

Canada's
History
for KIDS
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Canada's History Magazine for Kids **Kayak** 96 96



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A
**CANADIAN
CITIZEN**



**BELONGING TO
THE LAND**



**FAR FROM
CANADA**

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Cover Illustration: Steven P. Hughes

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FROM THE EDITOR



Indigenous Peoples have been in this territory for many thousands of years. Today, people come from all over the world to become Canadian citizens. Maybe you're one of them! Being a Canadian citizen is more than just living here. Citizens have rights and responsibilities. They are free to live their lives in safety, while respecting the rights of others.

Nancy



AS CITIZENS, OUR IDEAS, WORLD VIEWS, CULTURAL IDENTITIES, AND VALUES ARE SHAPED NOT ONLY IN CLASSROOMS AND MUSEUMS OR BY POPULAR CULTURE, BUT ALSO IN EVERYDAY SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND PATTERNS OF LIVING THAT BECOME OUR WAY OF LIFE.

-TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA

NUMBER OF CANADIAN CITIZENS IN 2021 WHO WERE ALSO CITIZENS OF OTHER COUNTRIES: 3.7 MILLION

ABOUT 24,000 PEOPLE BECAME CANADIAN CITIZENS EVERY MONTH IN 2025.

THE UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM ARE THE COUNTRIES WHERE CANADIANS ARE MOST LIKELY TO ALSO HAVE CITIZENSHIP.



THE FIRST CEREMONY TO WELCOME CANADIAN CITIZENS TOOK PLACE ON JAN. 3, 1947, WITH 26 PARTICIPANTS. PRIME MINISTER MACKENZIE KING RECEIVED THE FIRST CITIZENSHIP CERTIFICATE, NUMBERED 0001.

MORE THAN 9 IN 10 PEOPLE LIVING IN CANADA ARE CANADIAN CITIZENS, ACCORDING TO THE 2021 CENSUS.



THE ROAD TO CITIZENSHIP

There have been twists and turns as our country decided what it meant to be a Canadian citizen.

There are different ways to become a Canadian citizen. One is to be born here, or to be born anywhere in the world if one or both of your parents is Canadian. Another is to become a naturalized citizen. That means you were born in another country but applied and were approved to become Canadian.



TRULY CANADIAN

Before 1947, people who were born in Canada or were naturalized were actually British subjects. After the Second World War, Canadians saw themselves and their country differently. Many had always felt a stronger connection to Canada than to Britain. And as people from more countries moved to Canada, the government wanted to create a sense of belonging and unity. This growing feeling of national identity led to the *Canadian Citizenship Act*. It was passed in 1946 and took effect on Jan. 1, 1947. It set out how people could gain — and lose — citizenship. For instance, if you served in the military of an enemy country or lived outside of Canada for more than six years, our government could take away your citizenship. In 1977, a new act gave all Canadian citizens the same rights. It is still in use today. Before that, British subjects who came here were treated better than immigrants from other countries when they wanted to become citizens. Canadians also used to lose their citizenship if they became citizens of another country. The 1977 act permitted what's known as dual citizenship.

BECOMING A CITIZEN

Someone who does not have Canadian parents and was born in another country must meet several conditions to become a citizen. To apply for citizenship when they're over 18, people must typically:

- ✓ **be a permanent resident**
- ✓ **have lived in Canada for at least three years during the five years before signing a citizenship application**
- ✓ **file taxes in Canada for a set time**
- ✓ **not have done certain types of illegal things**
- ✓ **be able to communicate acceptably in either English or French**
- ✓ **pass the citizenship test**
- ✓ **take the citizenship oath**

The title may be different depending on the federal government at the time, but there's always a Member of Parliament who is the minister in charge of citizenship. That person has the power to give citizenship to someone who is experiencing unusual hardship or who has provided valuable services to the country.



**MARRYING A CANADIAN CITIZEN
DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY MAKE
SOMEONE A CANADIAN CITIZEN.**



The Canadian government can take away (revoke) someone's citizenship if they lied on their application.



**I swear (or affirm)
that I will be faithful
and bear true allegiance
to His Majesty King Charles the Third
King of Canada
his Heirs and Successors
and that I will faithfully observe
the laws of Canada
including the Constitution
which recognizes and affirms
the Aboriginal and treaty rights of
First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples
and fulfil my duties as a Canadian citizen.**

GOOD SWEARING

When you make a very serious promise, it's known as swearing or affirming an oath. (In this case, swearing means stating something important that you agree to.) When someone successfully applies to become a Canadian citizen, they swear the Canadian oath of citizenship printed above. It focuses on obeying the laws of Canada and being loyal to the sovereign — the king or queen. In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada issued 94 calls to action, including updating the citizenship oath. The Government of Canada changed it in 2021 to add wording about Indigenous Peoples and history.

