

Effects of the National Policy

First Nations

- Numbered Treaties: First Nations in Western Canada reached 11 settlements with the Canadian government between 1871 and 1921.
- The government wanted a policy of assimilation for First Nations people.
- Government hoped First Nations languages and cultures would disappear over time.
- First Nations' children were forced to attend residential schools where they were forbidden to use their language and practise their beliefs.
- First Nations wanted treaties to protect their rights to land.
- Tracts of land called reserves were established for the use of First Nations.

Eastern European Immigrants

- Government offered free land and freedom from religious persecution.
- Life in Europe was very harsh, and people lived in poverty.
- Eastern Europeans established large wheat farms on the Canadian prairies.
- Eastern Europeans worked in other industries as well.
- They contributed many things to their communities, such as schools, churches, and social organizations.

Chinese Immigrants

- A large number of Chinese came to work on the railway and stayed in BC and Alberta.
- Canada introduced a Chinese head tax for Chinese immigrants to enter Canada; then, the government stopped allowing Chinese entry into Canada.
- Chinatowns continue in large cities in Canada.
- Chinese immigrants worked in many industries after the railway was completed.

Francophones

- Francophones hoped Western Canada would become a bilingual society, but government wanted the West to become an English region.
- French culture and language was kept alive in the West by minority Francophone language and education rights gained from the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.
- Francophones kept their language and culture in the West through Francophone schools and French Immersion schools.