

Immigration (1890-1914)

- most European immigrants had easy access to Canada
- **Clifford Sifton** relaxed policies beyond the British
 - aggressive advertising in Europe (overheads)
 - *“I think that a stalwart peasant in a sheepskin coat, born on the soil, whose forefathers have been farmers for ten generations with a stout wife and a half-dozen children is good quality”*

- with a lot of people, you could increase your country’s prosperity
- encouraged settlement in the west
 - settlement actually gave Canada a claim to the land
 - Vancouver Island had only 3000 people living on it
 - no info for Fort Nelson, but we do know that over half were killed by a San Francisco gold miner with smallpox
- settlement generated business for railway and customers for eastern businesses
- cheap labour
- most people stayed in Canada vs. moving to the States

- there were some downsides...
 - ethnocentricity in the British
 - belief that all other races of people were inferior
 - threatened by different cultures and languages
 - immigrants became targets of discrimination
 - Sifton only wanted immigrants who were white and who could pass easily for “Canadian”
 - Germans were invited, but Greeks or Italians were not invited due to their skin tone