

Canada in the 1920s

The Roaring Twenties...For Some



A New Prosperity

- Economy improved by mid-1920s
- Canadians get into a spending frenzy
 - Made sacrifices during WWI, now they get to have some fun
 - Cars, radios, movies, jazz clubs, tourism, fashion, etc.
- Era of consumerism, leisure, and rebellion






“Flappers”





Increased Mobility

Automobiles

-  Cars cheaper, more popular, because of the assembly line (Henry Ford)
-  Highway construction all over Canada
-  Often connecting Canada and USA

Flight

-  Pilots testing limits
-  Planes used to transport supplies to isolated locations



Increased Mobility



Increased Mobility

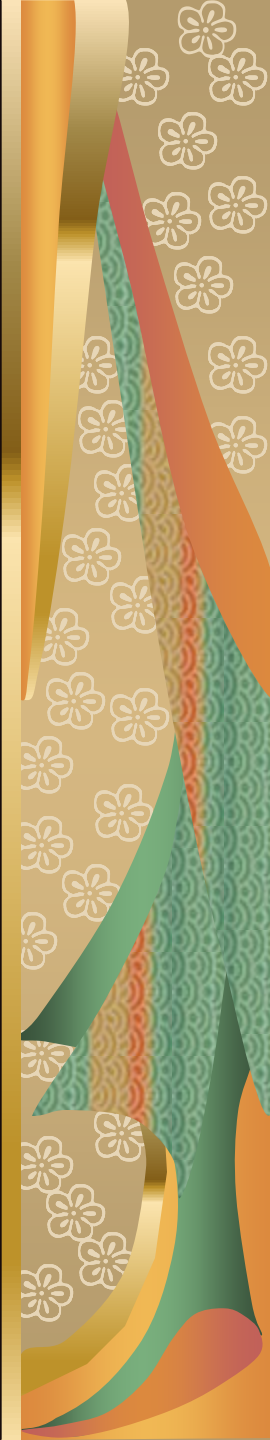


Improved Communications

- Telephones by now common
- Radio linked people across Canada
 - Spread popular culture, entertainment, information
 - Dominated by American programming
- Movies
 - Silent until late-1920s
 - Dominated by Hollywood



