

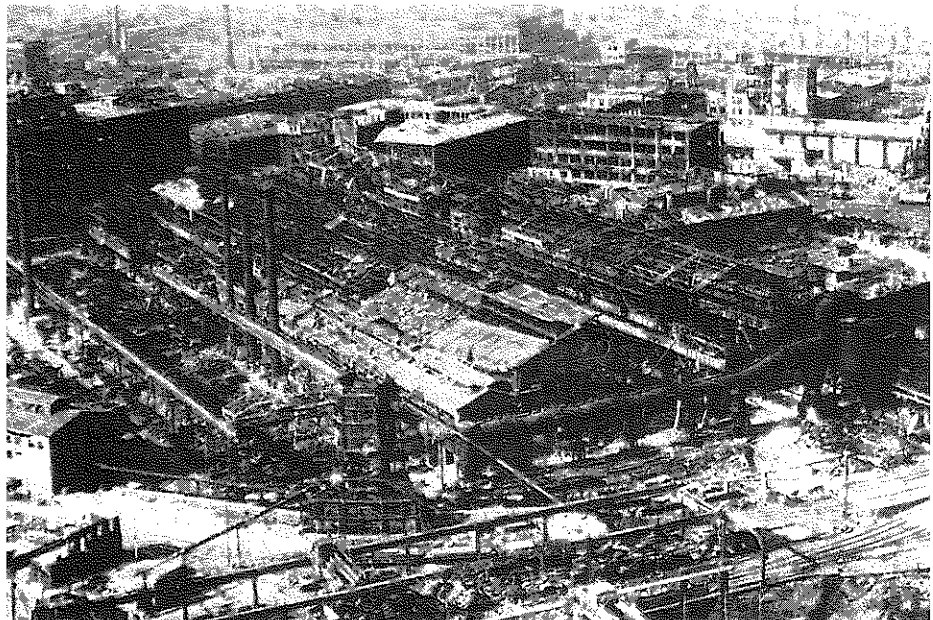


This postage stamp paid tribute to the deeds of RCAF pilots.

A World War II bomber crew receiving instructions.



This aerial view shows the damage done by Allied bomber crews to the German Krupp Works in Essen.



The Royal Canadian Air Force was very successful in the war. First, in 1940, they fought in the Battle of Britain. They helped to defend Britain by shooting down many German planes. After this battle, Hitler decided that it would be too dangerous to **invade** Britain. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill thanked all the pilots who had saved Britain from German invasion: "Never ... was so much owed by so many to so few." Second, in 1941 and 1942, the RCAF was successful in flying over Germany and dropping bombs. Third, the RCAF helped provide air cover for the Allied invasion of northern Europe. By the end of the war in 1945, 250 000 Canadians had served in the RCAF.

How did Canadians fight the war on land?

Canadian soldiers experienced losses early in the war. They were new 33 soldiers and were not very well-prepared. For example, in 1941, Canadian soldiers were sent to help defend the British colony of Hong Kong against the Japanese. Although the Canadian and British **garrison** fought bravely, it was forced to **surrender** on December 25, 1941: Christmas Day. More than 500 Canadian soldiers died in battle or in Japanese prisoner of war camps. Also, in August 1942, Canadian soldiers were sent to Dieppe on the French coast. The attack on Dieppe was a test to see if the Allies could successfully invade France. The Allies also wanted to test the strength of the German defences in France. Dieppe was a **disaster** for the Canadian soldiers. The British Royal Navy landed almost 5000 Canadian soldiers on the Dieppe beaches. German artillery destroyed the British **landing craft**, **tanks**, and guns. More than 3000 soldiers were killed or wounded. The rest of the soldiers were taken to German prisoner of war camps.

By 1943, the Allies were more successful. The United States and 34

Canadian soldiers watch as military equipment is loaded aboard the H.M.T. *Awatea* en route to Hong Kong in October 1941.



These Canadian soldiers did not survive the raid on Dieppe.





