



Canada 1982-Now

Apologies
and
Identity

I'm Sorry!

A SHORT HISTORY
OF APOLOGIES



NOV. 28, 2017: PM TRUDEAU APOLOGIZES FOR
DECADES OF "STATE-SPONSORED, SYSTEMATIC
OPPRESSION" ...

A History of Canadian Apologies

Read the following articles and **make notes** on the history of Canadian apologies and the various perspectives regarding those apologies....

1. [Canada makes “I’m sorry” a recurring policy](#) | CBC News (May 16th, 2016)
2. [Trudeau says his father was an ‘academic’ when it came to apologies](#) | The Toronto Star (Nov. 27th, 2017)
3. [Not his father’s son: With apologies for historic injustices, Trudeau goes where his dad wouldn’t](#) | The National Post (Nov. 28th, 2017)



You will be expected to include information from these articles in your blog post for this activity!

Justin Trudeau's Canada 150 Address



Justin Trudeau wishes all Canadians a Happy Canada Day and mentions that, "...you can come here from anywhere in the world and build a good life. We don't care where you're from or what religion you practice or who you love, you are all welcome in Canada. Diversity has been at the very core of Canada for centuries...."

Although this is the image we have of Canada today, it has not always been the case. In fact, Canada seems to have much to apologize for.

As much as being polite, kind, and apologetic are stereotypes often given to us from other nationalities, there is also much truth in the fact that we do seem to apologize a lot.

Apologetic Canada



Apology to Japanese Canadians September 22, 1988

“Japanese Canadians will remember this as the day when Canada finally moved to right or wrong committed against them four decades ago. It was during the Second World War; thousands of people were forced into internment camps simply because they were of Japanese descent they've been waiting ever since for official acknowledgement of the injustice...”

“No one here pretends the \$21,000 each will make out for the millions that were lost or that an apology will make up for up to seven hard years in the Kootenays. What they will do, the internees say, is prove to everybody that Japanese-Canadians were good Canadians all along.”

Apologetic Canada



Apology to Former Students of Indian Residential Schools
(June 11, 2008)



Justin Trudeau apologizes in House for 1914 Komagata Maru incident
(May 18, 2016)

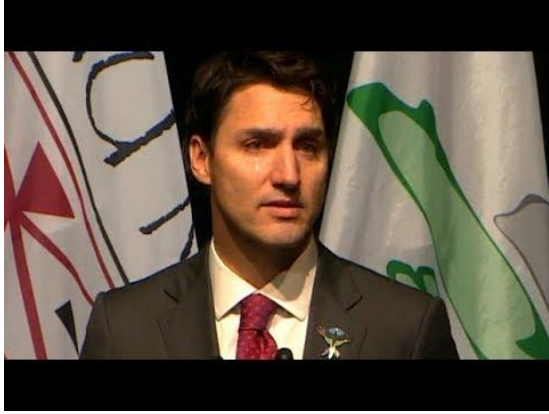


Trudeau apologizes for LGBTQ discrimination by Federal agencies
(Nov. 28th, 2017)



Watch the following videos and make notes regarding what Canada is apologizing for: Who, What, When, Where, Why, How + Impact & Various Perspectives.

Apologetic Canada



Apology to Former Students of
Newfoundland and Labrador Residential
Schools Indian Residential Schools
(June 11, 2008)



Harper Government Issues Full Apology
Chinese Head Tax & Chinese Exclusion Act
(June 22, 2006)



Last Week Tonight with John Oliver
(May 2016)
RE: Trudeau's Apologies



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Apologetic Canada: Some Perspective



In 1984, the father of our current Prime Minister, and then Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau said that he did, "...not think the purpose of a government is to right the past. It cannot rewrite history. It is our purpose to be just in our time."

Taking an entirely different stance in 1988, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney issued an apology for the internment of Japanese Canadians during the Second World War.

Since then, our government, under the leadership of Stephen Harper, and now Justin Trudeau, have issued a number of apologies for past Canadian transgressions on a number of different groups.

Justin Trudeau says that, "Apologies are key to allowing communities to 'move forward in a healing way.'" ([The Star](#))

In the article, [With our apologies: Canada makes 'I'm sorry' a recurring policy](#), historian Hugh Johnston mentions that the British and Americans don't apologize as we do and that, "...historians have not really decided how significant official apologies are in any event."

"Canadians...tend to say I'm sorry constantly, which is perhaps why there have been so many official apologies from Ottawa."

Apologetic Canada: Assignment



In a well-written blog post:

Summarize each apology offered by the Canadian government

- Who was involved, when did it occur, what was the background, who was impacted, etc (*refer to your notes from the articles and videos*)

And respond to the following questions (*include details from articles and videos*):

Is there value in offering apologies for events that happened in the past? How have the apologies impacted those communities affected? Is an apology enough? How do apologies shape Canadian Identity in contrast to other nations? How does Canada move forward from an apology? What are the next steps?