

July
2022



INDICAN FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Connecting and creating friendship
between India & Canada



Dear Members,
A warm greetings to all.

In my last text I mentioned about ICFC in greater details, I emphasized on joining ICFC virtual club and also requested all existing members to disseminate it amongst their family, friends and relatives enabling them to benefit from it. There are lots of benefits that one can avail by joining ICFC platform mainly related to availing all services linked with education, PR, Counselling, Residency support, Legal Support etc. apart from all these one can also expand business, enter into trading, make new connections and plethora of other benefits.

As I mentioned in the previous Newsletter that I frequently visit Canada for my business reasons, explore new avenues and also to meet my friends and relatives who are staying there for years together. This reminds me when I first landed in Canada, I was little nervous as this was the longest hour I had spent inside a flight. I was under the impression that when the flying time is so long that means the people of that country compared to ours would be way different but all my assumptions went wrong. From the time I landed and till the time I stayed, Canada attracted me, the country appealed me so much that at no point did I feel that I was not in my own Country rather everything was appearing very familiar. Talk of the ambiance, the weather, the people, the food, the culture, the behavior all resembled with India. It appeared to me as if I have entered a new India with less population and more of hygiene. Yes, that is the kind of warmth that Canada offers to each and every tourist from all across the world.

Canada contains a very large Indian Diaspora, why, what is the reason for Indians to have such propensity for this country. I shall brief it in my next write up. Follow our Newsletter

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INDICAN FRIENDSHIP CLUB



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History of India – Canada Relationship

In support of the vast white population who did not want Indians to immigrate to Canada, the British Columbia (BC) government quickly limited the rights and privileges of South Asians. In 1907, provincial disenfranchisement hit the South Asians, who were thus denied the federal vote and access to political office, jury duty, professions, public-service jobs, and labour on public work.



How Canadian Government put a restriction on the entry of Indians?

The next year, the federal government put into force an immigration regulation that specified that migrants must travel to Canada through continuous journey from their country of origin. As there was no such system between India and Canada—which the Canadian government knew—the continuous-journey provision therefore prevented the endurance of South Asian immigration.

Separating Indian men from their families, this ban would further stifle the growth of the Indo-Canadian community. Another federal law required new Indian immigrants to carry \$200 in cash upon arrival in Canada, whereas European immigrants required only \$25 (this fee did not apply to Chinese and Japanese, who were kept out by other measures).

