

Canada's race problem? It's even worse than America's.

For a country so self-satisfied with its image of progressive tolerance, how is this not a national crisis?

**Celebrated as
a nation of
inclusivity and
tolerance**

**Even while we
acknowledge
Canada's misguided
past, we fail to talk
about and fix the
issues of today**

Or it could be because we simply do not see the forest for trees. We are distracted by the stories of corrupt band councils, or flooded reserves, or another missing

Aboriginal woman. Some of us wring our hands, and a handful of activists protest. There are a couple of unread op-eds, and maybe a Twitter hashtag will skip around for a few days. But nothing changes.

**The problems
we have are
shunned off
and hard to
see**

Sad!



Confronting systemic racism in Canada

Bill B,
Ivy D

"Thank god
that we're
different than
the United
States"

Easy to point fingers
at the US and live in
a state of denial
about Canada's
systemic racism

One of the reasons
why racism is so
persistent in Canada
is because Canada is
seen as a "haven" for
multiculturalism, so
people don't
challenge the
systemic racism in
Canada

Prevents us from
confronting the
systemic issues that
Black and
Indigenous
Canadians face

When we live in a
state of denial and
"colorblindness", we
don't notice the
systemic racism
around us, that is
slowly but surely
harming the minority
populations

**Black youth are more
likely to be taken
from their parents
and face school
discipline, and black
adults face an over-
representation from
stop-and-searches to
incarceration.**

Black communities
in Canada are
disproportionately
stopped by the
police, leading to
increased arrests
and incarceration
rates

Ontario Human
Rights Report: Black
people are 20 times
more likely to be
shot by police than
white people

Similar to holocaust
denial or Armenian
genocide
denial—people like
to downplay or deny
that there is
systemic racism to
avoid addressing a
shameful issue

People also like to
victim blame Black
and Indigenous
people when it
comes to systemic
racism

**"George Floyd
was on drugs",
"Black people
are violent"**

Nearly 20 times as likely to be shot dead. Six times
more likely to be taken down by a police dog. Inside
a landmark report on the 'disproportionate' use of
force on Black Torontonians

Average income

Not a visible minority
\$50,225

Black Population
\$35,310

tina & ivy L

Foreign Policy



Imprisonment of Lepers, (mostly Chinese), on two Victoria Area Islands:

The government learned that 5 Chinese immigrants in Chinatown had leprosy --> immediately quarantined

Obtained permission to isolate the immigrants on D'Arcy on April 22, 1889

Fear that the disease would spread to white people

Chinese immigrants with leprosy were sent to D'Arcy to fend for themselves

Currently known as D'Arcy Island

Previously known as the "Island of Death" in the Chinese community in BC

Shows how racism was normalized in early Canada's history

Result of white supremacist government

Chinese-Canadians were considered second-class citizens, less than white people

Every three months a sanitary inspector and interpreter would take a small steamboat to bring supplies and examine the lepers.

The inspector and interpreter was their only form of contact with the outside world.

The outside world had a vague knowledge of the colony.

Nobody in Victoria knew what was happening to the banished lepers. Ratepayers thought it was a place that they were keeping up the maintenance.



18 Lepers died under Victoria's Administration.

After 1906, D'Arcy Island was run by the Federal Government as Leprosarium under the Leprosy Act.

It was moved to another Island in 1924 called Bentick Island.

The government burned down the remains on D'Arcy --> deceased bodies on D'Arcy were forgotten

Finally was permanently shut down in 1957.

Victoria city erected a commemorative plaque on D'Arcy in 2000.

Miranda, Ben

Internment of Japanese Canadians during and after WWII

"I was a 22-year-old Japanese Canadian," said Tom Tamagi, "a prisoner of my own country of birth. We were confined inside the high wire fence of Hastings Park just like caged animals."