CANADIAN CITIZENS HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- live anywhere in the country
- be treated fairly no matter who they are
- apply for a passport
- enter and leave Canada
- have and change religious or personal beliefs
- speak and express themselves freely
- challenge the government if they believe it's holding them unfairly
- be considered innocent until a court proves them guilty
- preserve and promote their language and culture
- receive services from the Canadian government in either English or French

CITIZENS OVER 18 HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- vote in elections
- be political candidates

CANADIAN CITIZENS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- respecting other people's rights and freedoms
- obeying the law
- looking after themselves and their families
- respecting English and French
- respecting multiculturalism and other cultures
- being part of a jury when asked
- voting in elections
- volunteering
- protecting the environment and Canada's heritage

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE MAIN RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES THAT GO WITH BEING CANADIAN. WHAT OTHERS CAN YOU THINK OF?



You can still live in Canada if you aren't a citizen. Someone who has legally immigrated here and has government approval to stay but is not a citizen is called a **permanent resident**.

A **refugee** or **refugee claimant**

has asked the government to be allowed to stay here because of fear of treatment from a home country. Other people have permission to travel for long periods, go to school in Canada or work here for a specific length of time. They must have a document called a **visa**.





WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BELONG TO THE LAND?

Written by Michael Hutchinson | Illustrated by Nickia McIvor

Why do my people point with their lips? Because it is cold in our traditional territory, and if you get kicked out of the shelter in winter, you're dead. So, the Swampy Cree are a gentle people who take pains not to point out individuals and make them feel in the spotlight. Both the good and bad of that. We do not point other souls out with our fingers as that is too aggressive and direct. We point with our lips because it is winter almost six months of the year and we were forced to live in close quarters where manners matter. The relationship with the land stretches from defining comfort food and clothing styles to etiquette and law.

In the long past, my ancestors were called what translates into "the Sturgeon People" by their neighbours. Our community is where a long river empties into a huge lake, so fishing the great dinosaur fish was a source of nourishment for body and pride.

I am a member of the Misipawistik Cree Nation. In English, it is called Grand Rapids and, because of its location, it was very important to the fur trade. During my mother's childhood, a power dam was erected over the cascade of waters. Their voice is now silent. Today, my



Elders speak about missing the conversation of our ancestors that they had always heard within those falling waters. My people belong to that land. To many of my Elders, the word Indigenous means to belong to the land.

When explaining the “how” of this relationship, they say, “You are the land you live on.”

As a people pull a living out of a landscape, fulfilling their needs for food, water, shelter and protecting themselves from the elements and their enemies, over time, this becomes a way of life. The day-to-day work and chores of meeting human needs in different landscapes creates different lifestyles. That results in sea people being different from plains people and plains people being different from mountain people and mountain people being different from lake people.

Even the constellations are experienced differently across the globe. This means everywhere a people reach up for the stars, and as those stars reach down, different creation stories, spiritualities and worldviews are inspired. Over generations, living a lifestyle defined by the land, under the stars above, and having interactions within your group and with neighbouring peoples, creates a culture and history. It is all very location-specific to Mother Earth and her many varied landscapes.

When we are born, we are what our mother ate, food that came from the land(s) she lives on. And she will go on to teach her children the invisible songs and lessons and values of her people that also arose from the land(s) she lived on.

In my opinion, the Cree, or Ininew, spread from James Bay to the Rockies because they are super adapters. The Cree peoples have five different dialects (variations





in their language), mostly because of how we spread across differing landscapes and changed as we did. In many cases, if an Indigenous people moved to a new area, within a few generations, their language and lifestyle would start to change, based on the relationship with the new lands they lived on.

Often, after speaking on these ideas, I am asked if Canadian culture will ever be “Indigenous.” I point out that Canada’s culture largely revolves around cities. Even its rural areas and towns and its remote landscapes are bent to feed and supply its many concrete environments.

Only five places across the planet were able to support a growing population of humans to the point that those people developed cities. It was local Indigenous Peoples in those five places that altered food sources, genetically modifying local plants through breeding, like the ancestors of wheat and corn. They harvested crops on a large scale and often tamed animals for agricultural use. However, once the cities were started in those five places, through trade, conquest and capture with other groups of humans these different packages of altered plants and animals allowed cities to move out onto different landscapes. Like anthills live to create more anthills, no matter where they started, it began to seem like cities only lived to create more cities.