Thank you Canada. Every five years, the people in Holland decorate their towns like this in honour of their Canadian liberators.

the Soviet Union joined the Allies in 1941. Canadian soldiers learned from their **defeats**. By 1943, the Allies had successfully defeated the Axis armies in North Africa. This made it possible for the Allies to invade Italy; 93 000 Canadians were sent to Italy. Canadian soldiers helped the Allies win control: 5700 Canadian soldiers died doing this. Then, in June 1944, 250 000 Canadian soldiers joined other Allied armies in Normandy. The Allied forces were successful in landing in Normandy and taking control of France. The Allies continued to fight for 11 months and succeeded in pushing the German army out of northern France, Belgium, and Holland and back into Germany. By the end of the war, 730 000 Canadians had served in the army.

How did Canadians fight the war at sea?

The Canadian navy helped the Allies win control of the Atlantic Ocean. In 1939, Mackenzie King promised Britain and France that Canada would support the war effort by sending military equipment and food supplies. To do this, all of the food and equipment had to be shipped across the Atlantic Ocean. Canadian warships had to protect the supply ships; this was not easy. Germany had 200 **U-boats** or **submarines** in the Atlantic. The U-boats were very successful in sinking Allied ships because nobody knew they were there, under the water, until it was too late. 35

By 1943, the Royal Canadian Navy and British Navy were winning in the Atlantic. They improved the training of the ships' crews and they developed new electronic equipment, sonar, to find the U-boats before the U-boats attacked. They also began to use Canadian Air Force planes to protect the supply ships from the air. Canada and Britain won the battle of the Atlantic. By the end of the war, 90 000 Canadians had served in the RCN. 36

By 1945, 1.1 million Canadians had served in the armed forces. Canada had contributed to Allied victories on land, sea, and in the air. Canadians welcomed the news of Hitler's **suicide** and Germany's surrender in May 1945. The war with Germany was over. But there still remained the war with Japan. 37

How did Canadians contribute to the defeat of Japan?

Canadian scientists played a small role in helping the Americans develop the **atomic bomb**. On August 6, 1945, the United States Air Force dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima in Japan. The Americans dropped a second bomb on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. The **destruction** caused by these two bombs had never been seen before. The one atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima killed 70 000 people. Most were civilians. The second single bomb dropped on Nagasaki killed 40 000 people. Most were civilians. Many more died later as a result of the effects of radiation. Japan surrendered on August 14, 1945. World War II was over. 38

VE-Day celebrations in Ottawa on May 8, 1945.



QUESTION

a. How did Canadian military forces contribute to the war effort?



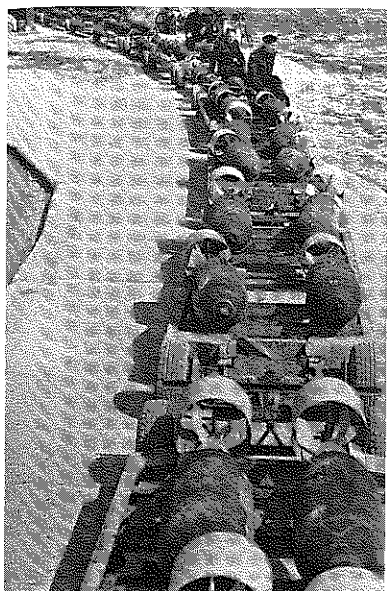
Like many Canadians, this woman working at the Pictou Shipyards helped the war effort at home.

How did Canadians support the war at home?

Canadians at home contributed to the war effort by working in war industries, food production, and through personal efforts. They contributed more during World War II than they had in World War I. 39

How did Canadian industries contribute to the war effort?

Some of the military equipment that the Canadians and the Allies used was produced in Canada. This meant that many Canadians worked in war industries. By 1944, the Canadian government had built 98 new war factories. More than 1 million Canadians worked in war **plants**. During the war, workers in these industries made **vast quantities** of trucks, ships, airplanes, machine guns, artillery, and tanks. The war industries grew very quickly; World War II ended the Great Depression in Canada. There was very little unemployment during the war. Anyone who wanted a job could get one. 40



This bomb trailer is on its way to load Mitchell Bombers in Northern France, 1944.

