Canadian Identity and the Social Welfare State

Socials 11 Exam Presentation 8
What makes Canada unique?

- What do you think is special about Canada?
What makes Canada different from US?

- Gun control/violence: Canada has 30 guns/100 people. US has 88 guns/100 people. Higher violent crime rate in the US.

- Death penalty: Not allowed in Canada, allowed in US

- Healthcare: Public system in Canada, Private in the US

- Military: In 2014 US spent $581 billion (about 4% of GDP) on military, Canada spent 22 Billion (about 1% of GDP)
Canada’s differences

- Canada has 30 million people. US has 300 million.
- Canada has legalized same-sex marriage, while this is still very controversial in the US.
- Canada’s most popular sport is hockey. The US’s is football.
- Can you think of other differences?
Protecting Canadian Culture

- 1949: Massey commission investigated state of Canadian culture and suggested that Canadian culture needed to be protected from US influences.

- 1957: Canada council was established to award funding grants to Canadian artists, writers, and theaters.

- CBC (Television) started in 1952 to use television for spreading Canadian culture.

- NFB (National Film Board) funds and distributes Canadian-made movies.

- Despite this, Canadians watched more US TV shows and listened to more US music: was drowning out Canadian content.
1968: Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC)

- Regulates the amount of foreign material allowed in Canadian media.

- Example: most Canadian radio stations have to play 35-40% Canadian content (music by Canadian artists).

- For Canadian TV stations, 50-60% of content must be of Canadian origin.
Social Programs in Canada

- Developed between 1930 and 1960 as a result of the Great Depression.
- Before these programs, people in need were supported by private or religious charities.
- People who fell on hard times (getting sick, losing a job) had no safety net.
- Based on the belief that all citizens deserve to have their needs met (for housing, healthcare, income) at a basic level.
- People pay into various plans and then they can draw from them at a later date.
National Healthcare

- Struggle for government-funded healthcare started in Saskatchewan.

- If a person got seriously ill they could lose their entire savings and had to depend on charity.

- In 1962, SK Premier Tommy Douglas introduced a complete medicare program that allowed all people access to medical care.

- In 1966, medicare became national with the “Medical Care Act”
Other aspects of social welfare:

- **Canada Pension Plan (1966):** Working people contribute to this plan, and then they get a pension from the government when they retire.

- **Employment Insurance (1940):** Working people contribute and if they lose their job they can get paid EI for a period of time. Also includes maternity and paternity pay.

- **Family Allowance/Baby Bonus (1944):** Government gives extra money to people with young children.

- **Canada Assistance Plan:** Helps people living in poverty by providing welfare/social assistance.
More Social Welfare...

- Workers Compensation: Helps workers who are injured on the job. Employers pay into a provincial Worker’s Compensation fund. If a worker is injured this fund will pay the worker benefits for a certain period of time.

- Childcare subsidies: Families with a certain income level can receive subsidies for childcare for their young children.
Canadian Flag

- Until 1965 Canada did not have its own flag.
- They used this flag: The Red Ensign
- Quebec didn’t like this flag. Why?
Lester B. Pearson (Prime Minister at the time) wanted a new flag. When he helped negotiate the Suez Canal conflict, some countries saw Canada as linked to England because of flag and believed Canada was on England’s side.

- He wanted Canada to have their own flag.
- This sparked a huge debate (especially about Quebec’s symbol’s/colours)
- The new flag was adopted in 1965.
Some of the designs considered:

Flag of Canada
competition 1964

Canada flag competition 1964

Canada flag competition 1964
Canadian Achievements

- Culture/arts: Neil Young, Allanis Morisette, Justin Bieber, Avril Lavigne
- Science/technology: Medical insulin, electronic microscope
- Sports: Wayne Gretsky
- Canadian heroes: Terry Fox, David Suzuki, Romeo Dallaire
Cultural Diversity

- Multiculturalism: Cultures keep their unique diversity while becoming part of Canada
- Three founding nations acknowledged: First Nations, French, English
- Bilingualism: French and English heritage honored
Writing: What do you think it means to be Canadian?

- Write a list of 10 things that you think define Canadians