Radio



Mary Pickford



Art and Sports

Art

Group of Seven

-  Canadian landscapes in modern style

Emily Carr

-  Aboriginal life and BC forests

Sports

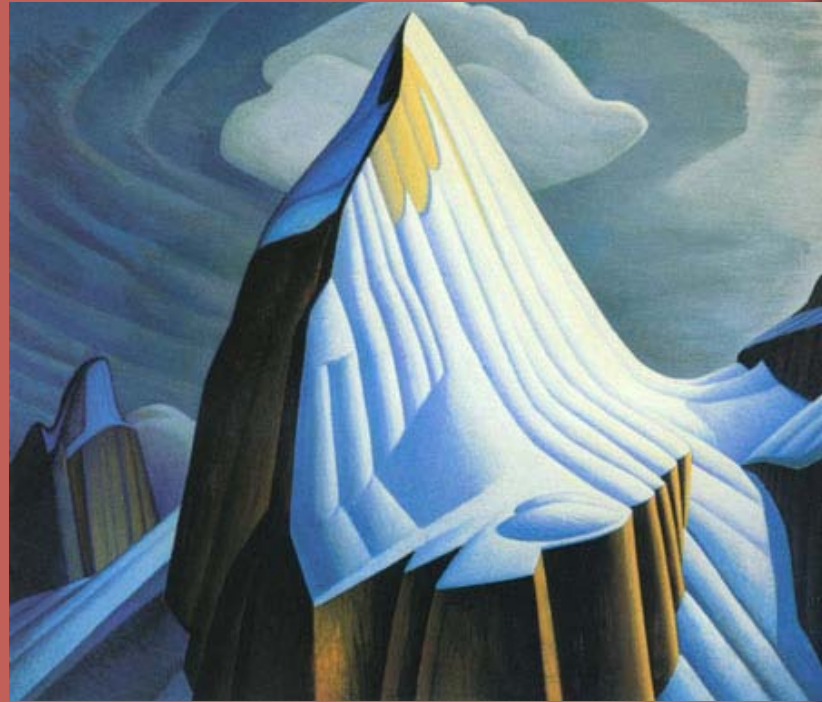
Increase in sports as entertainment

First radio broadcast of hockey – 1923

Increasing popularity of modern Olympics



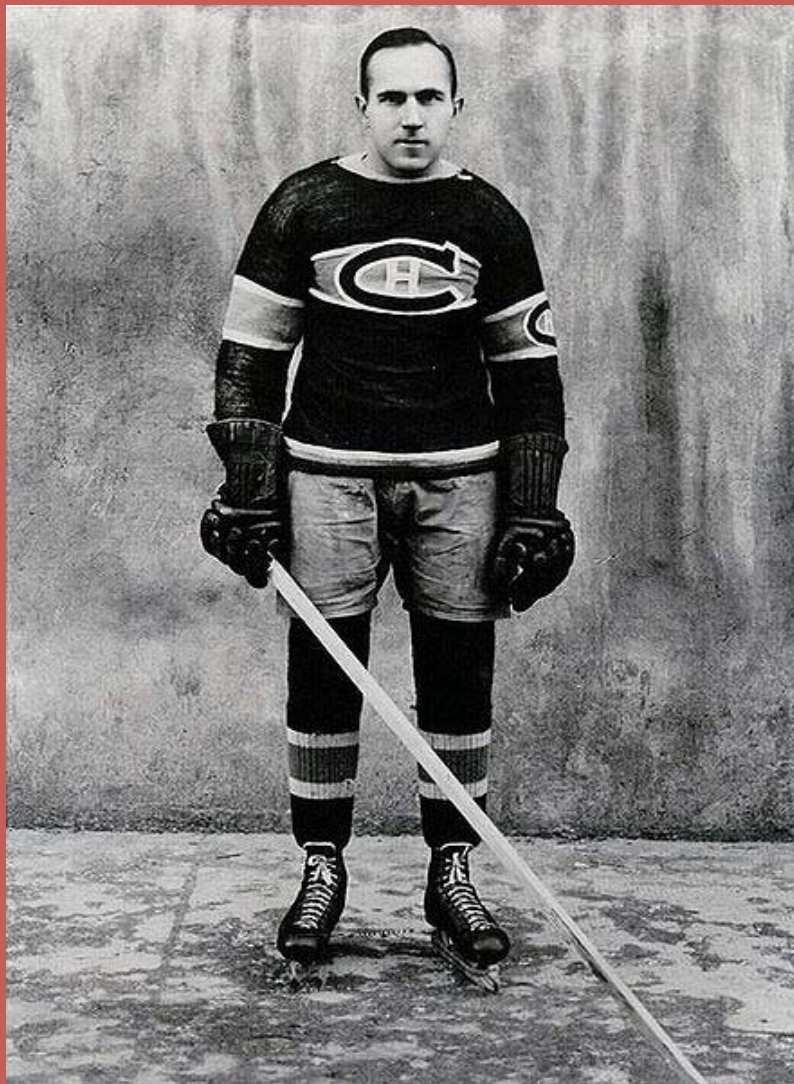
Group of Seven



Emily Carr



Sports



The Role of Women

- Hopes for reform high after WWI participation
- Women encouraged to give jobs back to men
- Women still expected to stay home
 - If they worked, paid less than men
 - Nurses, teachers, secretaries, operators
- Agnes Macphail
 - First woman elected to Parliament (1921)
 - Government still dominated by men



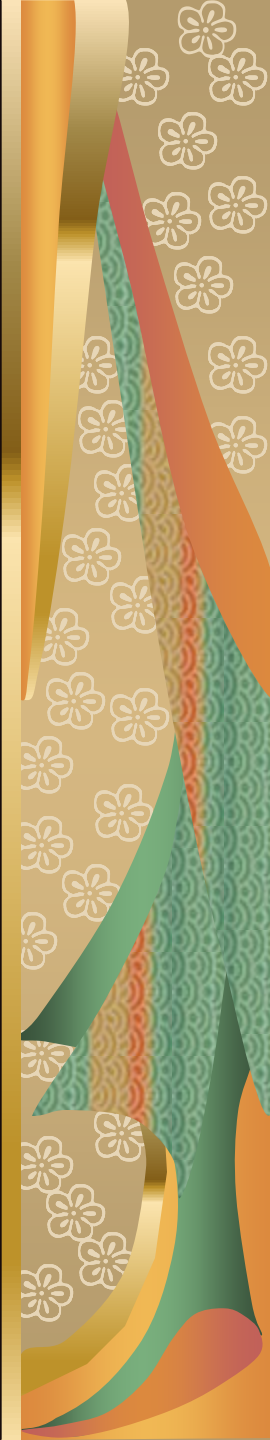
The Role of Women

■ The Persons Case – 1929

- Women not considered “persons”
- Activists campaigned PM King to appoint a female senator, redefine “person”
 - “Famous Five” – Emily Murphy
- Took case to Supreme Court of Canada
 - Women still not “persons”
- Appealed to Privy Council in London
 - Women now “persons”