How did the farming and fishing industries contribute to the war effort?

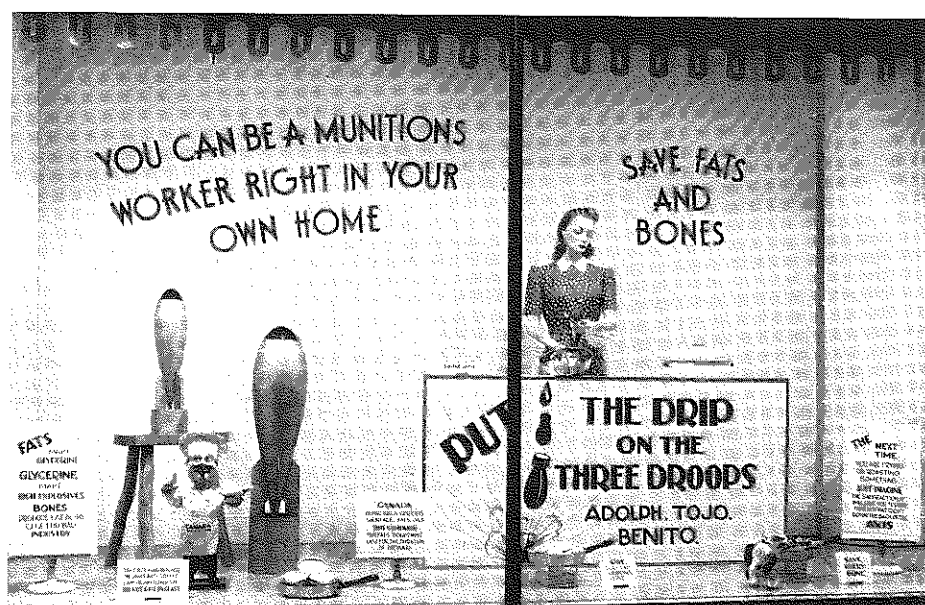
Farms and fisheries also increased production for the war. Canadians 41 produced more **grain**, meat, fish, milk, and cheese for the armies overseas. In fact between 1939 and 1945, grain production increased by more than 150 per cent; meat production increased by 250 per cent. Fish and milk exports also increased. Although many farmers had gone to war, many other young Canadians went to the farms to take their places to make sure that food production did not fall.

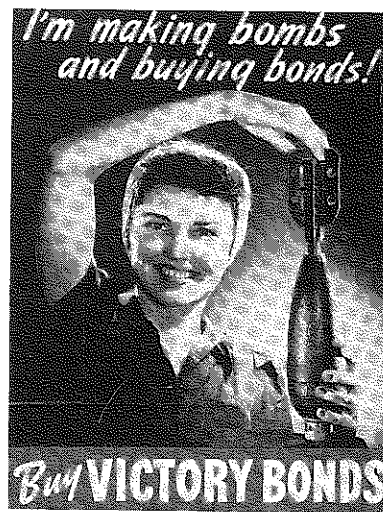
How did other Canadians contribute?

Other Canadians contributed to the war effort as well. For example, 42 each home saved its animal bones from dinner so that the government could collect them; the government used them to make glue and explosives for the war. Children saved scrap paper and glass; these were also collected and used to produce goods for the army. Women at home knitted socks for soldiers; people of all ages wrote letters to prisoners of war. Women **gave up** wearing silk stockings because the silk could be used for making **parachutes**. Instead, some women painted lines down the backs of their legs, so that it would look as if they were wearing seamed stockings! The government started **rationing** food. They wanted to make sure there was enough food to go overseas to the soldiers. Each family received a book of **coupons**. There were coupons for butter, tea, coffee, meat, and gasoline for cars. People had to use these coupons every time they went to buy these products; if they did not have the coupons, they were not able to buy the product. This forced people to be more careful and not waste resources.

