

## Anti-Chinese Immigration Laws in Canada - Scenarios

### 1885-1923: Chinese Head Tax

#### Scenario A

It is August 1903. You are an impoverished farmer living in southern China. A few years of poor harvests have made it very difficult for you to support your wife, son and daughter. Your cousin recently moved to British Columbia, where he is working at a fish cannery. He has to work hard to pay back the loan he had to take to cover the head tax. He has asked you to join him. Are you going to join him in Canada?

- If yes, write your cousin a letter explaining that you will join him. Tell him whether you are traveling alone or with some or all of your family, and when you will leave.
- If no, write your cousin to explain why you will not be joining him.

In either case, refer to specific parts of the law(s) that influenced your decisions.

### 1923-1947: The Exclusion Period

#### Scenario B

It is October 1931. You are an unmarried man, whose father immigrated to Canada in 1900, and whose mother is of Irish origin. You are now twenty-three years old, and you have decided that you want to marry because you want companionship and many children. There are nearly 12 Chinese men for every Chinese woman in Canada, and few of Canada's 3,648 Chinese women are good marriage prospects. Your father's youngest brother has recently returned from a two-year trip to China, where he selected a bride with the help of a matchmaker. Write a journal entry where you weigh your options for marriage.

- Will you marry a woman in China? A Chinese Canadian woman? A non-Chinese Canadian woman? Where will you live?

Be sure to refer to specific parts of the law(s) that influenced your thoughts.

### **1923-1947: The Exclusion Period** **Scenario C**

It is December 1939. You are a young woman in China who married a Canadian businessman in 1930, and stayed with his family in China after he returned to Canada. He is saving money to visit you again. You are frightened that war between the Chinese and Japanese will soon put you in danger. You are writing a letter to your husband. Tell him:

- Whether or not you want him to keep saving his money to visit or to stay;
- Whether you want to immigrate to Canada legally;
- Whether you want to immigrate to Canada illegally.

In your letter, refer to specific parts of the law(s) that influenced your decisions.

### **1947-1967: Period of Restricted Sponsorship** **Scenario D**

You are a man who moved from China to Canada as a child, arriving in 1923. In 1925, you briefly returned to China to marry, and had a son that same year. Seven years later, you visit China again, and had a daughter. Your merchant brother became a naturalized British subject in 1940, but you never did. It is now 1952, and you have just received a letter from your wife, asking you to sponsor her immigration to Canada, and that of your children. How will you respond?

- Are you legally able to sponsor her immigration? What about your son's immigration? And your daughter's?
- What steps will you need to take?

In your letter to your wife, refer to specific parts of the law(s) that influenced your decision.