

Mass Immigration versus Managed Immigration

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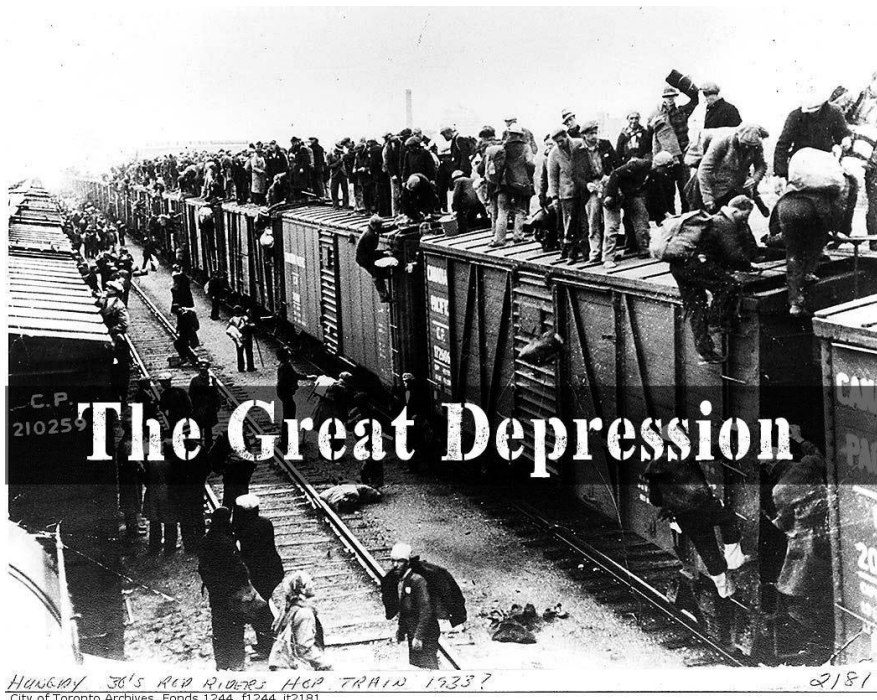
In the grand, unfolding tapestry of Canadian immigration policy, a vibrant new chapter is being woven under the leadership of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. If history's brush painted a picture of cautious gatekeeping, Trudeau's era adds bold strokes of inclusivity and a kaleidoscope of diversity, transforming the canvas into something completely different - resembling a lively, albeit chaotic work. As we evaluate the transition from Canada's historically cautious approach to the expansive immigration strategy under Trudeau, we must question both the sustainability and economic impacts of these changes.

Gone are the days of tightly managed admissions, replaced by what some view as the open arms of mass immigration, welcoming a rich tapestry of cultures, skills, and dreams. However, in a twist that feels as ironic as it is timely, [Trudeau hints at the burgeoning challenges of integrating an ever-growing](#) mosaic of new Canadians. This juxtaposition of expansive welcome against the pragmatic constraints of societal absorption paints a complex, intriguing picture of modern Canada's journey with immigration.

Join us as we explore this dynamic landscape, navigating through the changing policies and the colourful narratives they spawn in an era where the definition of 'Canadian' is as broad and inclusive as ever, yet not without its paradoxes. In both Maxime Bernier's Facebook post (April 11 @ 8:05 pm) and from the [People's Party of Canada \(PPC\) website itself](#), and several times in his email blasts to members, you will find that Maxime Bernier articulated a reasonable way to accomplish this. Sadly, the opposite is true: how not to do this is what we are experiencing now, the proof is in the Trudeau pudding. Also, despite my best attempts at painting Justin Trudeau's immigration practices in a beautiful light, when the rubber hits the road, we have found that this is [economically unacceptable](#) – we are going broke.