As it had in World War I, the government started to control more 43 aspects of Canadian life. In 1942, the government did not allow any

Canadians at home were urged to save fat and bones for munitions production.





Canadians were urged to help the war effort by buying Victory Bonds.

industry to make **vehicles** for private use. This forced car industries to use their workers and resources, such as gasoline, rubber, and steel, to produce vehicles for war use only. The government also began controlling wages and prices. The government sold war bonds; workers were expected to buy them. The government collected \$12 billion by selling war bonds. In 1942, the government increased income taxes. This helped to raise more money for the war effort. The government started to control workers more. People who worked in certain industries were excused from fighting because they were more valuable as workers. Workers had to give seven days' **notice** before they could leave their jobs so that production of war supplies would not slow down. The government could assign a job to anyone who was unemployed for more than 14 days. All Canadians were asked to contribute personally to the war effort; the government made sure that they did.

The Canadian government increased its control over the economy and prohibited strikes by workers. In return, the government satisfied the unions by making important laws. For example, one law forced employers to recognize workers' unions. Companies could not refuse to listen to workers' complaints and demands; companies could not fire the workers who had complaints and replace them with other people. The government wanted to make sure that war production did not slow down; it was necessary for all workers to work. The new laws made employers partly responsible for the workers' satisfaction with the workplace. Companies would have to make workplaces safe, and wages fair. Workers would stay at the job; war production would not fall.

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QUESTIONS

- How did the government make sure Canadians contributed to the war effort?
- Why did the government take these actions?
- How did workers benefit from the government's actions?

How did the war affect Canadian society?

The war changed Canadian society in some very important ways. As a result of the war, the Canadian government developed a social welfare system to take care of the **basic needs** of all Canadians. The war also had an effect on the lives of women. Another group affected by the war was the immigrant and **ethnic minority** population. The war also brought political and economic change in Canada.

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How did Canadians get a social welfare system?

One reason that Canada developed a social welfare system was because the war changed people's ideas about the **role** of the government in

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A social welfare system is a system in which a government takes responsibility for meeting the basic needs of citizens.

the lives of Canadians. When the government started to control so many aspects of people's lives during the war, Canadians began to see that the government could make laws to take care of the basic needs of all Canadians. If it could organize the country and spend billions of dollars to fight a war, it could also do the same to fight poverty and the Depression. The government also began to think that it had a duty to take care of people's basic needs.

Another reason that Canada developed a social welfare system was because Mackenzie King did not want a repeat of the economic **recession** that happened after World War I. King and the Liberals thought that it would be possible to stop bad times from coming again if people had economic security. If people had money to spend, the economy would grow. If Canada were lucky, there would not be a recession but a boom after this war! The government made two important laws to help people feel more economically secure. In 1940, the government started **Unemployment Insurance** and, in 1944, the government started the **Family Allowance** program. Unemployment Insurance **guaranteed** enough money for unemployed people to live. Family Allowance helped to improve the lives of mothers with children (in case fathers did not come home from the war). These changes in government policies were important: they showed Canadians that the government was interested in taking care of their needs. 47

How did the war affect the lives of women?

The shortage of men in workplaces created more work opportunities for women. They were needed everywhere. By 1944, more than 1 million women were working outside the home. Many had jobs in general manufacturing and in the war industries. But one thing did not change: women were expected to give up their jobs when the war was over. However, some women were making up to \$45 a week, and some were even making the same wage as men at their jobs. As a result, more women were unwilling to give up their jobs. 48

The war made women workers in industry important. But the attitudes of most Canadians did not change. Although a few women could make the same pay as men, most did not. On average, women were paid one-third less than men. 49

Women also contributed to the war effort through volunteer work. They raised money for the war effort, kept families together, helped those who had lost men in the war, and sent packages and letters to the soldiers in order to **keep their spirits up**. 50