Canada’s urban-centric culture comes from a chain of history that started on the landscape of the Fertile Crescent in western Asia and northern Africa, was pushed through Eurasia and then into Europe. This means the food foundations of Canadian culture are cattle and wheat, a calorie package that was invented in the lands between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. For Canadian culture to be “Indigenous” to my people’s area,

its foundations would have to be moose meat and wild rice. In the western part of Canada, maybe bison and corn.

Something very terrible would have to happen to break Canadians' cultural links to the roast beef sandwich! Cows and wheat have always been the foundations of Canada's concrete environments. That's a moo point, for sure.

The lesson, "You are the land you live on" also applies to concrete lands.

The city environment constantly interacts with its people and has a day-to-day impact on their beliefs, culture, instincts and politics. This explains why there can be voters lobbying for supermarkets, while not caring about the needs of the farmers who grow the chickens to put on the shelves. Cities can make some people feel there is little space for growth, even though Canada is enormous but has only 40 million people living in it.

For some, it is closer to home. They are aware of what is going on next door, and they are sort of aware of what is going on two or three doors down, but they know little of what is going on in the closed-off spaces farther down their street. The city landscape ensures the unknown lives just a few doors down. This may have an emotional impact, which could lead to, for example, decisions on who they chose to represent them as a political or community leader. Given the relative newness of concrete lands, I'm not sure we understand all the ways they are affecting us.

In closing, no matter where you live, I encourage you to ask yourself: How do the land(s) you live on contribute to your body, heart, mind and spirit?

Michael Hutchinson has been a host on APTN and CTV and worked for numerous First Nations. He wrote the Mighty Muskrats Mystery book series to help create a better Canadian-First Nations relationship. Nickia McIvor is a Swampy Cree illustrator whose work often appears in Kayak.



THE BIG DAY

**Whether you're watching or taking part,
a citizenship ceremony is an unforgettable event.**

It's a very ordinary room in a very ordinary office building in downtown Ottawa. But what's happening inside? Definitely not ordinary!

The room is packed with people sitting on chairs like the ones in a movie theatre. There are excited families and friends, people of all ages and sizes and appearances. It's 34 degrees outside but on this special July day, many people are wearing beautiful dresses or sharp suits or clothing from their home countries. There are lots and lots of red-and-white outfits. Nearly everyone is holding a little maple leaf flag. It feels a bit like a pot bubbling with joy that's about to overflow.

Sprinkled around the room are the 89 people who have filled out all the forms and met all the requirements. Today, they will become Canadians.

A highly respected Ottawa citizen is overseeing this ceremony rather than a citizenship judge. She tells the crowd that her own parents came to

Canada from two different countries in Europe. She reminds them of the rights and responsibilities they will have as Canadians. She encourages them to learn both English and French, and to learn about and from Indigenous Peoples.

It's time to take the oath of citizenship — the last step to becoming a Canadian citizen. Everyone in the room is invited to say the words together, whether they're already citizens or becoming one today. Some new citizens dance a little or cheer when they get their certificate. Afterward, the presider says, "I wish you a long, peaceful and prosperous life in this, your chosen land. Welcome to the Canadian family. Vive le Canada."

Once again, everyone is asked to join together, this time in singing "O Canada." Before it starts, the presider invites the kids to come up and join her at the front. She smiles at the crowd and says, "This is now your national anthem. Sing it with pride."



Parents Lorena and Luis, along with their daughters Maca and Alegria, became Canadian citizens in May 2026. Their ceremony took place at The Forks in Winnipeg. Originally from Ecuador, they came to Canada in 2019. Lorena told *Kayak* about their experience.

When we applied for the ceremony, they asked us to choose if we wanted it to be in person or virtual. For us, it was very important, so we chose to do it in person. When they called us, we stood up and they gave each of us a certificate. It was beautiful.

We had been trying to achieve this for six or seven years. It was really a special thing to become Canadian, to feel that we are a part of this community, that we can be part of decisions that are made here.

It really touched me when the person overseeing the ceremony said, "Welcome home." I hadn't realized until that moment that yes, this is home. I feel safe here. I feel grateful. All countries can improve, but Canada is a very beautiful country with beautiful people and a lot of resources that we have to take care of.

It's also given us a sense of responsibility. We've tried to teach our girls that this is a privilege, and that they need to be a good citizen, to be a good person, to respect other people. It's a privilege to be here and be Canadian.



