinese Immigration Act, 1923*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Chinese_Immigration_Act%2C_1923), better known as the Chinese Exclusion Act, replaced prohibitive fees with an outright ban on Chinese immigration to Canada with the exceptions of merchants, diplomats, students, and "special circumstances" cases. The Chinese that entered Canada before 1924 had to register with the local authorities and could leave Canada only for two years or less. Since the Exclusion Act went into effect on July 1, 1923, Chinese at the time referred to [Dominion Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_Day) as "Humiliation Day" and refused to celebrate Dominion Day until after the act was repealed in 1947.[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed%22%20%5Co%20%22Wikipedia%3ACitation%20needed)*]

From the completion of the CPR to the end of the Exclusion Era (1923–1947), Chinese in Canada lived in mainly a "bachelor's of the backpack society" since most Chinese families could not pay the expensive head tax to send their daughters to Canada. As with many other groups of immigrants, Chinese initially found it hard to adjust and assimilate into life in Canada. As a result, they formed [ethnic enclaves](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ethnic_enclave) known as "[Chinatowns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinatown)" where they could live alongside fellow Chinese immigrants.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Chinese_immigration_to_Canada#cite_note-7) Chinese settlers began moving eastward after the completion of the CPR,[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed%22%20%5Co%20%22Wikipedia%3ACitation%20needed)*] although Chinese numbers in BC continued to grow and, until the 1960s, there were no significant populations of Chinese in any other province. With legislation banning Chinese from many professions[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)], Chinese entered professions that non-Chinese Canadians did not want to do[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] like laundry shops or salmon processing.[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] These Chinese opened grocery stores and restaurants that served the whole population, not just Chinese, and Chinese cooks became the mainstay in the restaurant and hotel industries as well as in private service. Chinese success at market gardening led to a continuing prominent role in the produce industry in British Columbia. After the railway was finished, their families could come to Canada. They could become Canadian citizens. Even though they became citizens of Canada, they have faced discrimination. There were large scale [Anti-Asian Riots in Vancouver of 1907](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Anti-Asian_Riots_in_Vancouver_of_1907&action=edit&redlink=1).

Chinese merchants formed the [Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Consolidated_Benevolent_Association), with the first branch in Victoria in 1885 and the second one in Vancouver in 1895. The Association was mandatory for all Chinese in the area to join[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed%22%20%5Co%20%22Wikipedia%3ACitation%20needed)*] and it did everything from representing members in legal disputes to sending the remains of a members who died back to their ancestral homelands in China. After legislation in 1896 that stripped Chinese of voting rights in municipal elections in B.C., the Chinese in B.C. became completely disenfranchised. The electors list in federal elections came from the provincial electors list, and the provincial ones came from the municipal one.[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)][[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Chinese_immigration_to_Canada#cite_note-8)