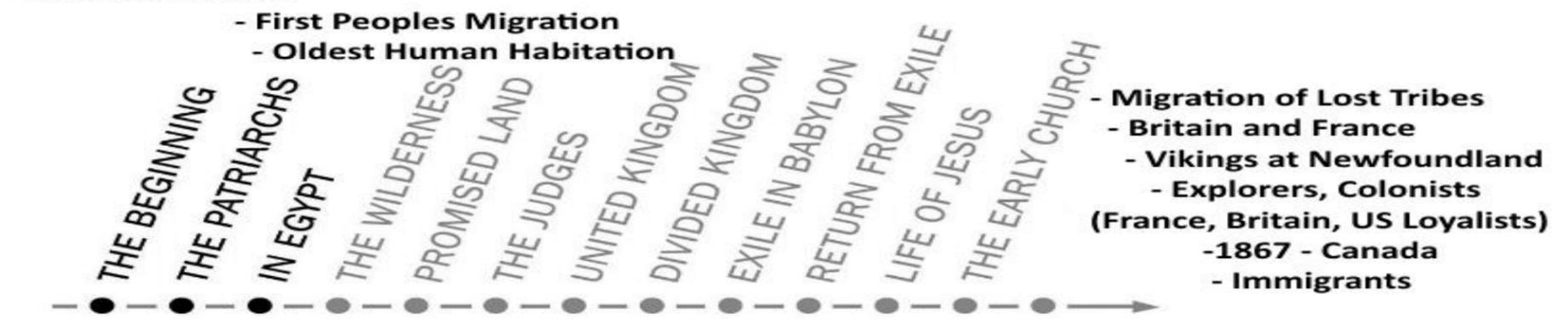


Biblical Significance of Canada's 150th Birthday

Timeline Canada



Beringia

Photograph by Norbert Rosling

Bridge to North America

How and when humans first came to the Americas has long been a topic of intense debate. Theories to explain the colonization of the New World—the last great habitable landmass to be occupied by humans—focus on the Bering land bridge, or Beringia, which emerged between Siberia and Alaska during the last Ice age. Rising from seas drained by the water-locking effect of spreading ice caps, Beringia is said to have given passage to the forebearers of Native Americans anywhere between 40,000 and 15,000 years ago.

[Read more about the theory of the land-bridge.](#)

Meadowcroft Rockshelter, Pennsylvania

Photograph by Tom Uhlman

Oldest Known Human Habitation in North America

Located near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the Meadowcroft Rockshelter site is a rock ledge overhang that was used as a campsite by prehistoric hunters and gatherers some 16,000 years ago. Discovered in 1955, Meadowcroft Rockshelter is the oldest known site of human habitation in North America and its existence lends credence to the idea that humans arrived in the Americas earlier than traditionally thought. The site has yielded nearly two million artifacts, including ancient tools made of stone or bone, pottery fragments, and hundreds of fire pits. Animal and plant remains—including fruits, nuts, and seeds—have also been discovered at the site.

Brief History of Canada

Canada's first inhabitants were the native peoples, who crossed from Siberia to Alaska and migrated eastward across the continent. The first Europeans to arrive were Vikings from Scandinavia, who came to the eastern shores of the country approximately one thousand years ago. The explorer **John Cabot** claimed Newfoundland for the king of England in 1497. In 1534, **Jacques Cartier** claimed another part of the land for the king of France. The colony was called New France and was filled with missionaries, fur traders and farmers. In 1759, British troops defeated French troops in the battle for control of New France. British North America became the Dominion of Canada on July 1st, 1867, with four provinces joining to form the new union. Over the years, the country grew to include ten provinces and three territories. Canada remains part of the British Commonwealth of nations, and as such is a fulfillment of prophecy (see **GENESIS 35:11**). Many believe the British and French contingents of Canada are both descended from the tribes of Israel

Gen 35:10 And God said to him, "Your name *is* Jacob; your name shall not be called Jacob anymore, but Israel shall be your name." So He called his name Israel.