Cabinet Minister Ian Mackenzie applied great pressure on Prime Minister Mackenzie King to create an act that would send all Japanese men to labour camps, and in early 1942 the act passed

The Japanese Canadians were stripped of their properties, belongings, and were forced into a mass deportation at the end of the war

In February of 1942 around 21,000 Japanese Canadians were taken from their homes on Canada's West Coast

Of those 21,000 about 12,000 were exiled to British Columbia, and other remote areas

By the summer of 1942, all Japanese Canadians had been moved from the West Coast. Around 2,150 men had been sent to work in labour camps. 3,500 Japanese Canadians chose to work on sugar farms outside B.C.

The Japanese Canadians were given two options. Move to the rocky mountains with minimal government assistance, but freedom, or leave the country. The majority opted to move, and stay in Canada

The remaining Japanese Canadians, were exiled to the Slocan Valley, but eventually they would once again have to be moved around

This option was given by Prime minister King in an in council act in 1945, but in time it would become undone



One B.C. delegate admitted to Maurice Pope (military staff officer to Prime Minister King during WWII) that WWII was a "heaven-sent opportunity to rid themselves of the Japanese economic menace".

Existing resentment towards Japanese-Canadians was exacerbated by Japan's entry into the war and the attack on Pearl Harbor. These events furthered the distrust and racism directed at Japanese-Canadians.

Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King used the War Measures Act to require all Japanese-Canadians to register as an enemy alien and move at least 100 miles inland from the Western Coast of B.C.

Their property (land, homes, vehicles, possessions) was confiscated and was then sold without the permission of the owners at a fraction of what it was worth in order to pay for the expenses of the internment camps.

They were separated from their families and held in barns meant for livestock. They sent any who resisted to Prisoner of War camps.



S. GEORGE V.

AN ACT to confer certain powers upon the Governor in Council and amend the Immigration Act.

[Assented to this day of August, 1931.]

III His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the War Measures Act, 1931.

2. All laws and things done or omitted to be done pursuant to the passing of this Act and to or since the passing of this Act done, August 1, 1931, by or under the authority of or ratified by:

(a) His Majesty, the King in Council;

(b) any Minister, or officer of His Majesty's Imperial Government;

(c) the Governor in Council;

(d) any Minister, or officer of the Government of Canada;

(e) any person, which has been done or omitted after the passing of this Act, which may be authorized by this Act or by order or regulation made under this Act to do or omit, done or omitted under the authority of this Act, and hereby declared to have been lawfully done or omitted;

3. The provisions of sections 3, 10, 11, and 13 of this Act, shall only be in force during war, invasion, or insurrection, and not otherwise.

4. The issue of a proclamation by His Majesty, or his Minister, under the authority of the Governor in Council shall be conclusive.

5.

"There was a lot of fear [of] the Japanese...there were a lot of people who resented their abilities as farmers and fishermen and saw an opportunity to get rid of this threat... There has always been a tradition of racism towards Asians in British Columbia..."

– David Suzuki

On September 22, 1988, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney apologized on behalf of the Canadian government for its wrongdoings against Japanese Canadians.

Symbolic redress payments were given to individuals and communities, but the most important result of the campaign for redress was the abolition of the War Measures Act.

Even after the war, Mackenzie King expressed no regrets for the treatment of Japanese Canadians

Andrew Pun & Vishnu Sripathi



Compared to Japanese internment camps in WW2, reparations for slavery is difficult: no victims of slavery are alive today and their descendants aren't easily identifiable.

However racial discrimination was not formally prohibited until 1960 with the Canadian Bill of Rights, so these effects are quite recent.

Racist housing laws also existed in 1920s, such is the case with the neighbourhood of Westdale, Hamilton Ontario, where racial segregation was rampant and not banned by court.

Discrimination in housing means that these groups had less opportunity to acquire wealth and such this disparity continues to this day.

UN Panel notes high rate at which children are removed from African Canadian families (comparisons made to the "Sixties Scoop".

Other facilities such as school boards, universities, health services and private businesses may also have used segregative tactics, contributing to systematic racism.

African Canadian's also being mistreated in prisons.