WARM WELCOME

Canada has 10 citizenship judges. They are people who have achieved a lot and are well respected. Their main job is to oversee citizenship ceremonies. They are sometimes called on to decide whether a person meets all the requirements for citizenship. These special judges don't need to have a background in law, although many do. Another important job they have is to help people understand what it means to be a Canadian citizen and why citizenship matters. *Kayak* spoke to two citizenship judges to learn more about what they do.



Rania Sfeir's background is in journalism and public relations. She came to Canada from Lebanon with her husband and kids in 2003. Judge Sfeir and her family live in Montreal.



Suzanne Carrière is Canada's first Métis citizenship judge. Her background in law led her to working with residential school survivors. Judge Carrière lives near Winnipeg with her husband and kids.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT BEING A CITIZENSHIP JUDGE?

RS: I am the first one to announce to these people that they are now Canadian citizens. That is such an immense privilege that I cannot describe it.

SC: It's the best job in the world. Through this role I get to do some public speaking, and I get to talk about reconciliation all the time, the thing I'm so passionate about. Newcomers often have a different perspective — depending on where they come from, they can sympathize. I like to convey that it doesn't matter if you're Indigenous or non-Indigenous, whether you were born here or not. We're all responsible for the future.

WHAT'S IT LIKE PRESIDING OVER CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES?

SC: It's amazing. It's an honour and a privilege. It's one of the most important days in their lives. They're excited, they're emotional, they're dressed up. It never gets old.

RS: It is beautiful. People feel related in some way. It is an unforgettable day. You let yourself live the emotion, really feel it. I like to watch people's faces to see how they react, how they cheer. And at the moment of the national anthem, they're singing from the bottom of their hearts. They now belong to this country and they are proud to show it.

DESCRIBE YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES WITH CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP.

SC: I'm Red River Métis. I was born here, so I'd never been through the citizenship process. I went to a ceremony once, before I became a citizenship judge, and was so touched by the beautiful ceremony that I got a little teary-eyed!

RS: During ceremonies, I mention the fact that I am myself an immigrant. I was one of the lucky ones who left by choice. I chose Canada. We learned about Canada's reputation — the country of the kindest people on earth. The generosity of Canadians is known all over the world. I felt Canadian the first moment I put my feet on this land. I didn't wait to become an official citizen to feel this sense of belonging. I mention it during ceremonies because I want people to believe in this country. You can become whoever you want to be in this country.

TELL US ABOUT A MEMORABLE CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY YOU'VE BEEN INVOLVED IN.

RS: I was presiding over a ceremony where 350 people were becoming Canadian citizens. We were in a big ballroom in a hotel. Between the candidates and their guests there were probably 600 people there. Before the ceremony started, a gentleman came to the staff and told them, "Today I want to propose to my girlfriend." So of course we helped him. We managed to put his girlfriend the very last on the list to be called. She approached and was facing me, and her boyfriend was behind her on one knee. She turned to him, and suddenly 600 people were cheering.

SC: Once I was presiding on National Indigenous Peoples Day. We made sure the whole platform party, everyone helping with the ceremony, was Indigenous. The clerk was First Nations. The Member of Parliament, Robert-Falcon Ouellette, and the Member of the Legislative Assembly, Wab Kinew, were both Indigenous. The representatives of the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP were both First Nations. We had Elders there, too. It was very powerful.

KIDS ARE CITIZENS

Canadians of all ages have rights and responsibilities.

JUST LIKE AN ADULT,
YOU'RE A CITIZEN
IF YOU WERE:

- a born in Canada
- born outside the country to Canadian parents
- became a naturalized citizen along with your family



IT'S POSSIBLE FOR A KID UNDER 18 TO APPLY TO BE A CITIZEN, BUT IT DOESN'T HAPPEN VERY OFTEN. AN ADULT USUALLY APPLIES FOR THEM. FOR INSTANCE, IF AN ADULT ADOPTS A CHILD FROM OUTSIDE CANADA, THE ADULT HAS TO APPLY FOR THE CHILD TO BECOME A CITIZEN.

Learning the stories of Canada's past is an important part of being a citizen. One way you can do that is to visit historic sites like this one at Georges Island near Halifax. You're doing another one right now by reading this magazine!

There are a few things adult citizens can do that you can't. You have to wait until you're 18 to vote or be a candidate in an election. And kids can't be part of a jury — a group of people that decides the outcome of a court case.

But there's lots you can and should do as a kid citizen. You can travel all over Canada and go to other countries. You can learn more about the past by going to museums and heritage sites, or by reading about history. You can hang out with whoever you want. You can go to a place of worship, like a church or mosque or synagogue, or have no religious faith at all. You're free to think and say what you want, but adults like a parent, guardian or teacher are responsible for you until you're older.