The biggest change for women was the kind of work they were allowed to do in the armed forces. In World War I, they had been allowed to go overseas as nurses. But in World War II, more than 50 000 women served in the armed forces. They joined the navy, the air force, and the army. They usually got less money than men when doing the same job, but they were allowed to do many of the same jobs as men, 51

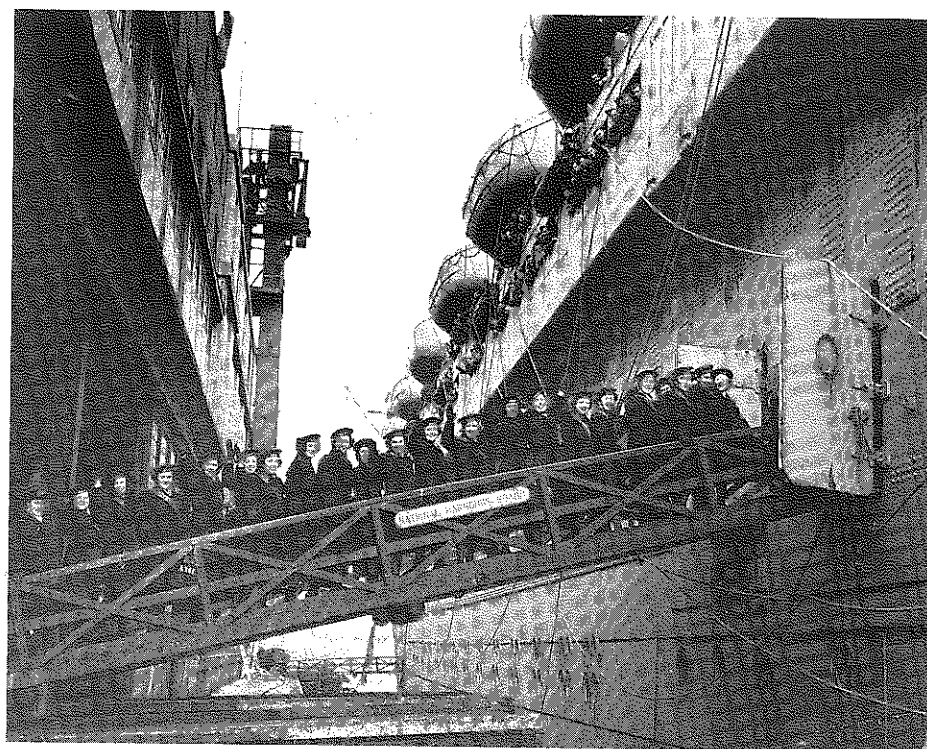


Aircraft manufacturing was just one area where women were needed during the war.

These members of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service are leaving for England from Halifax, Nova Scotia, in February 1944.



This postage stamp recognized the importance of women in the armed forces.



except for fighting. Most Canadians did not accept women as equals yet, but the effect of the war on women's work opportunities caused major changes in the role of women.

How did the war affect immigrants and ethnic minorities?

The war changed the lives of many immigrants and Canadian citizens who belonged to ethnic minority groups. The fear of "enemy aliens" that Canadians had developed during World War I appeared again in World War II. The government had the power to tell people where they could work, put people in work camps, imprison "enemy aliens," and take away the rights of Canadians. And they did. The "enemy aliens" in this war were Canadians of German, Italian, and Japanese descent. In 1940, the Canadian government made it illegal for Italian Canadian groups to meet. The Canadian government also began to put some German and Italian Canadians into **internment camps**. The government was afraid that these Canadians were working for European governments as spies. But the biggest example of Canadians' fear of immigrants was the detention of Japanese Canadians.

In 1942, the Canadian government ordered 22 000 Japanese Canadians to leave their homes, farms, and businesses on the Pacific coast of British Columbia. The Japanese Canadians were sent to detention camps far away from the coast. The government **confiscated** their property and sold it to other Canadians, often at very low prices. It did not matter that more than half the Japanese Canadians had been born in Canada. This action changed the lives of Japanese Canadians for many **generations**.