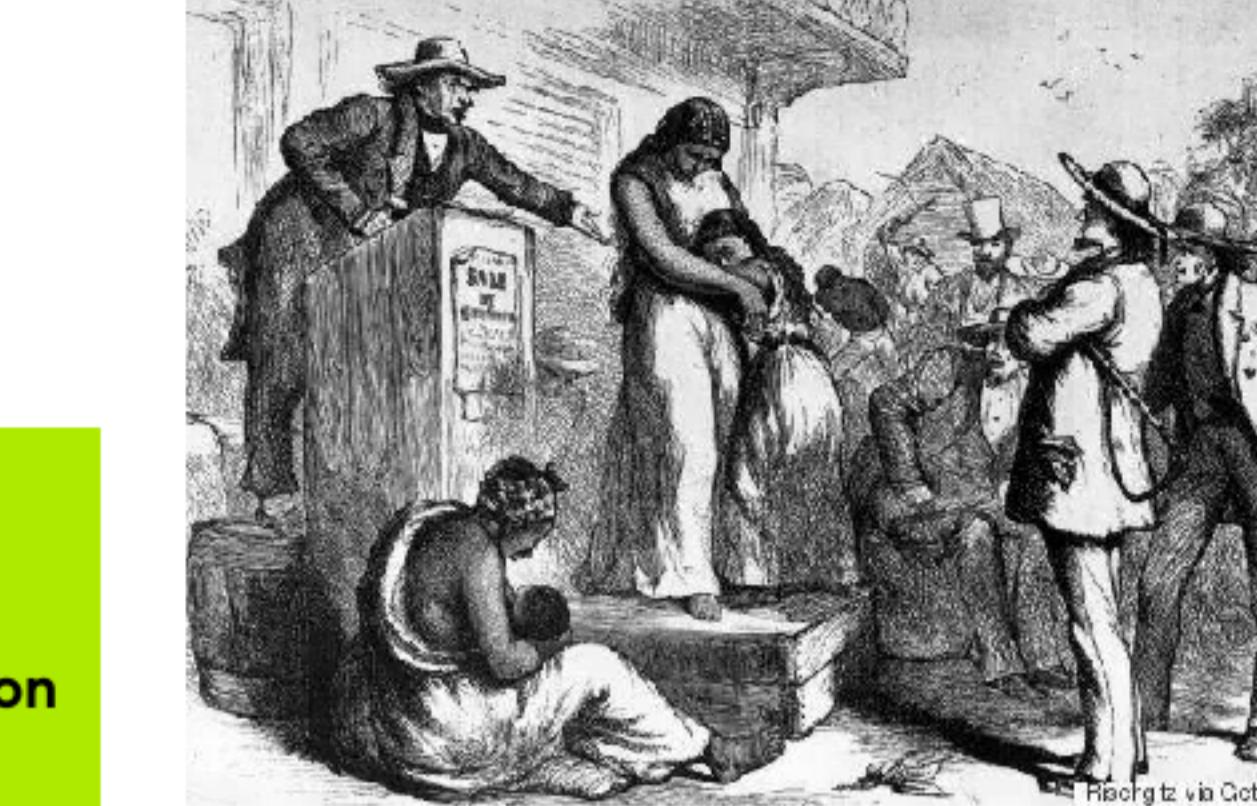
UN calls for financial reparations to be made to individuals who may have been affected by all of these above issues.

2017: UN expert panel recommended Government of Canada to "issue an apology and consider providing reparations to African Canadians for enslavement and historical injustices."

