



# Immigration

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

# Where are you from?

We are a province of diversity.

# The Kanakas

- A kanaka is a person of Hawaiian descent who immigrated to B.C. to work.
- Kanakas were regarded as British subjects and retained rights to vote and hold public office.
- 1820s: Hudson's Bay Company was regularly hiring them to work in HBC posts, especially around Fort Vancouver.
- 1840s: More than 200 Kanakas were working near Fort Vancouver.

# Kanakas Continued

- After the border was established the HBC moved up north. Many employees were encouraged to leave the company and start their own lives in BC.
- Some settled in Coal Harbour and worked at Hastings Mill.
- The largest community was on Salt Spring.

# Black Immigrants

- 1858: Some black citizens of San Francisco knew that slavery was illegal in the British Empire, so they asked James Douglas if they could settle on Vancouver Island. He agreed.
- Douglas helped some of them to find employment.
- They had no military force, so when some members asked to create a militia Douglas gave them permission. It was called Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps.

# Victoria Pioneer Rifle Corps



# Jewish Immigrants

- 1858: First Jewish immigrants arrived in B.C.
- They had participated in the California Gold Rush.
- They went into business, selling supplies to gold miners on Vancouver Island and the mainland.
- 1863: Jewish community in Victoria was well established.

# The Chinese

- They were the largest group of non-European immigrants and the most discriminated against.
- They came for the California gold rush, but moved north for the Fraser River Gold Rush.
- Their opportunities were limited due to the discrimination they faced so they worked claims that had been abandoned.
- Others started service industries in mining towns.



# Railway Builders

- Andrew Onderdonk, an American, built part of the railway in B.C.
- Building through the Fraser Canyon was difficult and expensive. He lacked money and workers by 1881.
- So he hired Chinese workers. Between 1881-5, 17000 Chinese immigrants came to work. They were paid a dollar a day. More than 600 died because of accident/illness.
- When the railway finished in 1885, many couldn't afford to go back to China. They moved to Vancouver and Victoria.

# Discrimination

- The Knights of Labour pressed the government to remove all Chinese people from Vancouver.
- Chinese workers were hired by English speaking Chinese contractors who would bid on jobs. Workers were often cheated to increase profits.
- 1900: Ethnic composition of B.C. was changing. Most immigrants were British who wanted a British society. Non Europeans were called inferior and dangerous.

# Continued

- The Royal Commission on Chinese Immigration legalized discrimination.
- Chinese railway labour was no longer needed so the government decided to limit their immigration.
- They had to pay a \$50 head tax and ships were only allowed to bring on passenger for every 50 tonnes of cargo.



**THE HEATHEN CHINESE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.**  
AMOR DE COSMOS, L.C. —The Love of the World or the Love of Mankind.—HEATHEN CHINESE — Why you sends me offer!  
He can't or won't 'assimilate' with us.—HEATHEN CHINESE — What is dates!—A. D. C. — You won't drink whiskey, and talk politics.

## Editorial Image

This is an 1879 cartoon showing Amor De Cosmos and a 'heathen Chinese.'