

CANADIAN HOMEFRONT DURING WWII

I WARTIME ECONOMY

Everything Canadians did was geared towards the war effort – an idea known as _____. This was very apparent in the country’s economy. All activities were geared towards the war effort, whether it was manufacturing armaments, growing food, conserving resources for the soldiers, or recycling materials at home such as fat and bones, glass, rubber, toothpaste tubes, aluminum, hair rollers, and women’s nylons.



The Canadian government took control of the economy like they did in WWI. They asked private businesses to produce items for the war effort and whatever wasn't made would be produced by _____ (government owned and operated). There were many employment opportunities: Canadians wanted to spend their money on consumer items but there were few goods to buy.

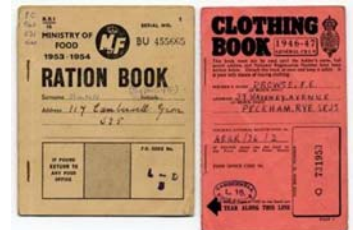


In order to limit _____ (rising cost of an item due to high demand and limited supply), the government took a number of steps that were used during WWI:

- a) buying _____,
- b) food _____,
- and c) increasing _____.

A new initiative implemented as this time to limit inflation was the creation of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, which froze

_____ and _____.



II ROLE OF CHILDREN

Once again, children pitched in to contribute to the war effort. They earned saving stamps in school contests, helped tend to farms, memorized aircraft, searched for recyclable materials, knitted sweaters and gloves for the soldiers, and “made do” without coloured ink comics.



III ROLE OF WOMEN

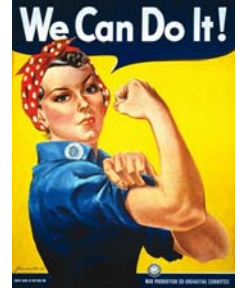


Women contributed to WWII in many ways. In warfare, women joined the army (CWACs), navy (WRENs), and air force (CWAF). While their contributions were more visible on the home front and “behind the scenes”, they were vital to the Allies. Women held jobs such as clerks, drivers, nurses, mechanics, communication operators, and pilots.

Once again, women were called upon to contribute on the home front. In factories they took on jobs such as welder, driller, and machine operator. Women who worked in the



factories were given the nickname “_____” in the US. Canada’s equivalent was “_____”.



Propaganda was used by government to encourage women to contribute to the war effort and change public opinion about women in the work force. At

home, they had to make do with less: find ways to stretch the food rations, mend clothes, and recycle as many materials as possible. Many women went without stockings (panty hose) to save the nylon for parachutes: it wasn’t uncommon for women to draw on their legs to mimic the look of wearing stockings!



Single women were recruited to work long hours in factories because they didn’t have family responsibilities; _____ were built to house them close to the factories. The government created _____ facilities so married women could also work.

IV DEVELOPMENT OF THE WELFARE STATE

Canadians saw government taking a more “hands on” approach to the lives of Canadians during WWII and many wanted this to continue after the war as well. As you just learned, government created day care facilities to support working mothers and women wanted to see government continue to support this after the war. Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King introduced _____ in 1940. In 1945, he created the _____ program to provide financial support to families raising children. This time period saw the beginning of a government directed social security program that would support people “_____”.

V CONSCRIPTION CRISIS

When Canada declared war on Germany in 1939, PM Mackenzie King promised there would be no conscription. However, with Hitler's numerous victories in the early stages of the war, many were demanding Canada do more than just provide supplies – we needed to contribute military



troops. King knew he would not be popular if he went back on his promise, so he created a form of conscription for _____ through the _____. These conscripts were nicknamed “zombies”, many of whom were scorned by Canadians because they were safe at home while other soldiers were risking their lives in battle.

As in the First World War, French Canada did not feel connected to the war and there was a visible difference between non-French vs. French Canadian enlistments. King came up with an inventive way to deal with the conscription issue: put it to a public vote, called a _____. The people of Canada would decide whether to release the government from its previous commitment of no conscription. The government's position was “Not necessarily conscription, but conscription if necessary”. The plebiscite was held in April 1942: all provinces but _____ voted in favour of conscription. Once again, the issue of conscription had created tension between _____ Canada and _____ Canada. In August 1942,



conscription for overseas service was instituted: protests and riots soon followed in Quebec and conscripts in BC refused to go. It wouldn't be until 1944 that 15, 000 men were conscripted; of these, 12, 908 were sent to Europe and 2, 463 actually served on the front lines.