Panel discussed Canada's history of racism

Discussed African Canadian's issues with criminal justice system, disparities in access to education, health, housing and employment

as well as emerging forms of discrimination and hate crimes



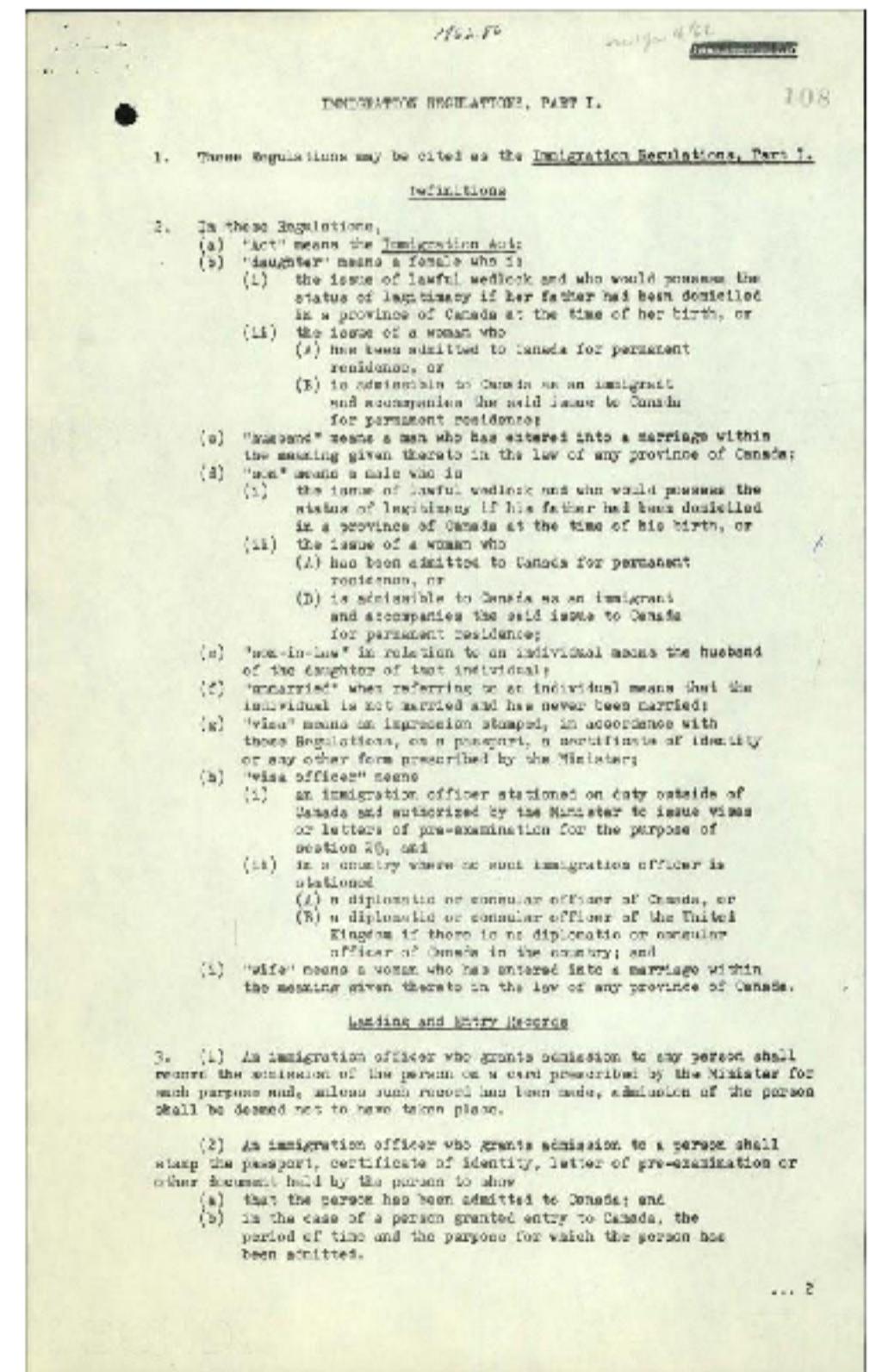
Slavery legal in Canada until 1834 when Britain abolished it in all of its territories.

Canada did not have slave-based plantation economy but many people owned slaves such as government/military officials, Loyalists, bishops, priests, nuns and tradesmen.

