

# NEW BEGINNINGS

In the early 1900s, women did not have the right to vote. Women rallied to demand change. They wanted a say in governance. They also want to put a stop to the heavy drinking that caused distress in families. Families in the slums, especially immigrants who did not speak French or English were also suffering. James Shaver Woodsworth called for social justice for the newcomers

## QUESTIONS DURING VIEWING

### A NEW MAP OF CANADA

1. The farmers of the northwest were demanding two new developments. What were they and what did Laurier promise them if he was re-elected?  
*Western farmers needed rail transportation for crops, and wanted their own government to better control their own affairs. Laurier promised he would create two new provinces if elected*
2. What two new provinces were created from the former Northwest Territories?  
*Alberta & Saskatchewan*
3. What was the complaint of Henri Bourassa regarding the settlement of the west?  
*There were no French speaking immigrants*

### FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE

1. What skill did Nellie (Mooney) McClung have which helped her become a leader for women's suffrage, the temperance movement, and the image of women in general?  
*She had a speaking ability that inspired others*
2. What province, in what year, first granted women the right to vote?  
*Manitoba - 1916*

☐ CPH, Series 3  
Episode 11  
A New Map for Canada  
Fight Fire with Fire  
(47:09-1:02:05)

☐ Complete or discuss  
Questions During  
Viewing

### Assignment

☐ Primary Sources and  
Immigration

## Lesson 7 Assignment

# PRIMARY SOURCES AND IMMIGRATION



Doukhobor women are shown breaking the prairie sod by pulling a plough themselves. North Colony, Saskatchewan, 1899. Library and Archives Canada/C-000681, PD

In point form, use the questions who, what, where, when and why to describe what you observe from this primary source photograph. What does it tell you about life for these immigrants. For interest, you can read more about these people at links at your online assignment page, but it is not necessary to complete the following.

### WHO?

- Doukhobor women and a few men
- immigrants from Russia
- homesteaders
- pacifists, vegetarian, lived in communal colonies

### WHEN?

1899

### WHERE?

North Colony, Saskatchewan  
Homesteads given by government to turn prairies into farmland

### WHAT?

Doukhobor women hitched themselves to a plow to break up the hard prairie ground  
You can see the heavy prairie grass in the photograph which would make this work very difficult

### WHY?

- The ground was difficult to till
- They must not have had oxen or horses to draw the plows
- People worked together to accomplish the hard tasks to homestead

## Lesson 7 Assignment

# PRIMARY SOURCES AND IMMIGRATION

*Michael Franchincinski is a laborer, but has at present no work. He and wife and five children live in two small rooms for which they pay \$4.50 a month; this must come out of the summer earnings. They have had great trouble and expense with one of the children. Little Pieter took sick when they were coming out here, and was sent back to Austria. The father hopes to save enough money to go for his little boy. p. 263*

*Pieter Yabrook is employed in a slaughter-house. He and his wife and two children live in two rented rooms, and keep from fifteen to twenty men roomers. The place is nearly all beds. p. 262*

Woodsworth, James S. Strangers Within Our Gates. The Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, Toronto, 1909

In point form, use the questions who, what, where, when and why to describe what this primary source quote tells you about life for the immigrants being described.

Answers will vary

### WHO?

- Michael - unemployed father of 5
- Pieter - ill son
- Peter - father of 2
- Roomers - 15-20 men

### WHEN?

Sometime between 1902-1909

### WHERE?

Winnipeg north end

### WHAT? Hardship of immigrants

- Michael - baby boy left behind in Austria because of sickness
- Can't find employment but has bills to pay
- Trying to save to go back to Austria for son
- Peter - is employed, lives in 2 rooms with family, but also houses 15-20 male boarders in those two rooms, to earn enough money

### WHY?

Life for immigrants was difficult because they were poverty stricken when they left their home country. Lack of jobs, housing, and discrimination made life very difficult in Canada when they arrived. There was no government assistance like there is today.

## Lesson 7 Assignment

# PRIMARY SOURCES AND IMMIGRATION

*In Winnipeg's early years, serious disease like small pox, tuberculosis, scarlet fever and diphtheria frequently reached epidemic proportions.*

*Typhoid fever was also prevalent in Winnipeg from very early on. In fact, it was once called Red River Fever, since people believed it was caused by drinking untreated water from the Red River.*

Read the following short story *Irish Ned, the Winnipeg Newsy* by Rev. Samuel Fea, the Rector of St. Peter's Church in Winnipeg. While this is a work of fiction it provides primary source insight regarding what was happening during the times described. What does this work of fiction, written in the time period described, tell you about the life of immigrants in Winnipeg?

You may want to find out the basics of Typhoid fever with a little research.

### WHO?

- Ned the newsboy
- Irish immigrant
- 9 years old, raised by grandmother
- leader, well-liked, intelligent, responsible

### WHEN?

- He was 5 years old in 1919 - date of the Winnipeg General Strike
- He is now 9 years old
- The story is set around the year 1923

### WHERE?

- Winnipeg
- North end in a community around Selkirk Avenue

### WHAT?

- Immigrants faced injustice (father falsely charged)
- No financial help for the poor (grandmother & child have to work)
- The church is a center of help as is the neighbourhood "doors opened wide to poor and stranger)
- No medical help or education for diseases like Typhoid fever

### WHY?

Poor immigrants did not have access to sanitation, clean food, medical help. Typhoid fever is caused by food contaminated with *Salmonella typhi* bacteria which can be found in unsafe drinking water, or passed by an infected person by poor toileting sanitation