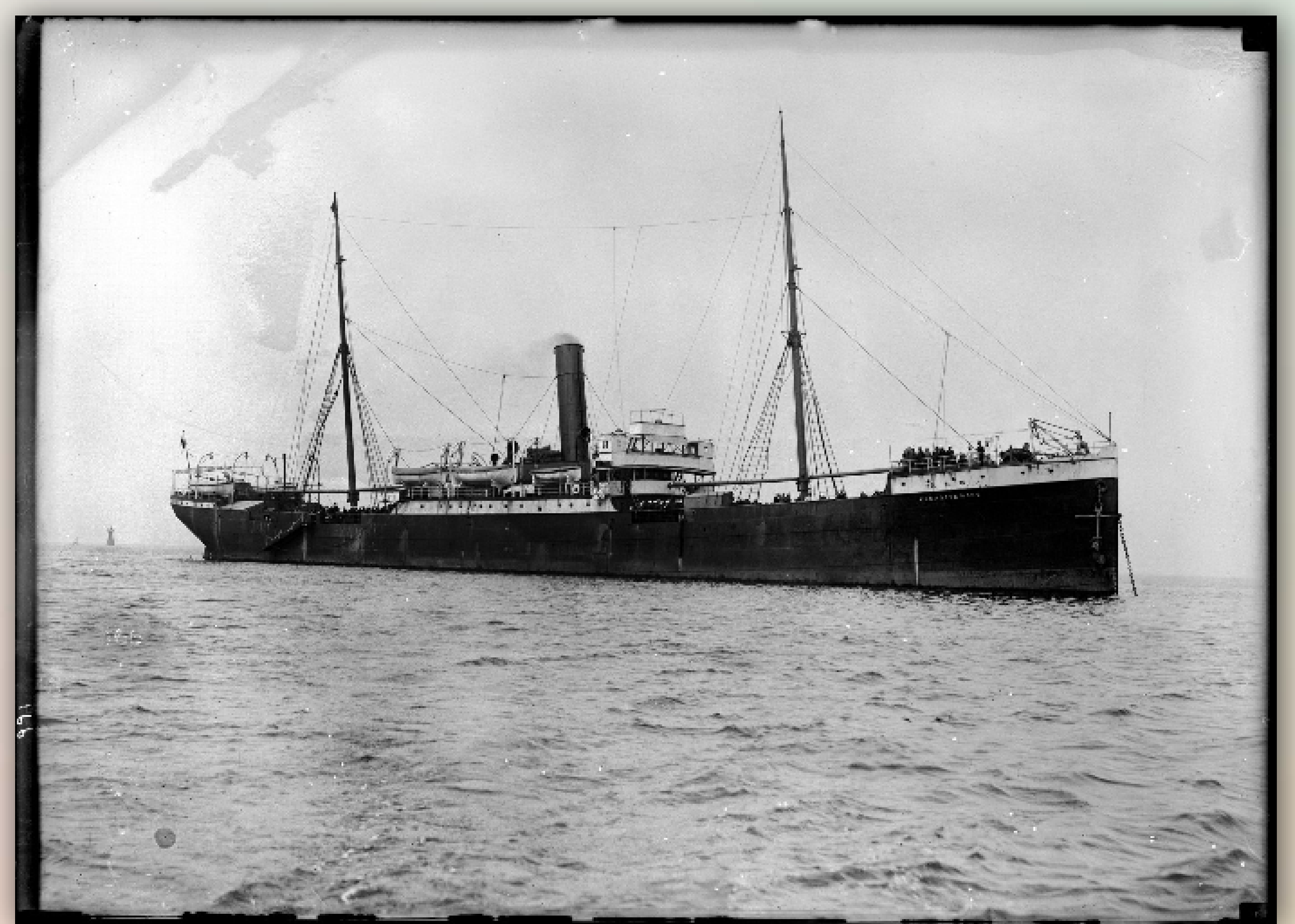
How the restriction got revoked?

In November 1913, a Canadian judge overruled an immigration department order for the deportation of 38 Punjabis, who had come to Canada via Japan on a regularly scheduled Japanese passenger liner, the Panama Maru. They were ordered deported because they had not come by continuous journey from India nor did they carry the requisite amount of money. The judge found fault with the two regulations, ruling both of their wording to be inconsistent with that of the Immigration Act therefore invalid.

With the victory of the Panama Maru, whose passengers were allowed to land, the sailing of the SS Komagata Maru - a freighter carrying 376 South-Asian passengers (all British Subjects) - took place the following year in April.



South Asia Immigrate
In Komagata Maru



Komagata Maru
1913

How the restriction was again put into force that saw fall in South Asian Population?

On 23 May 1914, upon the eve of the First World War, the Komagata Maru candidly challenged the 'continuous journey' regulation when it arrived in Vancouver from Punjab. However, although invalidated for a couple of months, the 'continuous journey' and \$200 requirement provisions returned to force by January 1914, after the Canadian government quickly rewrote its regulations to meet the objections it encountered in court. The ship had not sailed directly from India; rather, it came to Canada via Hong Kong, where it had picked up passengers of Indian descent from Moji, Shanghai, and Yokohama. As expected, most of the passengers were not allowed to enter Canada. Immigration officials consequently isolated the ship in Vancouver harbour for 2 months and was forced to return to Asia. Viewing this as evidence that Indians were not treated as equals under the British Empire, they staged a peaceful protest upon returning to India in Calcutta. British forces saw this as a threat to their authority, and opened fire on the protestors, killing many. These events would give further evidence to South Asians of their second-class status within the Empire. By 1914, it is estimated that the number of South Asians in British Columbia fell to less than 2,000.

Canada would eventually allow the wives and dependent children of South-Asian Canadian residents to immigrate in 1919. Though a small flow of wives and children would be established by the mid-1920s, this did not offset the effect of migration by South-Asian Canadians to India and the US, which saw the reduction of the South Asian population in Canada to about 1,300 by the mid-1920s.



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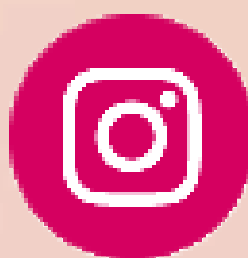
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