Many ask why Canada should pay reparations to all African Canadians when not all are descendants from slaves in Canada.

Some were descended from people who escaped from slavery in US, or immigrants from Caribbean or Africa.

But reparations should still be made for injustices discussed in the aforementioned UN panel.



Denial of Entry to Persons of Jewish Descent in Canada (1939 - the Cold War)

Neil, Lloyd
and David

20 000 Jewish Canadians fought for Canada in WW2

Major Dunkleman is one example who was highly decorated for his courage under fire

In 1939, in order to escape the anti-Semitic persecution of Nazi Germany, the MS St. Louis tried to disembark in North America only to be rejected

"Voyage of the Damned"

Canada turned away MS St. Louis with 908 Jewish refugees seeking asylum

At the time, Canada, specifically Quebec, had a climate riddled with anti-Semitic views

Anti-Semitism

In fact, in the 1944 election the leader of the Union National, Maurice Duplessis became Premier on a platform built on the blockade Jews settling in Quebec

Saidye Bronfman was recognized as a Member of the Order of the British Empire after organizing 7 000 women in Montreal to make packages for soldiers overseas

World War 2

Having no other choice but to return to Europe, many were later caught by Nazis and killed in death camps

This failed voyage was later known as the "Voyage of the Damned"

While completely made up, he made a rumor accusing the Liberal Premier of conspiring with William Lyon Mackenzie to bring over 100 000 Jewish refugees

These refugees had been displaced by the Holocaust but the hatred created by this rumor allowed for Duplessis to win the election

This anti-Semitism forced the Jewish community to band together and form the UJPO, one of the largest fraternal organizations in Canada at the time

Established in 1944, the UJPO had more than 2 500 members in the 40s and 50s, branching from Toronto to Vancouver

While the global response to the Holocaust was essentially silenced for decades afterwards, groups like UJPO allowed for people to comprehend the event

The United Jewish People's Order

The Padlock

But the fight for Jewish freedoms in Quebec was not done. In the early 1950s the UJPO branch in Montreal closed under the Padlock Law

Introduced by Duplessis, the Padlock Law allowed for the Attorney General of Quebec to lock up a property suspected of spreading communist propaganda

Being extremely vague, the law essentially silenced freedom of speech and allowed police to lock up anyone who they wanted, including Jews

Why Reparations and Apologies to African Canadians are Necessary.