These Japanese Canadians are being relocated to camps in the interior of British Columbia, 1942.



QUESTIONS

- a. How did the war change the way Canadians thought about the role of government?
 - b. What effects did the war have on the lives of women?
 - c. How did the war affect ethnic groups?
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What were the political and economic effects of World War II?

Canada's experience in World War I taught Canadians that participating in international wars had advantages and disadvantages. The advantages of the war were industrial growth and international respect. The disadvantages of war were the costs in lives, in money, and in conflicts between groups of Canadians. As they entered World War II, Canadians asked themselves what they would gain and what they would lose as a result of the war. 54

Some of the benefits were economic. Through the war effort, Canada experienced economic growth and industrial expansion. After the war, Canada had a system of factories and industries that made the country one of the richest in the world. The war ended the Great Depression for Canada. There was employment for almost everyone; Canadians were prosperous. Canadians recognized that government could and should play a role in improving people's lives; after the war, people had economic security with Unemployment Insurance, Family Allowance payments, and veterans' programs. 55

Politically, Canada gained more international respect. During the war, Canada had won an independent place on important international 56

organizations and committees. After the war, the Allies created a new world peace organization to replace the League of Nations — the United Nations. Canada was one of the founding members. Canadians felt pride in helping to win a war for human rights and gained self-confidence as a nation.

What did these benefits cost Canada? Forty-two thousand Canadians died in the war. Thousands of others were injured. The war cost Canada \$12 million a day! Conscription again created conflict between French and English Canadians, although it was not as serious as during World War I. The war also created conflict between groups of Canadians that resulted in the internment of Italian and Japanese Canadians. Canada developed closer ties to the United States because both countries provided war supplies to the Allies. For example, Canadians produced parts for some weapons made in the U.S.; at the same time, Americans made parts for weapons manufactured in Canada. Closer military, trade, and business ties to the United States moved Canada farther from Britain and made Canadian jobs even more dependent on American markets. 57

One of the costs of World War I had been the conflict it created between the returning veterans and other groups of Canadians. The King government wanted to avoid this a second time. Therefore, the government decided that, in 1945, returning veterans would receive as much help as possible from the government. When 1 043 576 veterans did return, they found that the government was willing to help them with **counselling** programs, paid job training, paid school fees, loans for buying houses, and financial help to start farms or businesses. The government reasoned that if it made sure Canadians had money to spend, they would. If Canadians spent money, other Canadians would be productive. 58

QUESTIONS

- What did Canada gain from participation in World War II?
- Do you think Canada's participation in the war was worth the costs? Why? Why not?
- How was the situation of the veterans of World War II different from the situation of the veterans of World War I?

CASE STUDY

Japanese Canadians during World War II

The first Japanese arrived in Canada as **survivors** of **shipwrecks**. In 1877, a young Japanese sailor decided to stay. Manzo Nagano became the first Japanese settler in Canada. Few Japanese people joined him.

Canadians were anti-Asian, especially in British Columbia. Canada's immigration policy showed this for a very long time. The "head tax" kept Chinese and Japanese immigration very low. By 1911, there were only 10 000 Japanese in Canada. But by 1941, this number had grown to 23 000. Almost all the Japanese Canadians settled in British Columbia. Many were

experienced farmers and fishermen. The natural resources of British Columbia provided a livelihood and lifestyle for the new Japanese immigrants that was very much like their lives in Japan. They worked hard; as a result they had productive and prosperous lives. But many British Columbians did not welcome them. For example, neither the Canadian government nor the British Columbia government would give Chinese or Japanese Canadians the right to vote.

In 1937 and 1938, many people in British Columbia expressed anti-Japanese feelings. Some said that there were too many Japanese immigrants and that some of these immigrants must have come to Canada illegally. In 1940, some British Columbians demanded that the Canadian government bar Chinese or Japanese Canadians from the military. They did this because they were afraid that if Chinese and Japanese Canadians fought for Canada in the war, they would want the right to vote in elections when veterans returned. Japanese Canadians knew that many British Columbians did not want them there: their farms and fishing boats were competition.

