

- 1100** The Vikings from Iceland who colonized Greenland 1,000 years ago also reached Labrador and the island of Newfoundland.
- 1215** Signing of Magna Carta in England
- 1497** European exploration begins with the expedition of John Cabot, who was the first to draw a map of Canada's East Coast
- 1534-42** Jacques Cartier makes three voyages across the Atlantic, claiming the land for King Francis I of France
- 1550s** The name of Canada begins appearing on maps
- 1604** The first European settlement north of Florida is established by French explorers Pierre de Monts and Samuel de Champlain
- 1608** Samuel de Champlain builds a fortress at what is now Quebec City
- 1610** English settlement begins
- 1670** King Charles II of England grants the Hudson's Bay Company exclusive trading rights over the watershed draining into Hudson Bay
- 1690** Count Frontenac refused to surrender Quebec to English
- 1700s** The maple leaf is adopted as a symbol in Canada
- 1701** The French and the Iroquois (a confederation of five (later six) First Nations) made peace.
- 1755-63** "Great Upheaval" during the war between Britain and France, more than two-thirds of the Acadians are deported from their homeland.
- 1758** The first representative assembly is elected in Halifax, Nova Scotia
- 1759** The British defeat the French in the Battle of the Plains of Abraham at Quebec City marking the end of France's empire in America
- 1763** The Aboriginal territorial rights are first guaranteed
- 1773** Prince Edward Island representative assembly is elected in 1773
- 1774** The British Parliament passes the Quebec Act. The Quebec Act restored French civil law while maintaining British criminal law.
- 1775** Sir Guy Carleton (Lord Dorchester), as Governor of Quebec, defended the rights of the Canadiens, defeated an American military invasion of Quebec in 1775
- 1776** The 13 British colonies to the south of Quebec declare independence and form the United States. 40000 loyalist fled.
- 1776** – Joseph Brant leads thousands of loyalist Mohawk Indians into Canada
- 1782-83** Sir Guy Carleton supervised the Loyalist migration to Nova Scotia
- 1785** New Brunswick representative assembly is elected in 1785.
- 1791** -The Constitutional Act is passed and divides the Province of Quebec into Upper Canada (later Ontario)
- 1791** – The Constitution Act also granted to the Canadas (collectively as British North America), for the first time, legislative assemblies elected by the people. The name 'Canada' becomes official
- 1792** some black Nova Scotians, who were given poor land, moved on to establish Freetown, Sierra Leone (West Africa)
- 1793** _ Upper Canada becomes the first province in The Empire to move toward abolition, led by Graves Simcoe.
- 1793** The first elected Assembly of Lower Canada held in Québec City.
- 1800s** Ice hockey is developed in Canada
- 1805** The defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte's fleet in the Battle of Trafalgar
- 1807** the British Parliament prohibited the buying and selling of slaves

- 1812** In June 1812, the United States launch an invasion in June to conquer Canada, but Canadian volunteers and First Nations, including Shawnee led by Chief Tecumseh, supported British soldiers (Major General Sir Isaac Brock) in Canada's defence.
- 1812** In July 1812, Major-General Sir Isaac Brock captured Detroit but was killed while defending against an American attack at Queenston Heights, near Niagara Falls, a battle the Americans lost.
- 1813** _ In April 1813 the Americans burned Government House and the Parliament Buildings in York (now Toronto)
- 1813** _ In June 1813, Laura Secord, pioneer wife and mother of five children, made a dangerous 19 mile (30 km) journey on foot to warn Lieutenant James FitzGibbon of a planned American attack. Her bravery contributed to victory at the Battle of Beaver Dams.
- 1813** _ In October 1813, Lieutenant-Colonel Charles de Salaberry and 460 soldiers, mostly French Canadiens, turned back 4,000 American invaders at Châteauguay, south of Montreal.
- 1814** _ Major-General Robert Ross led an expedition from Nova Scotia that burned down the White House and other public buildings in Washington, D.C.
- 1841** The Duke of Wellington sent some of his best soldiers to defend Canada in 1814. He then chose Bytown (Ottawa) as the endpoint of the Rideau Canal, part of a network of forts to prevent the U.S.A. from invading Canada again.
- 1814** _ The American attempt to conquer Canada had failed
- 1815** The Duke of Wellington defeats Napoleon
- 1832** The Montreal Stock Exchange is open
- 1833** The British Parliament abolishes slavery throughout the Empire
- 1837–38** When armed rebellions occurred in 1837–38 in the area outside Montreal and in Toronto, the rebels did not have enough public support to succeed.
- 1838** Lord Durham, an English reformer sent to report on the rebellions, recommended that Upper and Lower Canada be merged and given responsible government. Reformers such as Sir Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine and Robert Baldwin, in parallel with Joseph Howe in Nova Scotia, worked with British governors toward responsible government.
- 1840** Upper and Lower Canada are united as the Province of Canada. Some reformers, including Sir Étienne-Paschal Taché and Sir George-Étienne Cartier, later became Fathers of Confederation, as did a former member of the voluntary government militia in Upper Canada, Sir John A. Macdonald.
- 1847-48** Nova Scotia becomes the first British North American colony to attain full responsible government
- 1848-49** the governor of United Canada, Lord Elgin, with encouragement from London, introduced responsible government.
- 1849** Sir Louis-Hippolyte La Fontaine, a champion of democracy and French language rights, becomes the first head of a responsible government
- 1853** Mary Ann Shadd Cary was an outspoken activist in the movement to abolish slavery in the U.S.A. She became the first woman publisher in Canada, helping to found and edit The Provincial Freeman
- 1854** The Victoria Cross, the highest honour available to Canadians, started to be awarded that year