PM Justin Trudeau evaded the question if he would issue an apology

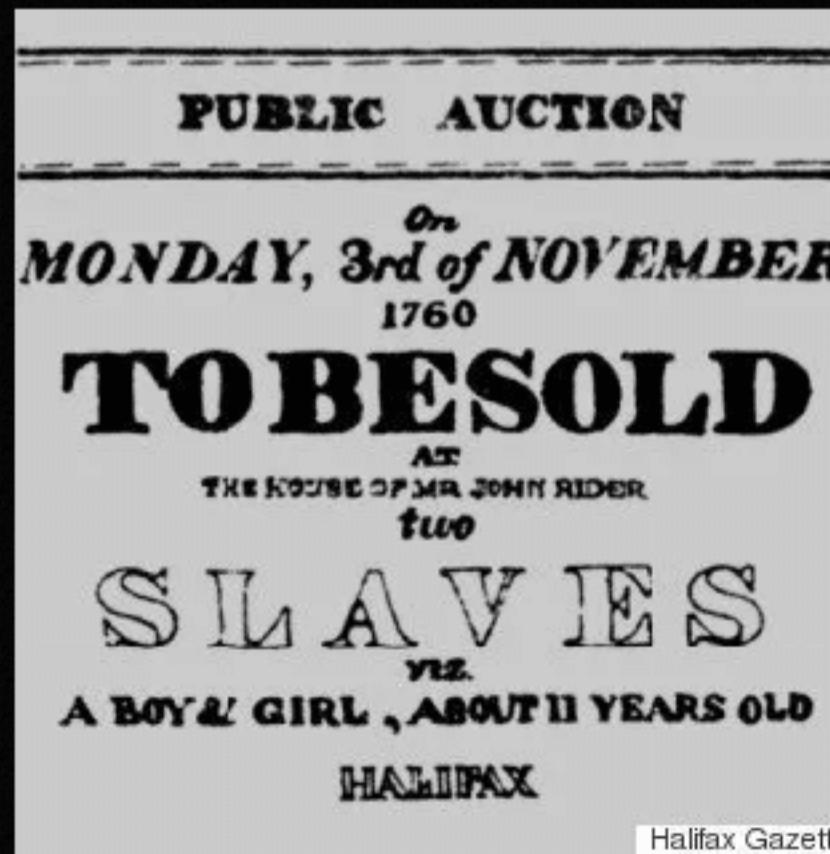
Slavery in Canada

- legal until 1834
- Economy was not slave-based
- Many people such as government and military officials, Loyalists, bishops, priests and nuns and tradesmen owned them
- Even tho many African Canadians do not descend from the enslaved of Canada most African Canadians have suffered and many still do suffer from the historical injustices



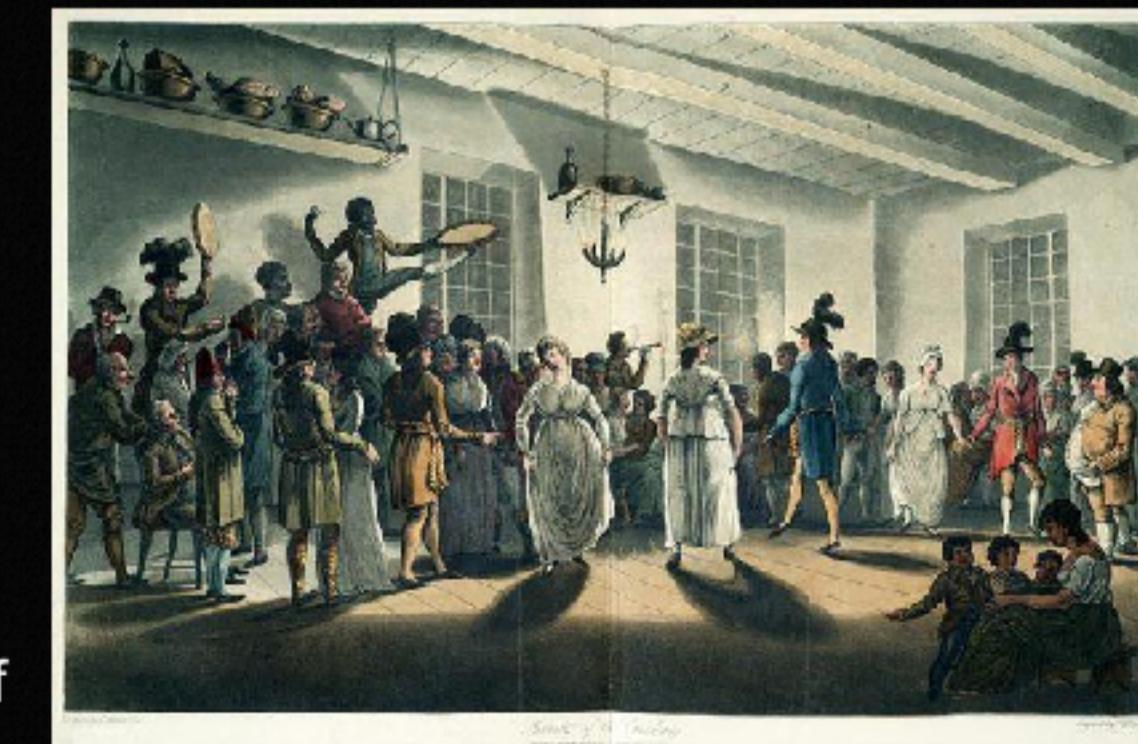
Financial Reparations

- Japanese Canadians who suffered in internment camps received an apology from Prime Minister Brian Mulroney in 1988 and survivors received \$21,000 in reparations
- Enslavement ended 186 years ago, so it is difficult to redress
- Racial discrimination was not uniformly prohibited until the Canadian Bill of Rights was proclaimed in 1960
- Reparations for discrimination do not need to take the form of a financial payment to every individual African Canadian, but specific groups of victims of past and present harms are a viable option