And as a citizen, you can help other people as part of a group or just on your own. You can obey the law. You can help keep the environment clean by not buying things you don't need, and by picking up litter and recycling. You can treat others fairly, and expect the same for yourself.



BEING A CITIZEN
MEANS TAKING
PART IN THINGS
THAT MAKE YOUR
COMMUNITY AND
OUR COUNTRY
BETTER
FOR EVERYONE.





Through Others' Eyes

Written by Allyson Gulliver • Illustrated by Avery Helm

Montmédy, France, October 1955

Maybe if he stared at his mother long enough, Max thought, she'd finally stop talking to the man at the vegetable stall and buy something so they could go home.

No luck. He shifted his gaze to the next stall, the one with the sign *Pâtisserie* in curly French letters. The slices of *pain d'épices* looked good and smelled better.

"Une petite gâterie?" His mother had found him. "A little treat to make up for waiting around while I chat?"

Max sighed. "Sure. And then can we please go?" When they moved from Canada in August, he'd loved exploring the fortress and the town's winding streets. Now he just missed the open spaces in Alberta where he and his friends played for hours. He missed the stream near their school. There'd be no snowball fights or tobogganing this winter.

"You'll have to settle for chicken on Thanksgiving," his mother was saying. "They don't celebrate it here, so nobody at the market had turkeys."

She grimaced and handed Max a string shopping bag bulging with potatoes, carrots and cabbage. "Oof! It throws me off balance when the baby kicks."

The handles of the bag dug into his fingers, making deep lines. This Saturday just kept getting worse.

The two of them climbed onto the little bus that pulled up and plunked into a seat. "The vegetable seller had a hard time understanding my French," Max's mother laughed. "He said I had a terrible accent. I just told him that Canadians speak differently from French people, and Albertans speak differently from others in Canada."

When Max just stared out the window, she nudged him gently with her elbow. "What's wrong?"

He shrugged. She elbowed again.

"Stop it!" His mother put her arm around him. Tears pricked his eyes.

"I wish we were back in Canada. It's dumb here."

He took a deep breath. It was too late to stop now. "I hate being Canadian here. The kids in the village call us *bûcherons*, like we're lumberjacks who live in the woods and eat maple syrup and have beavers as pets. The Americans at school made fun of me when I said we have Thanksgiving in October."

His mother nodded, a bit sadly. "I know it's hard to be away. Your dad's work at the base is important. And it's only for three years."

How could Max tell her that three years felt like forever? He'd be 15 by the time they moved home. His friends would probably have forgotten all about him.



Of course he was proud that his dad was with the Royal Canadian Air Force. That didn't help him to fit in at the school for military kids. "It makes me so mad when people think I'm American. And when I tell them I'm from Red Deer they just laugh."

An older man with a neatly trimmed moustache and a colourful scarf was sitting behind them. He gently cleared his throat. "I don't mean to intrude," he said. "You are from Canada?"

Max's mother smiled broadly. "Proud Canadian citizens! I'm Ginette Thomas and this is Max. My husband Ted is stationed at the airfield in Marville."

The man smiled back. "You are very lucky. I spent some time travelling in Canada before the war."

"Your English is very good," Max's mother said.

"Yes, but it was marvellous to be able to speak French in many places as well," the man said. "If I wasn't too old for the journey, I'd go back in the autumn to see those glorious maple trees again. Or maybe I'd move there — find a place where I could just sit and look at the Rocky Mountains all day."

Max perked up. "We can see them from Red Deer!"

"That's where Ted did his training," Max's mother explained. "I'm from Beaumont."

"Well, I happen to think your town has a wonderful name," the man said, winking at Max. "Much easier to spell than Fleury-devant-Douaumont, too!"

"I love France," he went on, "but Canada is very special. To be a citizen of such a place, to have such freedom and peace, such beauty, such promise."

To welcome people from all over the world — that is also special.”

The bus bounced to a halt and Max’s mother stood up. “This is our stop,” she said. “It was lovely to meet you.”

“Un plaisir,” the man replied. He looked at Max. “Happy Thanksgiving, to you, my young Canadian friend.”

Max hoisted the bag of vegetables and gave the man a big smile. “Merci!” **K**



Planes at RCAF Station Grostenquin, France, early 1960s.

We made up the people and events in this story, but the setting is real. The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) had a presence in France for about a decade starting in the early 1950s. Metz, a small city in northeastern France not far from Montmédy and Marville, was home to the RCAF’s 1 Air Division Headquarters at the time of our story. Commanders realized that men in the air force would be more willing to be posted abroad if they could have their families with them. Canadians from the RCAF served in Europe as part of our contributions to NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization military alliance. The division’s headquarters moved to Germany in 1963. RCAF members and families were stationed there into the 1990s. Like them, millions of Canadians today keep their citizenship while they live and work all over the world.