- 1857** Ottawa, located on the Ottawa River, was chosen as the capital by Queen Victoria
- 1860s** The Parliament buildings were completed
- 1864-67** representatives of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the Province of Canada, with British support, worked together to establish a new country. These men are known as the Fathers of Confederation. They created two levels of government: federal and provincial.
- 1864** Sir Leonard Tilley suggested the term “Dominion of Canada”. He was inspired by Psalm 72 in the Bible which refers to “dominion from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth.”
- 1867** On July 1st, the Fathers of Confederation established the Dominion of Canada, the birth of the country that we know today. The old Province of Canada was split into two new provinces: Ontario and Quebec, which, together with New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, formed the new country called the Dominion of Canada. Canada became a constitutional monarchy. The responsibilities of the federal and provincial governments were defined.
- 1867** – The British Parliament passed the British North America Act, now known as the Constitution Act
- 1867** – Sir John Alexander Macdonald, a Father of Confederation, became Canada’s first Prime Minister. Parliament has recognized January 11 as Sir John A. Macdonald Day. His portrait is on the \$10 bill. Sir George-Étienne Cartier was the key architect of Confederation from Quebec. A railway lawyer, Montrealer, close ally of Macdonald and patriotic Canadian, Cartier led Quebec into Confederation and helped negotiate the entry of the Northwest Territories, Manitoba and British Columbia into Canada.
- 1869** Canada took over the vast Northwest region from the Hudson’s Bay Company without consulting the 12,000 Métis of the Red River. Louis Riel led an armed uprising and seized Fort Garry, the territorial capital.
- 1870** Ottawa sent soldiers to retake Fort Garry in 1870. Riel fled to the United States and Canada established a new province: Manitoba. Riel was elected to Parliament but never took his seat.
- 1870** Manitoba, Northwest Territories joined the Dominion of Canada.
- 1871** British Columbia joined the Dominion of Canada by a promise from the Dominion to build a railway to the West Coast.
- 1873** Prince Edward Island joined the Dominion of Canada.
- 1873** The RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) was created by Prime Minister Macdonald. The NWMP founded Fort Calgary, Fort MacLeod and other centres that today are cities and towns. Regina became its headquarters.
- 1880** Transfer of the Arctic Islands (to N.W.T.)
- 1885** a second rebellion in 1885 in present-day Saskatchewan led to Louis Riel’s trial and execution for high treason, a decision that was strongly opposed in Quebec.
- 1885** On November 7, 1885, a powerful symbol of unity was completed when Donald Smith (Lord Strathcona), the Scottish-born director of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR), drove the last spike.
- 1890s** Yukon Gold Rush. Canada’s economy grew and became more industrialized during the economic boom