African Canadians and Reparations

- Reparations can be made to African Canadians in the same ways reparations are made for the "sixties scoop"
- Federal + provincial governments could establish funds for African Canadian communities affected by environmental racism.
- Federal + Provincial governments could also establish funds for reparations to African Canadian victims of ongoing maltreatment in prisons and jails.



BEAUMARIS HOTEL
and YACHT CLUB, Lake MUSKOKA



Cool and refreshing. Three hours from Toronto, 18-hole golf course, 5 tennis courts, all kinds of aquatic sports, dancing nightly at Yacht Club. Regular dinner dance every Saturday evening, complimentary to guests and cuisine par excellent. Restricted clientele and rates surprisingly low.

JAMES E. McDONALD, Manager,
Winter Resort connection British Colonial
Hotel, Nassau, Bahamas.

Racist Housing Laws

- Generations of racism and segregation in Canadian communities prevented African Canadians from acquiring significant capital from immediate ancestors
- Municipal governments and private organizations like banks, mortgage companies or real estate agents could apologize for this now
- These communities can support African Canadian initiatives like scholarships specific for African Canadian students or grants for African Canadian businesses

What Systemic Racism Looks Like in Canada

"Canada has been really good at convincing itself and the world that the terrible things that come out of colonization somehow didn't happen here."

Systemic Racism: A form of racism that is embedded as a normal practice within a society or organization.

Since our country's formation, people of colour have been marginalized not just by other citizens, but by our country's very institution as well

There have been numerous laws and acts put into place which specifically target certain minority groups. One notorious example is the Indian Act.



Our country's refusal to acknowledge the existence of systemic racism only fuels the fire

Canada tends to point fingers at the USA but doesn't reflect on the institutional racism found deep within the country



Black and Indigenous people were disproportionately charged with cannabis related offenses.

Indigenous people make up 5% of our country's population yet make up for roughly 30% of federal prison populations

Over the past decade, the police's budget has skyrocketed. Defunding the police means examining our country's structures and whether they are appropriate.

Canada was founded on stolen, colonized land and has a deep history of racism.

The RCMP was created with the sole purpose of suppressing those of Indigenous descent and asserting dominance over them

Residential Schools attempted to assimilate thousands of Indigenous children. These children were subjected to brutal abuse and violence

Canadians takes pride in the fact that they are so different from the USA, but are we really?

Incarcerated in federal prison:

63%

Black Indigenous

7% 30%

General population:

92%

3% 5%

Chinese Head Tax and Exclusion Act (1885-1947)

Chinese Head Tax Act was in effect for 38 years (1885 to 1923)

Forced Chinese immigrants to pay a head tax to enter Canada

Did this to restrict immigration because Chinese labour was not needed anymore for building the Canadian Pacific Railway

Tax was up to \$50. It was later raised to \$100, then \$500

For many poor immigrants seeking a better life in Canada, this tax was impossible to pay, meaning few Chinese people were able to immigrate.

Overall, around 82000 Chinese immigrants paid almost \$23 million in tax

The Chinese Exclusion Act (aka Chinese Immigration Act) took effect from 1923 to 1947

As a result, the Chinese head tax was removed. Instead, virtually all Chinese immigrants were banned from entering Canada

Chinese-Canadians who already lived in Canada had to register for an identity card within 12 months of being born or the act taking place, or else they would be fined and imprisoned.

If you left Canada for more than two years as a Chinese-Canadian, you were barred re-entry for life, regardless of family or friends in the country.

