

How the 1950's Changed Canadian Life

You could imagine that Canadian life during the Second World War might not have been a very positive experience. In other words, due to aspects like the economy at the time resulting in constraints like having to ration food, discrimination including the use of internment camps, and the overall horrible consequences that were brought by WWII, the quality of life at this time was not great. Despite the consequences of this war living on even into today, in the 1950's after WWII quality of life increased greatly for people in Canada.

First of all, there were actually more people in Canada in the 1950's than during the Second World War to enjoy this improved quality of life. Veterans who had been at war returned to Canada and many were ready to start families so we also saw a huge increase of babies being born. Many veterans who came home had also met women while serving in other countries, who would end up immigrating to Canada with them. Immigration in general brought more people to Canada in the 1950's. Immigration laws changed to allow more people into Canada as need for workers in industries with high demand increased, and to discriminate less as the importance of human rights was being acknowledged. Immigration and the baby boom helped the economy and changed the face of Canada.

So how did quality of life improve for these Canadians? People didn't have war to worry about or take up their time as much, so there was room in their minds and schedules to think about their personal values. People could spend their time and money on things they cared about like arts and culture or sports. For example, they could invest in a television where they could watch Hockey Night in Canada, or sitcoms about perfect suburban families. Appearing as a perfect family, not just watching shows about them, was also something someone might have cared about which meant purchasing a home in the suburbs and having a nuclear family of their own. This played a part in the economy and the baby boom.

The identities of Canadians, including their values and quality of life changed in the 1950's due to arts and culture, human rights, and personal image becoming more valued by Canadians.