The Role of Women



Missing the Roar








First Nations

-  Not classified as “persons” under the law
 -  Not allowed to vote (BC: 1949, Fed: 1960)
-  Conditions poor on reserves
-  Discrimination and racism in cities
-  Residential Schools
 -  Separated from families, culture
 -  Many abused physically and emotionally
 -  Either adapt or be punished
 -  Assimilation



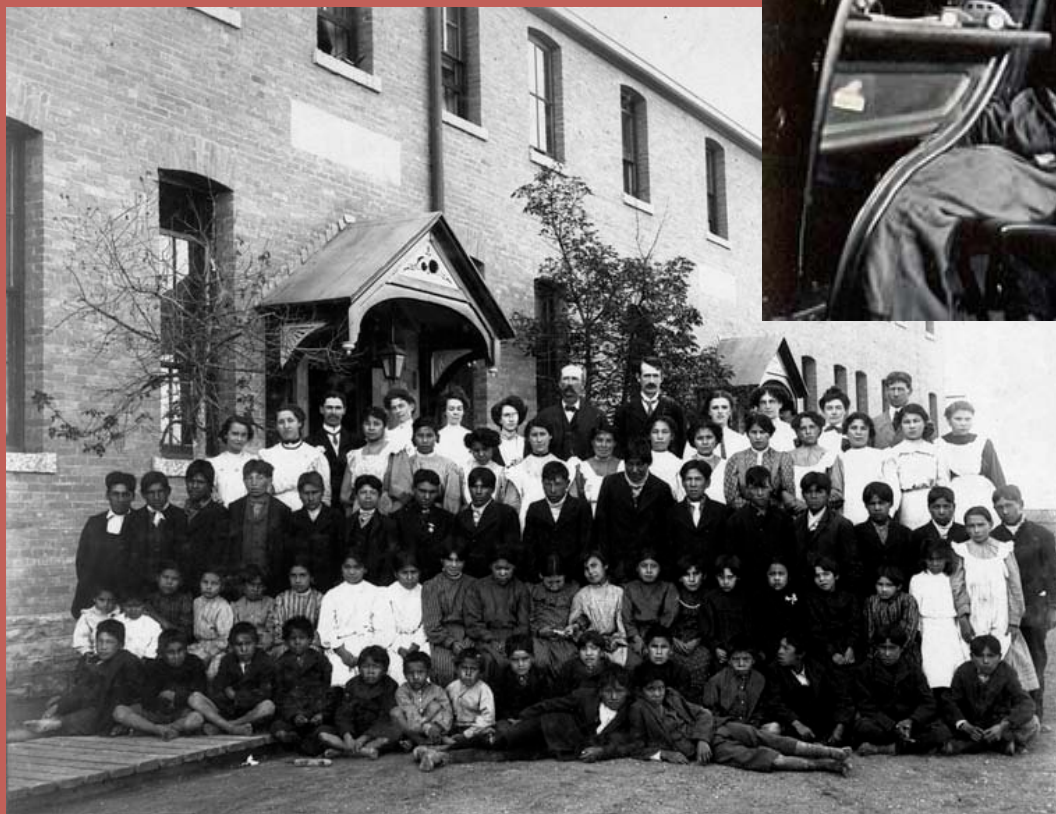
Missing the Roar

First Nations

-  Potlatch ceremonies outlawed
 -  Illegal since 1884, but strictly enforced in '20s
-  Aboriginal Title (land claims)
 -  Most BC land not officially signed over to government in treaties
 -  Government still took land from reserves
 - Cut-off lands
 -  Argued for treaty negotiations with gov.
 -  Federal government forbid land claims





Residential School





Missing the Roar

African-Canadians

Discrimination and Racism

-  Nova Scotia: separate schools until 1954
-  Montreal: separate seating in theatres







Tolerance

-  Edmonton: city council refused to ban African-Canadians from parks and swimming pools
-  Brotherhood of Railway Workers: first Canadian union to accept African-Canadians



Missing the Roar






Immigrants

-  Much racism, ethnocentrism (Ku Klux Klan)
-  Russian and Eastern European immigrants believed to be communist revolutionaries
-  British and Americans preferred
 -  White and spoke English
-  Some businesses welcomed immigrants because they worked for little money in unpleasant jobs
 -  Labour unions often against open immigration



Missing the Roar

Immigrants

-  Asian immigrants treated the worst
 -  Chinese Head Tax since 1885
 -  Chinese Exclusion Act (1923)
 - Only allowed if merchant, diplomat, student
 -  Japanese immigration severely restricted in 1922
-  Economy improved in mid-1920s, immigration laws relaxed (except for Asian immigrants) to increase Canada's population, market



Missing the Roar

