

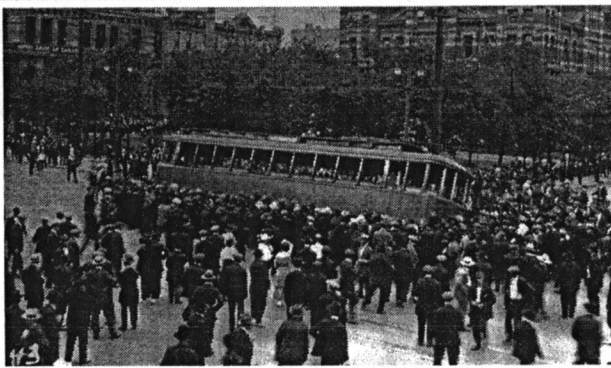
# 1920s in Canada

1. **The United States Invests in Canada's Economy**  
The US becomes a greater influence on Canada's economy than Britain. Many branch plants are opened in Canada – operations set up in Canada but owned or controlled by US or other foreign interests.



2. **Winnipeg General Strike**

A massive strike by workers in Winnipeg in 1919. They demanded higher wages, a shorter workweek, and the right to collective bargaining. A fear that communism would spread to Canada set up much opposition to the strike. On Bloody Saturday, June 21, 1919, the Royal North-west Mounted Police charged a crowd of protesters during the strike. Distrust and division between the working class and businesses grew deeper, though eventually much of what they fought for was achieved.



3. **The Persons Case**



Irene Parlby



Louise McKinney



Nellie McClung



Henrietta Muir  
Edwards



Emily Murphy

A court case in which the Famous Five – five Alberta women who fought for the political status of women – successfully had women declared “persons” under Canadian law in 1929.

#### 4. Aboriginal Peoples – The Struggle to Preserve an Identity

a. Policy of Assimilation – Residential Schools / Indian Act

b. First Nations people challenged the Federal and Provincial governments for the right to hold potlatches. It had been forbidden in 1884.

c. Aboriginal people in British Columbia continued to struggle for land claims, or Aboriginal title – also

challenging cut-off lands, lands taken from reserves without consent of the Aboriginal Peoples.

d. Aboriginal peoples fought against the federal government's use of enfranchisement – giving up one's status as an Indian - to try to enforce assimilation.



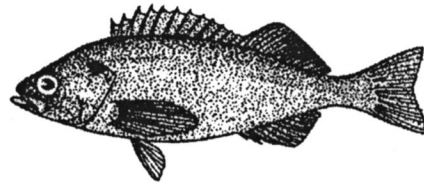
## **MOVES TOWARD GREATER INDEPENDENCE IN THE 1920S AND 1930S**

### **1. Chanak Crisis 1922**

The British government asked Canada for military assistance in order to prevent a Turkish army from attacking **Chanak**, a British garrison in part of occupied Turkey. **Mackenzie King** refused, indicating that Canada would no longer support the British in conflicts that had no impact on Canada.

### **2. The Halibut Treaty 1923**

Important as the first treaty signed by Canada, completely independently from Britain. This particular treaty concerns fishing in the North Pacific.



### **3. The King/Byng Crisis 1926**



**Mackenzie King's** minority government was facing a motion of censure introduced by the Conservative opposition. Facing certain defeat, King asked **Governor General Byng** to dissolve parliament and call an election. Byng refused and decided that **Arthur Meighen**, the conservative leader, should be given the opportunity to form a government. Meighen's government was quickly defeated in the House of Commons and Byng finally called an election. King campaigned that it was unconstitutional for a British-

appointed Governor General not to take the advice of his Canadian Prime Minister. King won the election and the constitution issue was settled at the Imperial Conference held that same year.

4. **Imperial Conference / Balfour Report 1926**

Held in London. A committee of delegates from Britain, **Canada**, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, chaired by **Lord Balfour**, submitted the **Balfour Report** that recommended that the British dominions be autonomous. The recommendations of the report resulted in independence for these countries.



5. **Statute of Westminster 1931**

Passed by the British Parliament in 1931, it effectively gave the British dominions, including **Canada**, control over their own domestic and foreign affairs – in other words, **independence**. Canadians, however, could not agree on a formula for amending our constitution – the BNA Act. As a result, the Constitution remained a British Act until 1982, when it was patriated, together with an amending formula.