Canada 1930’s- Change and Continuity
Post WW1- Continuity

Connection to Britain- culturally

Attitudes toward non-western European immigrants

Attitudes towards women and work

Urbanization- attitude toward labour

Schism between western and eastern Canada

French-English relations strained
Post WW1- Change

Canada’s ‘autonomy’

Change in relations with the United States

Change in attitudes toward women and their public lives

Slight change in the relationship between the government and the citizens

Consumerism, attitudes toward personal debt and individualism
Change- Women

WWI Wartime Elections Act- 1921 federally entrenched

The Persons Case 1929

Emily Murphy- well known suffragist appointed a judge in Alberta- this appointment was challenged on the basis that only “persons” could hold this public office under the BNA Act

The Supreme Court of Alberta ruled that in fact Murphy did have the right to be a judge
Change- Women

Mackenzie King did not wade into this matter- Murphy and 4 others (The Famous Five) urged him to ask the Supreme Court of Canada if women could be senators.

The SCC decided that women did not fit the legal definition/interpretation of persons according to the BNA Act.

Murphy and the Famous Five then went to the final appeal court in the British Empire (Privy Council).

Oct. 18 1929- The British Court ruled that:
“The exclusion of women from all public offices is a relic of days more barbarous than ours...to those who would ask why the word person should include females, the obvious answer is, why should it not?”

Women are officially persons are are technically given the same respect as men under the law*

*but not really....there’s a lot of work still do for women- the econmic upheaval of the Depression and WWII will threaten all that women had achieved
Now That We Are Persons

By Nellie L. McClung

On the morning of October 19th, 1929, the women of Canada received a shock when they read their papers at breakfast. They read on the first page in bold black type that the Lords of the Privy Council had declared them to be Persons. That was not the shock. The shock came in the away like morning work at sunrise. Prejudice dissipated, as well we know, and when belief was back to antiquity, a ruling of time the Privy Council cannot dislodge it.

Women have been curators of relationships, sex-relationships. She was somber’s daughter, wife or by dead, the Senior Wretches among the whose so was to set out for full execution with the words:

“See now that we die as our mothers died
In the bridal bed by one Master’s side
Gad, women—in the bed!”
Women are Persons...
Les femmes sont des personnes...
Canada and Immigration- Continuity
Canada and Immigration

The Rise of Totalitarian and Fascist ideas in Europe and Canada led to an increase in racists attitudes in Canada and the world.

Fascist political groups, the Union Nationale and even the CCF felt very strongly in the 1930’s that immigrants, particularly eastern European ones were a problem in the Depression and may have even been the cause.

The powerful rise of Nazism in Germany (Hitler comes to power in 1933) increased the sympathy in Canada of similar attitudes toward Jews.
SIGN OF THE SWASTIKA IN TORONTO

FORMED TO KEEP "THE BEACHES FOR THE BEACHES," and to show disapproval of the influx of "obnoxious visitors" to the east-end beach area, the Swastika Club, bearing the emblem that Hitler carried to power in Germany, has made its bow in Toronto. Photos show a sign bearing the emblem, and worded "Hail Hitler," displayed on a post in front of Batmy Beach club house; a white sweat shirt with the swastika sign stencilled thereon as worn by many of the younger members, and the metal badge of the organization.

City Building Keeps Pace

Three Golfers Tie For Lead
Swastika Feud Battles in Toronto Injure 4
Fists, Boots, Piping Used in Bloor Street War

“Not Ripe” Yet for Election Contest, Asserts Premier

Five-Year Term
Seventy Lives Lost

Hail Hitler”
Is Youth’s Cry;
City in Turmoil
Canada and Immigration

In Western Canada, the National Party was created in 1933 and was modelled on the SA of the Nazi Party (paramilitary group which promoted violence and wore military style clothes)

Very appealing ideology to British immigrants, ex soldiers and those sympathetic to Fascist ideas during the Depression

Pm Mackenzie King in 1938 “"We must seek to keep this part of the Continent free from unrest and from too much intermixture of foreign strains of blood"
“The reluctance of the Canadian government to admit Jewish refugees in any great numbers was a fair reflection of public opinion...which was a strong British culturalism intertwined with anti-semitism (hatred of Jews)”

- Historian David Rome 1977
“What should be stressed is that the Depression also afforded the Canadian government a dramatic opportunity to complete a process of restriction that had begun in the 1920’s. Canadian immigration policy had always been self-serving....admission of immigrants was always in an order of ethnic preference...At the bottom were Jews, orientals and blacks.”

- Abella and Troper, 2002