Considering the history of Canadian immigration policies, the following is a fair representation. Canada's immigration policy has undergone significant transformation from the early 1900s to the present day, evolving from restrictive and selective criteria to a more inclusive, diverse, and humanitarian-focused approach. This journey reflects shifts in economic priorities, demographic needs, and a broader commitment to multiculturalism. If you, too, are a student of history and there are elements that I have left out, do realize that I have done this through my ignorance and not for any other reason. I would welcome and appreciate any comments that would help me fulfill my mandate of entirely painting the history of Canadian immigration. Here is my overview of how immigration policies have changed over the decades, highlighting key prime ministers and governmental shifts:

Restrictive Beginnings - In the early 20th century, Canada's immigration policy was highly selective, favouring immigrants from certain European countries. The Immigration Act of 1910 gave the government broad powers to prohibit immigrants based on nationality, ethnicity, occupation, and perceived ability to assimilate into Canadian society. These policies reflected the broader attitudes of the time, emphasizing a preference for immigrants considered more likely to assimilate into the predominantly European-derived Canadian society.



HANGING 30'S RED RIDERS HOP TRAIN 1933?
City of Toronto Archives, Fonds 1244, f1244_1t2181

As the roaring twenties came to a tumultuous close, Canada was on the precipice of an economic abyss like much of the world. The end of the decade heralded the onset of the Great Depression, a period of profound economic downturn that would deeply scar the nation's psyche and landscape. The crash of stock markets in October 1929, often cited as the initial domino, led to a sudden and catastrophic decline in consumer spending and investment. This financial calamity quickly spiraled into widespread unemployment, with factories shutting their doors, farms facing ruinous prices for their produce, and countless Canadians grappling with the grim realities of joblessness and destitution.

The streets of Canadian cities and towns bore the stark imprint of the Depression's grip. Soup kitchens and bread lines became the grim symbols of the times, as men, once proud providers, stood in line for hours for a mere meal to sustain their families. The country's rural heartlands were not spared either; drought conditions in the Prairies, combined with plummeting agricultural prices, led to the Dust Bowl era, further exacerbating the despair felt across the nation. Communities were fractured, families were torn apart by the need to seek work far from home, and the very fabric of Canadian society seemed under threat as the Depression wore on, relentless and unforgiving, carving its mark into the history of a nation struggling to find its footing in the shadow of unprecedented economic turmoil.



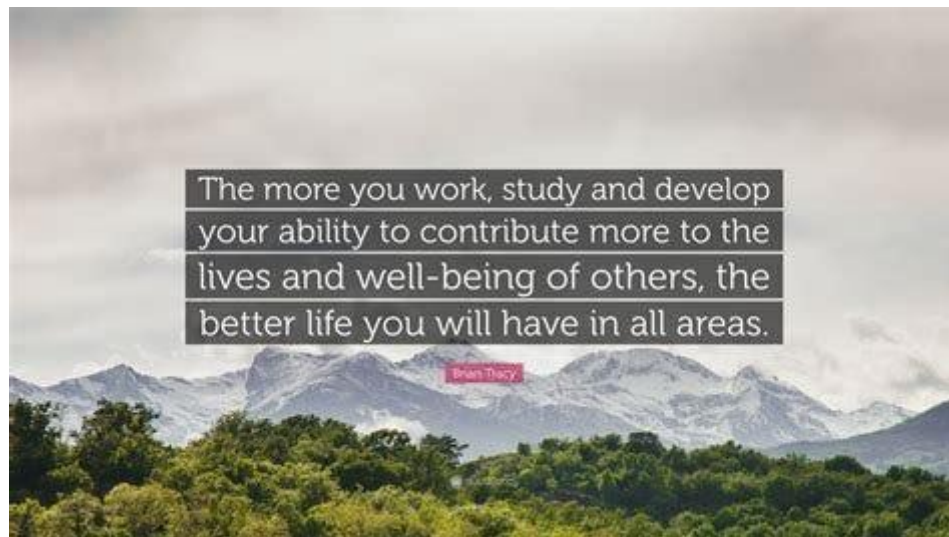
I am saddened to think that this was the very time that my maternal grandparents came to Canada as primary pioneers in northwestern Ontario, specifically Kaministiquia. A decade before or after would have made life much easier for them, but such was not the case for several hundred Finnish immigrants to Canada. Restrictions on immigration worked out for the Canadian government. The forestry industry and the development of many small hamlets popped up across

Northwestern Ontario. Finnish immigrants and other European groups populated this area. In light of the reality of this decision and the outcomes, Canada made a good decision.