NO GUARANTEES

TEXT BY NANCY PAYNE * ILLUSTRATIONS BY DAVID NAMISATO

ALL CANADIAN CITIZENS
(OR BEFORE 1947, PEOPLE LIVING
HERE AS BRITISH SUBJECTS) ARE
SUPPOSED TO HAVE THE SAME
RIGHTS.

BUT AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN
THE STORY OF CANADA, THE
GOVERNMENT HAS NOT TREATED
CITIZENS ACCORDING TO THOSE
RIGHTS.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE TIMES WHEN BEING BORN
HERE OR BECOMING NATURALIZED WASN'T ENOUGH.

STOP THAT
RIGHT NOW!

YOU KNOW
THE SUN DANCE HAS
BEEN OUTLAWED!

KAINAI NATION,
SOUTHERN ALBERTA, 1897

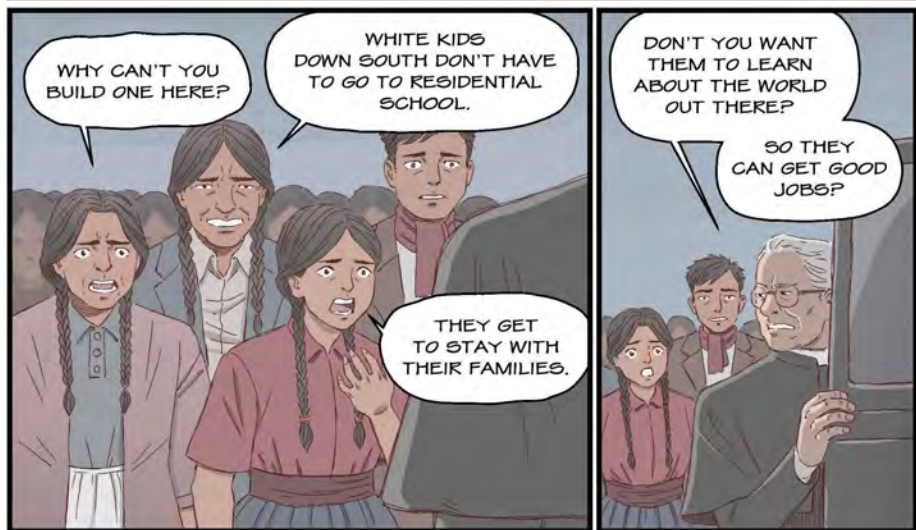
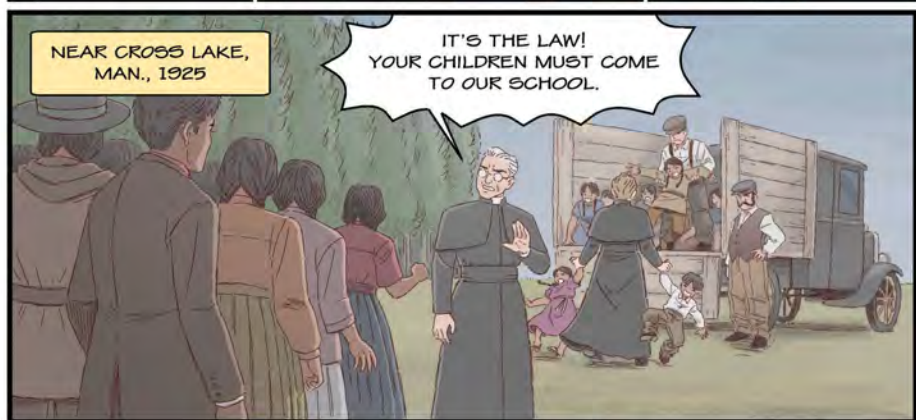
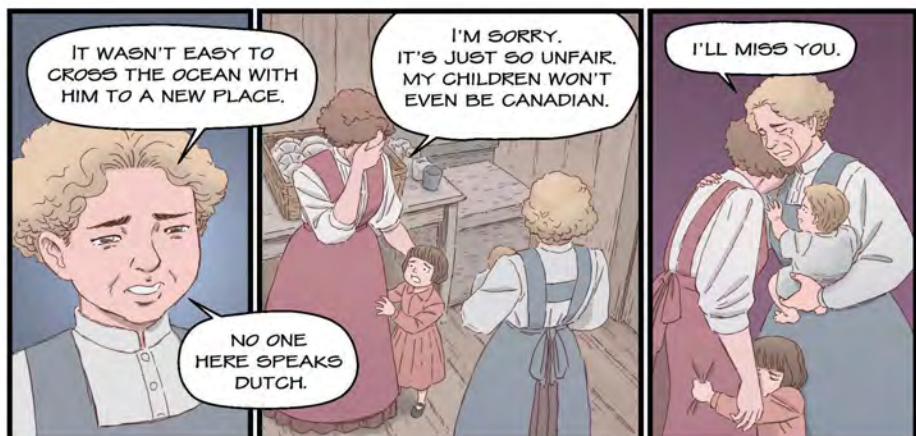
WE'RE
JUST SETTING UP
SOME TIPIS.

