

History of Polish Canadians in Canada

Polish Canadians are citizens of Canada with Polish ancestry, and Poles who immigrated to Canada from abroad. According to the 2011 Census by Statistics Canada, there were 1,010,705 Canadians who claimed full or partial Polish ancestry. According to the 2006 census, Polish was the mother tongue of 217 605 Canadians.

1752 The first Polish immigrant on record was **Dominik Barcz**. He was a fur merchant from **Gdańsk** who settled in Montreal.

1757 Capitan Karol Blaskowicz, a deputy surveyor-general of lands, cartographer of the British army

1776 August Franz Globensky, army surgeon of the Hesse-Haynau regiment, and Leveright Pinze, a surgeon of the auxiliary forces from Brunswick. His grandson, **Charles Auguste Maximilien Globensky**, was elected to the House of Commons in Ottawa in 1875.

1830 -1863 Admission to Canada of several emigrants from Poland, who took part in the November Uprising of 1830 and the 1863 Insurrection against the Russian occupation of their own homeland.

1841 Aleksander E. Kierzkowski, an engineer who became politically active in the St-Hyacinthe riding in 1867.

1842 Casimir Stanislaus Gzowski arrived in Canada from the partitioned Poland via the US, and for 50 years worked in the engineering, military and community sectors in Toronto and Southern Ontario, for which he was knighted by Queen Victoria. His great-grandson, **Peter Gzowski**, became one of Canada's famous radio personalities.

1842 Izaak Hellmuth, born in Poland in 1819 into a Jewish family and educated at the University of Breslau. His father was a rabbi and he trained to be a rabbi himself. He moved to England in 1842 and made his decision to convert to Christianity, specifically Anglicanism. By 1844 he entered the ministry and was sent to the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. He established Huron College. He was the first principal of the college until 1866, when he was appointed Dean of Huron. In 1871 he was elevated to coadjutor Bishop of Huron, becoming bishop on Crony's death later that year. Hellmuth founded the Western University of London, Ontario in 1878, which was later renamed University of Western Ontario.

1858 The first group of the settlers **Kashubians** from Northern Poland, escaping Prussian oppression, arrived in Renfrew County of Ontario, where they founded the settlements of Wilno, Barry's Bay, and Round Lake. By 1890 there were about 270 **Kashubian** families working in the Madawaska Valley of Renfrew County, mostly in the lumber industry of the Ottawa Valley

1862 Another significant group of Poles immigrated to Canada, with the majority settling this time in Berlin, Ontario, presently known as Kitchener.

1872 Charles Horecki, an engineer with the cross-Canada railway construction from Edmonton to the Pacific Ocean through the Peace River Valley. Today, a mountain and a body of water in British Columbia are named after him.

1890-1914 1920-1939 1941 to this day

Polish immigrants settled across Canada from Cape Breton to Vancouver, and made numerous and significant contributions to the agricultural, manufacturing, engineering, teaching, publishing, religious, mining, cultural, professional, sports, military, research, business, governmental and political life in Canada.

1946 - 1947 Admission to Canada of 4000 former Polish soldiers for agricultural work.

1948 - 1949 Admission to Canada of Polish orphan children from Europe.

1923 - 2009 Stanley Haidasz, born in Toronto of Polish parents, was the first Polish Liberal MP. He later became minister for multiculturalism in the Trudeau government and the first Polish representative in the Senate. Until 1980 the majority of Poles voted Liberal in federal elections. Candidates of Polish origin have always been supported by their ethnic constituents.

1935 - Donald Mazankowski was deputy prime minister in the Mulroney Federal Conservative government.

1934 - Walter Paszkowski is the minister of agriculture in the Provincial Government of Alberta. There were 3 ministers of Polish origin in the Saskatchewan NDP Government.

1903-1980 The Canadian Polish Congress was founded as an umbrella organization to coordinate the activities of Polish Organizations in promoting the Canadian war effort during World War II. The Congress played important role during post-Second World War immigration to Canada.

Polish Canadians are recipients of: The Victoria Cross, The Order of Canada

Numerous Polish-Canadians have been recognized with awards and appointments by the Queen, the Canadian Governments, Universities and Various Organization in **Law, Science and Engineering, Medicine, Education, Politics, Music, Culture and Media, Actors, Military, Sports.**

References: <http://www.polishconsulhalifax.ca> ; <http://www.poloniahalifax.ca> ; <http://pcsns.ca> ; www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca ; https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Polish_Canadians ; <http://www.cphsalberta.ca/wacekmaje.html> ; <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/immigration/history-ethnic-cultural/Pages/polish.aspx> ; <https://rjsc.gov.ns.ca> ; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stanis%C5%82aw_B%C3%B3br-Tylingo