Continued Selectivity and the Great Depression represent another distinction period. This period saw continued selectivity in Canadian immigration policy, influenced by economic fluctuations and the Great Depression. Immigration rates were drastically reduced during the Depression, as economic hardship led to high unemployment rates and a focus on protecting jobs for Canadians. During this era, under Prime Ministers like William Lyon Mackenzie King, immigration was tightly controlled, with policies that remained selective based on nationality and economic potential.

The Post-World War II period marked a turning point in Canadian immigration policy. The post-war period saw a significant need for labour to support the country's economic recovery and a demographic boost to compensate for the losses of the war. This era began the gradual opening of Canada's doors to a broader range of immigrants, laying the groundwork for the more inclusive policies that would follow. Informally, there was still a selective pressure to process people with skills to assist with a new Canada.

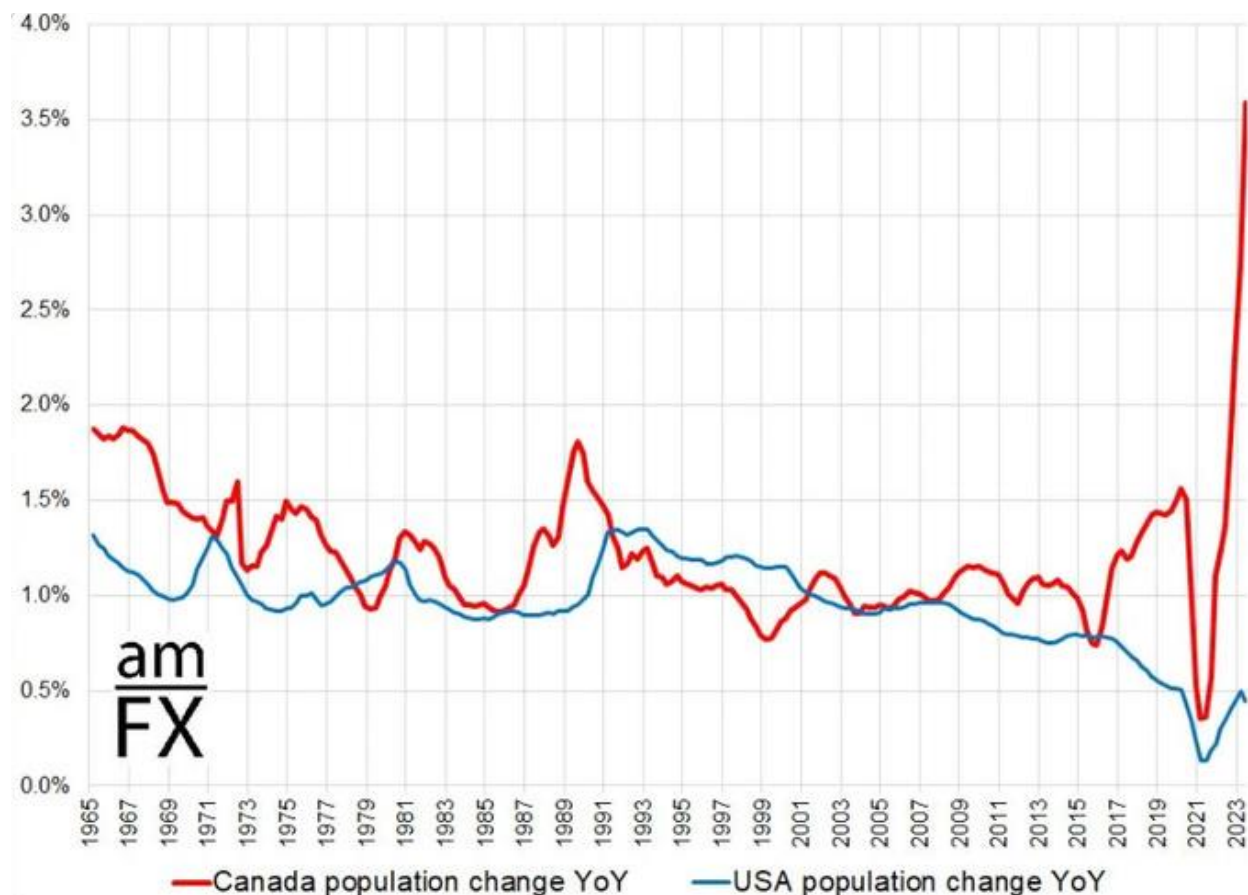
Under Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King and continuing with his successors, Canada started to shift towards a more inclusive immigration policy. This period saw the country opening its doors wider to European immigrants, including displaced persons and refugees affected by the war, marking the start of Canada's commitment to humanitarian immigration. I remember hearing (repeatedly) that my in-laws left Hungary during the 1956 revolution, leaving the bloodshed of that revolution behind. Eventually, a lukewarm welcome was extended to groups of Europeans, e.g. Wawa was populated soon after with technically educated Eastern European people – many Hungarians as well. Their technical skills were used by mining in that area of Northwestern Ontario.