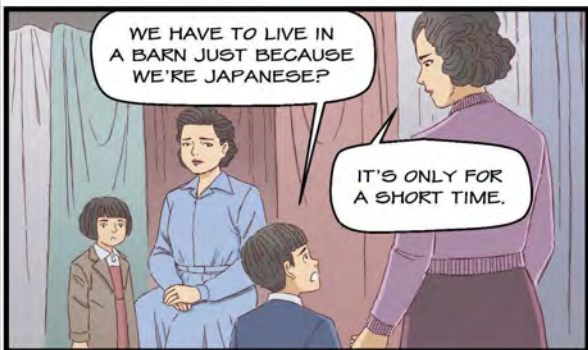
THE INDIAN ACT
FORBIDS YOUR DANCING
AND CEREMONIES.

GO HOME.
ALL OF YOU!

DO YOU GO
TO CHURCH?







YOU TWO GO DUMP THIS WATER
AND BRING BACK A FRESH BUCKET.



I OVERHEARD ONE OF THE
GOVERNMENT AGENTS SAYING THE
MEN AND OLDER BOYS WILL BE SENT
AWAY TO WORK CAMPS.



DO YOU THINK WE
WILL EVER SEE OUR
HOMES AGAIN?

WHAT HOMES?
I LOVE CANADA,
BUT IT HAS TAKEN
EVERYTHING.



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND HOW
THIS CAN HAPPEN.

YOU AND I
WERE BORN
HERE.

OUR
HUSBANDS,
TOO.



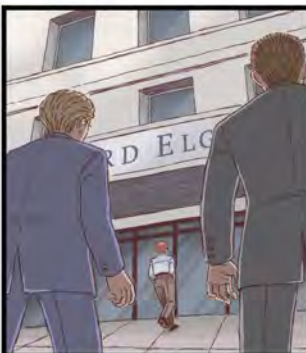
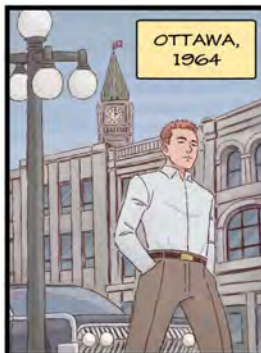
AND YET
THEY ROUND US UP
AND PUT US IN FILTHY
ANIMAL BARN.

WE MUST
SURVIVE.

WE MUST
MAKE THE BEST
OF IT.



OTTAWA,
1964



WE'RE TAKING
YOU IN FOR
QUESTIONING.

BUT I'M AN
RCMP OFFICER!





YEAH, WELL
THE MOUNTIES DON'T
NEED YOUR KIND.



I'VE SERVED MY
COUNTRY FOR 17 YEARS!
NEVER ONCE HAD A BAD
REPORT.

DOESN'T
MATTER.



SIGN THIS
AND YOU'RE
DONE.



PLEASE
JUST TALK TO MY
COMMANDING
OFFICER!



WE'RE HERE
TO WEED OUT MEN
LIKE YOU.



I'M A GOOD
MOUNTIE!



YOU'RE
FORCING
ME OUT
BECAUSE
I...



... I LOVE
OTHER MEN?



I'M A
CANADIAN
CITIZEN.

I HAVE
RIGHTS!

WE INVENTED THE CHARACTERS AND WHAT THEY SAID,
BUT ALL OF THESE SCENES ARE BASED ON REAL THINGS THAT
HAPPENED IN CANADA'S PAST TO CANADIAN CITIZENS.

EXPLORE CITIZENSHIP

Celebrate what it means to be Canadian and learn more about the good and bad in the history of being a citizen.