But none of the anti-Asian feelings experienced by Japanese Canadians prepared them for what happened after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbour on December 7, 1941. Canadian anti-Japanese feelings increased greatly. Some people feared that Japan might attack British Columbia, too. Suddenly, many British Columbians thought of their Japanese-Canadian neighbours as enemies of Canada: "enemy aliens." They had no proof that any Japanese Canadians acted as spies; not one Japanese Canadian was arrested for spying. The Canadian Navy and the Canadian Air Force even told the people of British Columbia that the Japanese Canadians were not dangerous. But many British Columbians wanted the Japanese Canadians out of British Columbia. They demanded that the Canadian government and the British Columbia government take action. The governments listened.

In January 1942, the federal government ordered the removal of all Japanese Canadians from the West Coast. The Canadian government took all Japanese Canadian-owned cars, trucks, fishing boats, and weapons. They confiscated all Japanese Canadian-owned cameras and radios. The government was afraid that Japanese Canadians would use these objects to communicate with the Japanese military.

During the evacuation, Japanese-Canadian men stayed in dormitories like this.



On February 26, 1942, 22 000 Japanese Canadians were forced to leave their homes on the British Columbia coast. Often, families were split up: adult men went to one camp, and women and children went to another camp. The government sent them to detention camps in the mountains of British Columbia and other parts of Canada. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police guarded the roads so that no Japanese Canadians could leave. The government sold their farms, fishing boats, cars, trucks, and other Japanese Canadian-owned goods for very low prices. The Canadian government did not give the money from the sales to the Japanese Canadians. It claimed that the money was needed to pay for moving the Japanese Canadians to the camps. After the war, the Japanese Canadians were released from the camps, but they had nothing to return to in British Columbia: the government had sold their homes and their means of making a living.

Most of the Japanese Canadians who were interned were not recent immigrants from Japan. They had much stronger ties to Canada than to Japan. More than 50 per cent of them were born in Canada. Only 25 per cent of the Japanese Canadians taken to the internment camps were still citizens of Japan. But this did not matter to the government. They were all considered "enemy aliens" because of their Japanese ancestry.

Close to the end of the war, the Canadian government offered the Japanese Canadians a choice: they could either move to eastern parts of Canada, or they could go back to Japan; 10 000 people left. They had had enough of bad treatment. Those who stayed moved to many parts of Canada. In 1950, there were more Japanese Canadians living in Ontario than in British Columbia.

At the end of the war, many Japanese Canadians tried to get repayment for the property that had been sold. In 1947, Japanese Canadians received about 20 per cent of the value of their property. Many felt this wasn't fair. The government did not allow Japanese Canadians to return to British Columbia until 1949. In that same year, they were finally allowed to vote in elections, even though other Asians, such as the Chinese, got the right to vote in 1947.

Many Japanese Canadians thought the Canadian government owed them an apology. It was not until 1988 that the Canadian government formally apologized to Japanese Canadians for their unfair treatment during World War II. The government also gave \$21 000 compensation to each of the **evacuees** who was still living.

In 1940, many Canadians had supported a full war effort because they felt that the racist policies in Nazi Germany were wrong. It is strange that Canadians didn't see that their own actions against the Japanese Canadians were equally racist and wrong.

The Government of Canada, on behalf of all Canadians, does hereby:

1) acknowledge that the treatment of Japanese Canadians during and after World War II was unjust and violated principles of human rights as they are understood today;

2) pledge to ensure, to the full extent that its powers allow, that such events will not happen again; and

3) recognize, with great respect, the fortitude and determination of Japanese Canadians who, despite great stress and hardship, retain their commitment and loyalty to Canada and contribute so richly to the development of the Canadian nation.

*Brian Mulroney
Prime Minister of Canada*