- 1891** Basketball was invented by Canadian James Naismith
- 1896** Sir Wilfrid Laurier became the first French-Canadian prime minister since Confederation and encouraged immigration to the West. His portrait is on the \$5 bill.
- 1898** Yukon Territory joined the Dominion of Canada.
- 1899-1902** Over 7,000 volunteered to fight in the South African War 1899–1902), popularly known as the Boer War. In 1900, Canadians took part in the battles of Paardeberg (“Horse Mountain”) and Lillfontein, victories that strengthened national pride in Canada.
- 1905** Alberta and Saskatchewan joined the Dominion of Canada.
- 1914** Germany attacked Belgium and France in 1914 and Britain declared war, Ottawa formed the Canadian Expeditionary Force (later the Canadian Corps). More than 600,000 Canadians served in the war, most of them volunteers, out of a total population of eight million.
- 1916** Manitoba becomes the first province to grant voting rights to women. Its founder in Canada was Dr. Emily Stowe, the first Canadian woman to practise medicine in Canada
- 1917** Thanks to the leadership of women such as Dr. Stowe and other suffragettes, the federal government of Sir Robert Borden gave women the right to vote in federal elections
- 1917** On April 9th, the Canadian Corps capture Vimy Ridge, with 10,000 killed or wounded, securing the Canadians’ reputation for valour as the ‘shock troops of the British Empire’
- 1917** Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Currie was made commander of the Canadian Corps in June 1917, a reserve officer, became Canada’s greatest soldier.
- 1918** In 1918, under the command of General Sir Arthur Currie, Canada’s greatest soldier, the Canadian Corps advanced alongside the French and British Empire troops in the last hundred days. These included the victorious Battle of Amiens on August 8, 1918—which the Germans called “the black day of the German Army”—followed by Arras, Canal du Nord, Cambrai and Mons.
- 1918** With Germany and Austria’s surrender, the war ended in the Armistice on November 11, 1918. In total 60,000 Canadians (all wars 110,000) were killed and 170,000 wounded.
- 1918** Most Canadian female citizens aged 21 and over are granted the right to vote in federal elections
- 1920** Foundation of the Group of Seven who developed a style of painting to capture the rugged wilderness landscapes
- 1921** King George V assigns Canada’s national colours (white and red, Canada \$1 bill, 1923, showing King George V)
- 1921** Agnes Macphail, a farmer and teacher, became the first woman MP.
- 1927** - The Peace Tower is completed, in memory of the First World War
- 1927** Old Age Security was devised.
- 1929** Stock market crashes which leads to the Great Depression or the ‘Dirty Thirties’
- 1933** Unemployment reached 27%
- 1934** The Bank of Canada is created

- 1939** The Second World War began in 1939 when Adolf Hitler, the National Socialist (Nazi) dictator of Germany, invaded Poland and conquered much of Europe. Canada joined with its democratic allies in the fight to defeat tyranny by force of arms. but back home, many refugees were turned away, including Jews trying to flee Nazi Germany in 1939
- 1940** Due to the work of Thérèse Casgrain and others, Quebec granted women the vote
- 1940** Unemployment insurance (now called employment insurance) is introduced by the federal government
- 1941** The Canadians fought bravely and suffered losses in the unsuccessful defence of Hong Kong
- 1942** failed raid on Nazi-controlled Dieppe on the coast of France
- 1943-44** Canadians took part in the liberation of Italy.
- 1944** In the Second World War, the Canadians with 15,000 Canadian troops capture Juno Beach on June 6, as part of the Allied invasion of Normandy on D-Day
- 1944-45** The Canadian Army liberated the Netherlands and helped force the German surrender of May 8, 1945 bringing to an end six years of war in Europe. Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945—the end of four years of war in the Pacific
- 1947** The discovery of oil in Alberta begins Canada’s modern energy industry
- 1948** Japanese-Canadians gain the right to vote as last of Canadians
- 1949** Newfoundland and Labrador joined the Dominion of Canada
- 1950–53** Canada participated in the UN operation defending South Korea in the Korean War
- 1951** For the first time, a majority of Canadians are able to afford adequate food, shelter and clothing
- 1952** Queen Elizabeth II becomes Queen of Canada
- 1960** Aboriginal people were granted the vote in 1960
- 1960s** Quebec experiences an era of rapid change known as the Quiet Revolution
- 1963** Parliament established the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. This led to the Official Languages Act (1969)
- 1965** The new Canadian flag, as we know it today, is raised for the first time
- 1965** The Canada and Quebec Pension Plans are devised
- 1967** Canada starts its own honours system with the Order of Canada
- 1969** Parliament passes the Official Languages Act which guarantees French and English services in the federal government across Canada
- 1970** Canada helped found La Francophonie, an international association of French-speaking countries.
- 1970s** The term First Nations is used
- 1972** Paul Henderson scored the winning goal for Canada in the Canada-Soviet Summit Series. This goal is often referred to as “the goal heard around the world”
- 1980** Terry Fox begins a cross-country run, the Marathon of Hope, to raise money for cancer research. He becomes a hero to Canadians.
- 1980** O Canada is proclaimed as the National Anthem
- 1980** The movement for Quebec sovereignty gained strength but was defeated in a referendum in the province

- 1982** The Constitution of Canada is amended without the agreement of Quebec to entrench the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Queen Elizabeth II proclaims the amended Constitution in Ottawa.
- 1985** fellow British Columbian Rick Hansen circled the globe in a wheelchair to raise funds for spinal cord research.
- 1988** Canada enacts free trade with the United States. The Government of Canada apologized in 1988 for wartime wrongs and compensated the victims (Japanese).
- 1989** Canadian Space Agency
- 1995** The Quebec sovereignty was again defeated in a second referendum
- 1996** at the Olympic Summer Games, Donovan Bailey became a world record sprinter and double Olympic gold medallist.
- 1999** Nunavut joined Canada.
- 2006** The House of Commons recognizes that the Quebecois form a nation within a united Canada
- 2008** Ottawa formally apologized to former Aboriginal students for forcing them to assimilate into the mainstream Canadian culture by placing them in residential school from the 1800s until the 1980s.