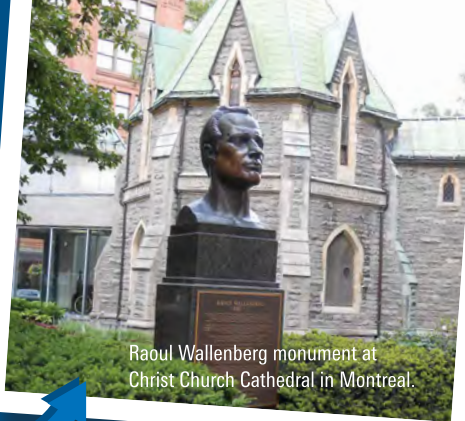
Many Canadians started their journey to citizenship in Halifax. The place where nearly one million people landed between 1928 and 1971 is now the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21.

CITIZENSHIP
CEREMONIES TAKE PLACE
IN COMMUNITIES ALL
OVER THE COUNTRY. IT'S
EXCITING TO BE PART
OF SUCH A JOYFUL DAY,
EVEN IF YOU'RE JUST
WATCHING. THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT HAS
LISTS ONLINE OF WHERE
AND WHEN CITIZENSHIP
CEREMONIES ARE
SCHEDULED. ANYONE
CAN GO!



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Canada considers five people to be honorary citizens of our country. This doesn't make them actual citizens. It's a way of showing how much we admire what they have done. One is Raoul Wallenberg of Sweden, who saved thousands of Jews from death at the hands of the Nazis in the Second World War. There are parks and monuments honouring him in Vancouver, Saskatoon, Calgary, Ottawa and Montreal.



Raoul Wallenberg monument at Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal.



There are many museums and memorials that highlight times when Canada trampled on the rights of its citizens. The new Thunderhead monument in Ottawa remembers all the people caught in what was known as the LGBT Purge. That's when the federal government harassed and often fired people thought to be gay or lesbian who worked for the government, the Canadian Armed Forces or the RCMP. Plaques on the grounds of what is now the Pacific National Exhibition in Vancouver commemorate the Canadians of Japanese heritage the government forced out of their homes. Their businesses, houses and belongings were sold and the money never given to them.

In 1942, the government forced people of Japanese descent to leave their homes and properties on the West Coast. About three-quarters of them were Canadian citizens.

COULD YOU PASS THE CITIZENSHIP TEST? TRY THESE QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE REMEMBRANCE DAY POPPY?

- A. TO REMEMBER OUR SOVEREIGN, KING CHARLES III.
- B. TO CELEBRATE CONFEDERATION.
- C. TO HONOUR PRIME MINISTERS WHO HAVE DIED.
- D. TO REMEMBER THE SACRIFICE OF CANADIANS WHO HAVE SERVED OR DIED IN WARS UP TO THE PRESENT DAY.

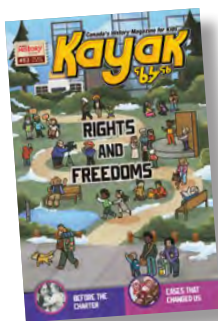
2. HOW ARE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT CHOSEN?

- A. THEY ARE APPOINTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS.
- B. THEY ARE CHOSEN BY THE PROVINCIAL PREMIERS.
- C. THEY ARE ELECTED BY VOTERS IN THEIR LOCAL CONSTITUENCY (RIDING).
- D. THEY ARE ELECTED BY LANDOWNERS AND POLICE CHIEFS.

TEACHER'S CORNER

Dive deeper into past *Kayak* issues and educational resources connected to Canadian citizenship with fun and engaging lessons and classroom activities created for teachers by teachers!

Classroom Connections in the Kayak Archives



Rights and Freedoms (Feb 2023)

You and your students can explore the Charter and the unique rights and responsibilities afforded to Canadians. Use the lesson plan to explore “Night of the Long Knives,” a pivotal moment in Quebec and Canadian history that supported the creation of the Charter.



Seeking Safety (Dec 2020)

For some, the path to citizenship first involves seeking safety in Canada from war, discrimination and poverty. Use this issue and educational resources to explore stories about Indochinese refugees, a child evacuee during the Second World War and other events in immigration history.



Great Canadian Women (Jan 2019)

Explore HERstory in this special digital issue and learn more about some of the women who played integral roles in shaping Canada. Use the lesson plan to explore the clever women who used humour to fight for the right to vote as well as the power of social movements.



You can find classroom material in both English and French to go with this issue of *Kayak*. Just visit CanadasHistory.ca/Kayakcitizenship or HistoireCanada.ca/Kayakcitoyenneté.



English



Français



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HIDDEN PICTURES



How sharp-eyed are you? See if you can find each of these objects or images in the comic

No Guarantees that starts on p. 22.