

On-Screen Text	Narration
Voting Rights in Canada: A Select Timeline	<p>The struggle for voting rights is the struggle for human rights. Historically, governments have given the right to vote to the people who they've valued the most. Typically, this included only a select few. The majority of the population had to fight for their right to vote -- a right that, once earned, could be taken away.</p> <p>The story of the right to vote in Canada is complex. Provincial and federal franchise regulations varied widely.</p> <p>This timeline provides an overview of voting rights in Canada.</p>
Ca. 1200-1600: The Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy is active	Formed by five nations, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy is considered one of the earliest examples of a participatory democracy.
Ca. 1400s: Blackfoot Confederacy	A confederacy of Nations is organized around bands. Each band has a male leader responsible for decision-making. He governs by consensus.
Before 1500: Mi'kmaq Grand Council	Made up of male representatives from across Mi'kmaq territory, the Council is governed by a Grand Chief and rules by consensus. The role of chieftain is often handed down from father to son.
Ca. 1500: Huron-Wendat Village Councils	Civil and war-related affairs are determined by respective village councils. Decisions are reached by consensus. All men over 30 are council members but women have little-to-no say in council affairs.
July 21, 1647: First Civil Election in New France	Residents of Quebec City, Montreal, and Trois-Rivières elect <i>syndics</i> , or trustees, to a colonial council responsible to the governor. They act as liaison between residents and the council, but have no power to affect policy as the colonies are ruled by a monarchy.
October 2, 1758: Meeting of the First Elected Legislative Assembly	At the first elected legislative assembly in what is now Nova Scotia, only property-owning Protestant men over the age of 21 are eligible to vote.
June 11, 1792: First Elections in Lower Canada	The first elections are held in Lower Canada. Anyone over 21 who owns sufficient property can vote, including women.
August 01, 1834: <i>Abolition of Slavery Act</i>	Black people are now considered British subjects, paving the way for property-owning Black men to vote. But racism and discrimination at polling stations mean many do not cast their ballots.
May 01, 1849: Women's Voting Rights removed in the Province of Canada	Legislation barring women from voting is passed by the Province of Canada and becomes law.
1857: <i>Gradual Civilization Act</i> passed in the Province of Canada	The government attempts to assimilate First Nations men by offering them the right to vote if they voluntarily enfranchise. This means giving up rights, including treaty rights. Only one person elects to do so under this Act.
August 07-September 20, 1867: First Election Post-Confederation	Sir John A. Macdonald leads the Conservative Party to victory. Men over the age of 21 who meet property qualifications can vote.
May 1872: Chinese Canadians banned from voting in BC	The British Columbia legislative assembly passes a law banning Chinese Canadians from voting. Previously, Chinese Canadian men could vote in provincial elections.
April 12, 1876: <i>Indian Act</i>	The federal Indian Act reinforces that Status Indians must voluntarily give up Status and treaty rights to vote federally. Status Indian women are barred from voting in Band council elections.

1885: <i>Electoral Franchise Act</i>	The original draft of the Act gave federal voting rights to some women, but under the final legislation, only men can vote. The Act gives some Reserve First Nations with property qualifications the right to vote, but bars Chinese Canadians.
1895: Japanese Canadians lose the right to vote in BC	British Columbia amends the <i>Provincial Voters' Act</i> to remove the right to vote from Japanese Canadians.
June 13, 1898: Federal Government Returns Determination of Voters to Provinces	Provinces are given the right to decide who can vote in provincial elections. Some exclude Chinese Canadians from voting provincially. However, federal legislation allows Chinese Canadians to vote in federal elections.
1907: <i>BC Provincial Elections Act Amendment Act, 1907</i>	British Columbia removes voting rights from anyone with origins in South Asia.
1916-1951: Women win right to vote	Starting in Manitoba, most women gradually win the right to vote and hold political office on a provincial level. The newly won franchise excludes Status First Nations women, except in Nova Scotia.
September 20, 1917: <i>Wartime Elections Act and Military Voters Act</i>	The right to vote federally now extends to women in the armed forces and female relatives of military men. Citizens considered of "enemy alien" birth and some pacifist communities are disenfranchised.
May 24, 1918: Women granted right to vote in federal elections	Many Canadian women are granted the right to vote in federal elections, but First Nations women can only vote if they give up their status and treaty rights.
July 01, 1920: <i>Dominion Elections Act</i>	Replacing the <i>Wartime Elections Act</i> , this legislation restores voting rights to many who lost the vote during the First World War. Anyone disenfranchised provincially because of their race is also barred from voting in federal elections.
1924: Status Indian WWI veterans granted right to vote	Male Status Indian veterans of the First World War gain the right to vote in federal elections without losing their status and treaty rights.
1931: Japanese-Canadian WWI Veterans in BC granted right to vote	Veterans of the First World War in British Columbia become the first Japanese Canadians granted the right to vote in federal or provincial elections.
1934: <i>Dominion Franchise Act</i>	Inuit and First Nations persons living on reserves are disqualified from voting in federal elections, except for First Nations veterans who had previously received the vote.
1944: Status Indian WWII Veterans granted right to vote	Status Indian veterans who served in the Second World War and their spouses are permitted to vote in federal elections without losing Status, with some conditions.
1947: <i>Canadian Citizenship Act</i> and repeal of <i>Chinese Immigration Act</i>	Changes to federal legislation allow Chinese and South Asian Canadians to vote. However, it isn't until 1951 that the final restrictions are lifted in provincial elections Canada-wide.
1948: Revisions to <i>Dominion Elections Act</i>	Race is no longer grounds for exclusion from voting in federal elections. However, Status Indians still have to give up their Status in order to vote.
1949: Japanese Canadians win right to vote in BC	The last restriction on Japanese Canadians' voting rights is lifted when British Columbia grants them the right to vote in provincial elections.

1949-1969: First Nations win right to vote provincially	Except in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, Status Indians had been barred from voting provincially. Beginning with British Columbia, First Nations peoples gradually win the right to vote in provincial elections without losing status or treaty rights.
1950: Inuit granted right to vote	Inuit are granted the right to vote in federal elections, but the isolation of several communities means many cannot access polling stations. Later reforms increase access to ballot boxes.
1951: First Nations women granted right to vote in band council elections	Changes to the <i>Indian Act</i> grant First Nations women the right to vote in band council elections.
July 01, 1960: First Nations can now vote in federal elections	First Nations peoples receive the right to vote in federal elections while retaining their Status and treaty rights. However, they are still excluded in some provinces.
September 07, 1969: <i>Official Languages Act</i>	Federal government services—including all services related to federal elections—must now be available in both French and English.
1970: Voting age is lowered to 18	Parliament passes legislation lowering the federal voting age from 21 to 18. This adds two million Canadians to the electoral roll.
1982: <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i>	The <i>Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> affirms the right of every Canadian citizen 18 and older to vote and stand as a candidate.
1988: People with intellectual disabilities granted right to vote	People with intellectual disabilities are granted the right to vote after a successful <i>Charter</i> challenge.
1992: Bill C-78	Bill C-78 passes, changing the voting and electoral processes to make them more accessible to people with disabilities.
October 31, 2002: All prisoners granted right to vote	In <i>Sauvé v Canada</i> , the Supreme Court of Canada holds that, under the <i>Charter of Rights and Freedoms</i> , all prisoners have the right to vote.
	The right to vote in Canada has not been straightforward. Voting rights were granted and taken away from groups throughout history. Race, ethnicity, and gender were often a factor. We must never take the right to vote for granted.