Gen 35:11 Also God said to him: "I *am* God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; **a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you**, and kings shall come from your body.

The founders of this country built Canada on the Word of God, as can be seen in many examples.

Explorers

John Cabot was a Venetian navigator and explorer whose **1497** discovery of the coast of North America under the commission of **Henry VII of England** is commonly held to have been the first European exploration of the mainland of North America since the Norse visits to **Vinland** in the eleventh century. The crew appeared to have remained on land just long enough to take on fresh water; they also raised the Venetian and Papal banners, claiming the land for the King of England and the Church.



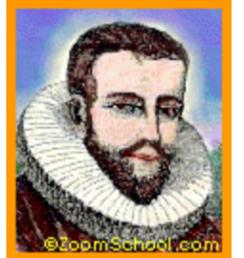
Jacques Cartier (1491-1557) was a French explorer who led three expeditions to Canada, in 1534, 1535, and 1541. He was looking for a route to the Pacific through North America (a Northwest Passage) but did not find one. Cartier paved the way for French exploration of North America. Cartier sailed inland, going 1,000 miles up the St. Lawrence River. He also tried to start a settlement in Quebec (in 1541), but it was abandoned after a terribly cold winter. Cartier named [Canada](#); "Kanata" means village or settlement in the Huron-Iroquois language.

In 1533, **Jacques Cartier** sailed up the St. Lawrence River to Montréal. To commemorate the founding of Montréal, Cartier wrote in his diary "...we all kneeled down in the company of the Indians and **with our hands raised toward heaven yielded our thanks to God.**"

Samuel de Champlain (1567?-1635) was a French explorer and navigator who mapped much of northeastern North America and started a settlement in Quebec. Champlain also discovered the lake later named for him (1609) and was important in establishing and administering the French colonies in the New World.

The "Father of New France," **Samuel de Champlain**, wrote in his diary about the natives, "... (the aborigines are) living without God and without religion... I thereupon concluded in my private judgement that I should be committing a great sin if I did not make it my business to devise some means of **bringing them to the knowledge of God.**"

Henry Hudson (1565-1611) was an English explorer and navigator who sailed to northern North America four times. Hudson died in 1611 after his crew mutinied and left Hudson, his son, and seven crew members adrift in a small, open boat in Hudson Bay.



In 1886, [William Howland](#) ran for Mayor of Toronto. During his campaign, Howland would urge voters, "Let us keep the city, a **God-fearing city**, and I would rather see it thus than the greatest and richest city in the continent". He won and became Toronto's 25th Mayor.

David Thompson, explorer and statesman, developed maps from his surveys between 1784 and 1812. Many of his maps are still being used today. Thompson's words give the reason he endured the physical hardship of exploration "so that these physically impenetrable barriers may be **traversed and the Gospel be spread.**"

[Sir Samuel Leonard Tilley](#), Premier of New Brunswick and one of the **Fathers of Confederation**, rose each morning to start his day **with prayer and Scripture reading**. As the 33 fathers gathered in Charlottetown to discuss and draft the terms of the British North American Act, there were many suggestions on what to call this new "United Canada." That morning, as Tilley read from Psalm 72:8, he became so convinced that Canada should **be a nation under God**, that when he came down to the Conference session, he presented the inspired "Dominion of Canada." The other Fathers readily agreed and accepted. Today, The following words hang in the corridor near the confederation Chamber in Province House: "In the hearts of the delegates who assembled in this room on September 1, 1864, was born the Dominion of Canada. **Providence being their guide** they builded better then they knew."

The Education System

[Bishop John Strachan](#), a leader who helped form our public education system, stated that "the church must continue to play a central role in education. You cannot divorce religion from education because schools will inevitably reflect the philosophical and religious or (irreligious) biases of those who direct them."

[Egerton Ryerson](#), father of public education in Canada, wanted a "common patriotic ground of comprehensiveness and avowed (or maintain) Christian principles." He wrote the textbook *First Lessons in Christian Morals* which was published in 1871. Ryerson clearly said that the Ontario school system was to be a "Christian public school system."