Under Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson and later Pierre Trudeau, Canada introduced the points-based system in 1967, fundamentally changing the approach to immigration. This system formally assessed potential immigrants' skills, education, and ability to contribute to the Canadian economy, moving away from discriminatory practices based on race or nationality. This era marked a significant shift towards a policy of multiculturalism and transparency.

Subsequent decades under leaders like Brian Mulroney, Jean Chrétien, and Paul Martin saw Canada focusing on attracting economic immigrants to support the country's growth while expanding the scope of family reunification and refugee resettlement. The immigration system was refined better to match the economic and social needs of the country.

Under Stephen Harper and Justin Trudeau, Canada has continued evolving its immigration policy, balancing economic interests with a strong focus on humanitarian concerns. The Trudeau government has set ambitious immigration targets to address demographic challenges and support economic growth, emphasizing diversity, family reunification, and refugee resettlement.



Consider that the population of Canada was 36 million in 2021 but is now 40 million. A 10.5% increase in just 3 years.

Sadly, while we can manage the number of people allowed into our country, we cannot manage our economy. Late last year, [The National Post reported](#) that Canada's current immigration policy, described as one of the world's most open, is linked by economists to economic challenges like rising inflation and weak productivity. They argue that the surge in immigration, coupled with an influx of temporary workers and international students without adequate support, has led to these issues. Despite Canada's unique position to manage its immigration policy effectively, shortcomings in planning and implementation have been highlighted. The economists call for a more deliberate approach to match immigration inflow with the country's capacity to integrate newcomers effectively, emphasizing the need for balance in addressing housing affordability and productivity challenges.

Very recently, [Justin Trudeau has admitted that his mass immigration plan has failed](#). His immigration policy, aimed at economic growth and filling labour gaps, [faces criticism amidst Canada's housing crisis](#). Public support for immigration has dropped to a three-decade low, driven by increased rental costs and strained services. The government plans to adjust its approach by capping permanent resident numbers and reducing international student permits to manage the influx and its impacts. This strategy addresses public concerns and the challenges of integrating such a rapidly growing population.

Maxime Bernier has made us aware of this problem associated with mass immigration for years. Bernier has always advocated for a carefully managed immigration model. **Is this just another reason to vote for PPC?**

From restrictive policies in the early 20th century to the current approach emphasizing economic growth, demographic renewal, and humanitarian responsibilities, Canada's immigration policy has transformed significantly. Each prime minister and their government have shaped these policies, reflecting Canadian society's changing needs and values over the decades. Sadly, Justin Trudeau has made the most significant change and has exposed the Canadian economy to immediate and significant problems, e.g. strained services, but there are always carryover costs and expenses. This failed experiment will need severe and stern leadership for next time, aka Maxime Bernier!

Not to put too fine a point to it, as we face the consequences of unchecked immigration policies, it is imperative that we, as supporters of the PPC, rally behind Maxime Bernier's vision for a responsibly managed, economically viable immigration system that truly reflects Canada's capacities and values.