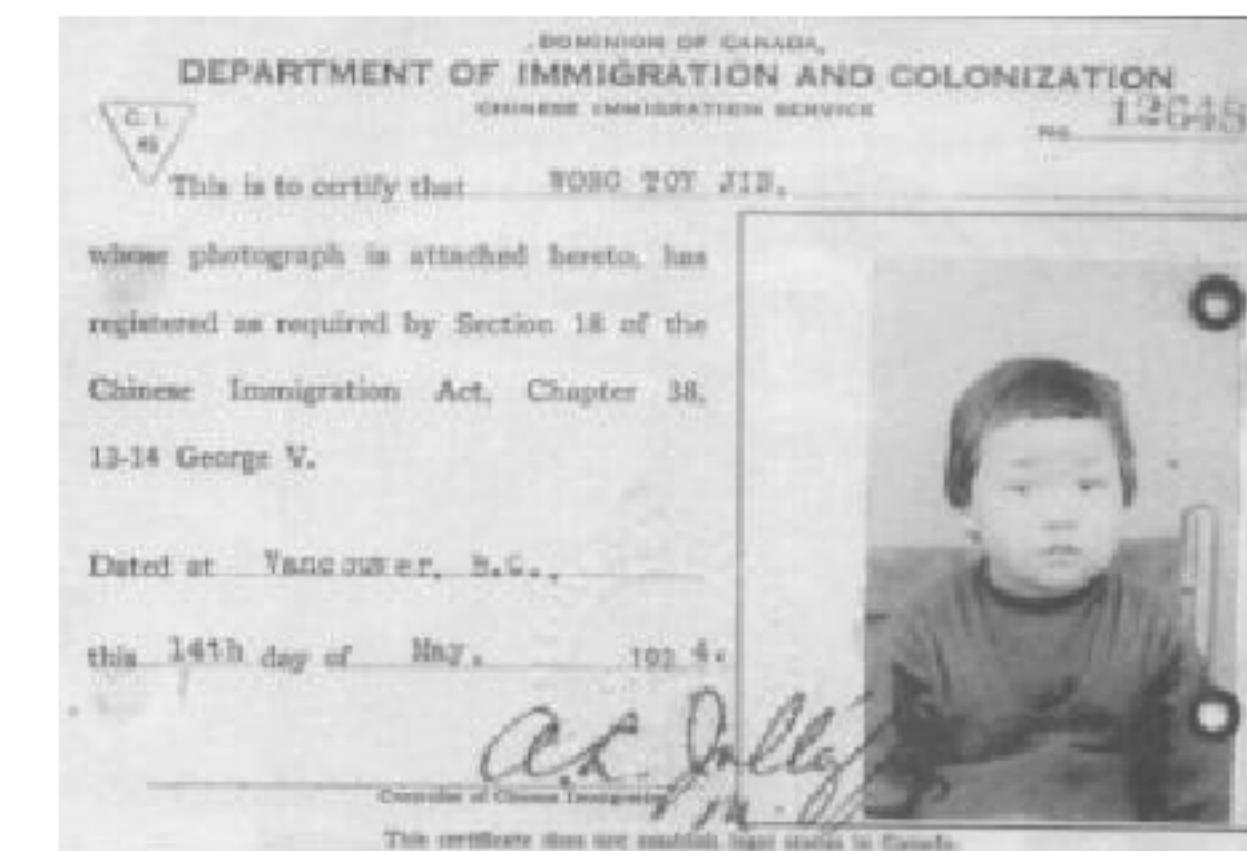
A head tax receipt



In May 2014, former premier of British Columbia Christy Clark gave a formal apology as well

In June 2006, Harper issued a formal apology in the House of Commons, with the first sentence "Canada Apologizes" spoken in Cantonese

This breaks the almost 150 years tradition of only speaking English and French in the House of Commons, and was intended to show the sincerity of the apology



A Chinese ID Card



One million dollars were also put in a legacy fund which would help preserve culture, education on the issue, and a variety of other legacy initiatives

