

Handout #8a Timeline of Human Rights and the Law in Canada

Instructions: try to match the dates to the events. Believe it or not, you might have learned most of these things already! Your teacher will provide you with the events and you place them in the correct space. When complete, examine the events to decide: was law a good way to achieve social justice? Or did the law create social injustice?

DATE	EVENT	Positive or negative effect?
1763		
1837		
1876		
1885		
1885		
1911		
1914		
1918		
1923		
1929		
1941-47		

1944		
1947		
Dec 10 1948		
1960		
1960		
1964		
1968		
1971		
1977		
1982		
1990		
1999		
2005		

Teacher Handout: Social Justice and the Law Timeline Key

Option A: If desired, cut out the events and provide a set to each group of students with their handout that has only the dates. Students could work together to match the events to the dates. They will need to glue each event to the date. The teacher will need to have a copy of the key for herself.

Option B: Time-saving adaptation: The teacher could provide this key instead to students and just have them go through the timeline to decide which events are examples of the law working for or against social justice. A general discussion could develop over observations and surprises of events.

TIMELINE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE LAW IN CANADA

DATE	EVENT	LAW GOOD FOR SJ?
1763	King George issues Royal Proclamation confirms Aboriginal ownership of lands.	
1837	Black men in Canada granted right to vote	
1876	Indian Act passed. Regulates most aspects of “Indians” lives	
1885	CPR finished. Chinese Head Tax imposed.	
1885	Execution of Louis Riel. Found guilty by all white, English speaking protestant jury for his role in the Northwest Uprising.	
1911	Prime Minister Wilfrid Laurier issues order in council denying Black immigration to Canada.	
1914	Komagata Maru incident. Ship with 376 passengers from India challenged Canada’s 'continuous passage rule'. Were not allowed to dock and escorted out of Vancouver harbour by the warship Rainbow.	
1918	Parliament extends the vote to women in federal elections.	
1923	Chinese Exclusion Act imposed. Chinese barred from immigrating to Canada. Chinese in Canada separated from families in China.	
1929	Persons Case. After ruled not persons in Canadian courts, the Famous Five go to Britain’s courts and are finally ruled persons under the law.	
1941-47	Internment of Japanese Canadians. Money government made from selling their possessions pays for their internment.	
1944	Tommy Douglas becomes premier of Saskatchewan and enacts a “humanity first” policy in government, making available free health care to the poor and to senior citizens.	
1947	The Saskatchewan Bill of Rights, Canada's first general law prohibiting	

	discrimination, is passed under premier Tommy Douglas.	
Dec 10 1948	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is signed by the United Nations members. Canadian John Humphrey plays a large role in drafting the declaration, and Canada is among the signing nations.	
1960	Aboriginals on reserve granted right to vote under Diefenbaker's Bill of Rights.	
1960	The barring of immigrants based on nationality, citizenship, ethnic group, occupation, class or region of origin is ended in Canada.	
1964	Laws requiring separate schools for blacks in Ontario are removed.	
1968	Trudeau's Liberal government liberalizes divorce, abortion, and anti-gay laws. "The state has no business in the bedrooms of the nation"	
1971	The Criminal Code makes it a crime to advocate genocide or publicly incite hatred against people because of their colour, race, religion, or ethnic identity.	
1977	The federal government passes the Canadian Human Rights Act and sets up the Human Rights Commission.	
1982	The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms becomes part of Canada's constitution and the Canadian identity.	
1990	Elijah Harper, an Aboriginal Member of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, is instrumental in the defeat of the Meech Lake Accord, as it neglected to acknowledge Aboriginal Canadians' significant role in shaping Canada's future. He used procedural delays to defeat the Accord.	
1999	The Supreme Court of Canada finds that it is discriminatory under the Charter to deny benefits to same-sex partners.	
2005	Paul Martin's Liberal minority government passes the Civil Marriage Act, legalizing same sex marriage. Court decisions had already legalized same-sex marriage in eight provinces and one territory. More than 3,000 same-sex couples had already married in those areas.	