Many of our greatest Canadian universities were founded as denominational seminaries to educate future church leaders:

-King's College in Nova Scotia, now know as Dalhousie University, was founded by the **Anglicans**.

-The University of Ottawa, founded by the **Roman Catholic Church**, and one of Canada's first bilingual Universities.

-McMaster University, was founded by the **Baptists**.

The Ontario Public School Act of 1896 stated that "It shall be the duty of every teacher of a public school to teach diligently and faithfully all of the subjects in the public school course of study; to maintain proper order and discipline in his pupils in his school; to encourage his pupils in the pursuit of learning; to include, by precept and example, **respect for religion** and the principles of **Christian morality** and the highest regard for **truth, justice, love of country, humanity, benevolence, sobriety, industry, frugality, purity, temperance** and all other virtues."



Confederation, National Symbols and Emblems

Canada's coat of arms, adopted in 1921, stands upon the Latin phrase "A Mari Usque Ad Mare," which when translated means "**from sea to sea**" a reference to **Psalms 72:8**.

Psa 72:8 He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth.

The present design was approved in 1994 and shows a ribbon behind the shield with the motto of the Order of Canada, "Desiderantes meliorem patriam" which translates "**They desire a better country**" which stems from **Hebrews 11:16**.

Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

There were many moments in government history where **God was given the honour**. For example on January 31st, 1957, Parliament proclaimed that **Thanksgiving Day** will be celebrated on the second Monday in October and it will be “**A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed.**”

The **Canadian Bill of Rights**, introduced in 1960, begins with, “The Parliament of Canada, affirming that the Canadian Nation is founded upon principles that acknowledge the supremacy of God.” (See attachment)



Canada’s parliament buildings in Ottawa contain scriptures carved into the stones: **EPHESIANS 6:13** is written around the altar in the memorial chamber: “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand”

PSALM 139:8-10 is found on the wall in the same room beside a list of wars in which Canadians have fought

Psa 139:8-10 If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*. *If* I take the wings of the morning, *and* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

On the outside of the Peace Tower, **PSALM 72:8**, **PROVERBS 29:18**, and **PSALM 72:1** are all engraved.

Pro 29:18 Where *there is* no vision, the people perish

Psa 72:1 Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son.

Health care

Faith communities have been involved in the provision of health care services in Canada since the mid-17th century. The country’s earliest health care institution, the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, was founded by the Augustines Hospitalières in 1639. Many other religious groups comprised especially of religious women and Christian laypersons have been in the forefront of every effort against disease that this country has known.

Churches recognized that, “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it” (**1 Cor. 12:36**). Jesus’ ministry includes many healing stories (**Matt. 8:16–17**; **John 9:1–3**; **Matt. 25:36**; **John 10:10**). The churches saw human beings as images of a God of life who desired healing and health of not only the body, but also of the mind and soul. This was described by the churches as “holistic” ministry, the realization that, “Your faith has made you whole” (**Mark 10:52**).

A Time of Transformation

- Whereas many of our nation’s leaders, including our founding fathers, stood for Christian principles, the governments today are trying to change the laws of Canada to reflect the more “diverse population” that lives in this country.
- These changes have resulted in a moral decline in the country. Increases in violent youth crime, suicides among young people and the number of single parent families are only a few matters of concern.
- Christian morality and values are under attack in public schools (as being intolerant)
 - Prayer or Bible readings gone
 - The Criminal Code of Canada permits what scripture teaches is wrong
 - "sexual orientation" as a basis for protection from hate crimes. (This means certain passages in the Bible could be considered “hate literature”)
 - Abortion is accepted – 1969 Abortion decriminalized, 1974-2010 = **3,191,362** “reported” abortions
 - The “sex education” curriculum teaches children alternative lifestyles condemned in scripture
- Our Founding Fathers would surely be outraged to hear and see all that is going on in our once-Christian nation.
- It was a conscious step to replace the **Christian British& French heritage** by a modern man-made United Nations philosophy of diversity and multi-culturalism - a trend that continued especially under Pierre Trudeau (1968-1984) and until today. Of course, in a multi-cultural society, Christianity is only **one out of many** religions. Modern Canada therefore has no other values but “diversity”.

Secularization of Canada

To secularize is to treat something as **belonging to the world**, rather than to God, and to judge the **worth** of things according to their **usefulness** in human activity. For example, the Lord's Day Act is regarded as valuable because it gives workers a weekly rest and therefore increases productivity, not because it honours God; religious education is good because it produces well-behaved citizens, not because it cultivates a person's love of God.

Christians have frequently adopted purely secular values in the course of defending public Christianity. Virtually every contemporary Canadian author who writes about the awe and wonder experienced in human life has only scorn for modern churches — an indication, perhaps, that **few Canadians expect to find that which is "holy" in the churches.**

People have come to think of themselves as "real" or "themselves" **only in private.** Elsewhere they take on roles dictated by the institution that sustains them: e.g., the same person will behave in markedly different ways in school, at work, at a political rally or in a sports arena. Only in the privacy of the home does the individual think that the real self emerges. **Within this private segment of modern life religion has become lodged.**

The movement of religion into the individual's **private life** helps to explain why religion in Canadian **public life** has gradually become secular or has simply eroded, why **church attendance** is seen to be less and less important, and why private religious practices (e.g., watching evangelical TV programs, reading religious paperbacks or magazines) are more widespread than ever in Canadian life.

People who tell the census taker that they are "Christian" generally want to be *married and buried* in a church setting, but they often feel no urgent need to take a larger part in the life of the institution with its tradition of public responsibility.

Hope for Our Future If We Turn to God

Our Canadian national anthem includes the words “**God keep our land glorious and free.**” That was the reason why so many Canadians, under the Red Ensign, fought alongside Great Britain in the two World Wars. Many gave up their lives thus ensuring that we would live in a free land ruled not by tyrants but only by God’s laws. **Canada’s only hope lies in returning to the values of old.**

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls” **JEREMIAH 6:16.**

“If my people, which are called, by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land” (2 **CHRONICLES 7:14**).

Nominal Christianity vs True Christianity ??

Christianity is a major world religion, and the religion of some 80 per cent of Canadians

I applaud when other denominations do good works that Jesus would find praiseworthy ... Feeding, clothing, & sheltering the poor, Peacefully protesting at abortion clinics, Distributing Bibles, disaster relief, & protecting the vulnerable in the world

Jas 1:27 **Pure religion** and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, *and* to keep himself unspotted from the world.

[Religion](#) is a response to ultimate questions, and it makes ultimate demands.

What Christian in Canada can be said to be truly religious?

- Many Canadians are **serious Christians**, but although there is certainly a plurality of religious standpoints in modern Canada, there is no general acceptance of pluralism, even within the Christian community itself.
 - In the CGI we understand that **all** Christian Churches are **not “okay”** with God – Many teach error & deceive
- All Christians look to the Bible, but Christians live different lives in the light of the Gospel, and Canadian Christians are far from a consensus that **“all ways” are legitimate and worthy.** Nor do all Canadian Christians commit themselves to the same degree.
 - In the CGI we understand that God has a plan of Salvation , and an opportunity for all to choose to Live God’s way
 - We also understand that when people seek to live their life **via principles of Scripture and God’s Law**, there are automatic benefits – and automatic pitfalls that people & their society will avoid
 - We also understand from the Blessings and Cursings Chapters (Lev 26, Deu 28) the lesson of God dealing with Israel to Bless them when they are faithful and to Curse them when they are unfaithful. God does this for the GOOD of the nation, to allow the nation to “wake up and repent! And to be restored and Blessed again!”

And yet ... As Canada celebrates Birthday 150 ...

It is high time every Canadian citizen acknowledges:

- *we live in a country founded on Judeo-Christian traditions and*
- *this foundation has served us extremely well... Clearly **better** than the direction we are going! Let us seek the “old paths”*