

# RECORDS OF THE CHINESE IN CANADA

This infographic outlines major records created by the Chinese Immigration Act, including its 1923 amendment known commonly as the Chinese Exclusion Act. Records are organized by where they can be found. This piece is produced for *The Paper Trail to the 1923 Chinese Exclusion Act* by June Chow 周慕慈 (Archivist) with design support by Jeffery Chong 鄭加衡. © 2023. Version 1.0.

Chinese labour completes Canadian Pacific Railway across B.C.

## Chinese Immigration Act (1885-1947)

Chinese Adjustment Statement Program grants amnesty to "paper sons."

1885

Act passes with head tax of \$50.

1900 1903

Amendment raises head tax to \$100.

Amendment raises head tax to \$500.

1923

### EXCLUSION PERIOD

July 1st  
Amendment bans all further immigration and is known as the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Mass registration of all Chinese in Canada required within one year, as per Section 18.

1947

Chinese Immigration Act is repealed.

Right to vote is won through WWII military service of Chinese Canadians.

Canadian Citizenship Act is passed.

1962

## FAMILY ARCHIVES

Original **Chinese Immigration (C.I.) certificates** issued for registration and identification purposes. Those issued to immigrants are commonly referred to as entry, landing, and/or head tax certificates.

Explore the largest community collection of C.I. certificates at UBC Library, Rare Books and Special Collections: The Paper Trail collection.

Images in this section courtesy of The Paper Trail collection.

**C.I.5** no photo [1885 to 1912]

The first C.I.5 had no photo and was used for both head tax payment and exemption. Its "new series" re-design included a photo and made payment more clear.



C.I.5 (no photo)



C.I.5 (new series)

**C.I.5** new series [1912 to 1923]

**C.I.36, 28, 30** [1912 to 1947]

C.I.36 is created to replace previous photo-less C.I.5.  
C.I.28 is created to replace a lost or stolen certificate.  
C.I.30 is created to make head tax exemption more clear.

Registration stamp found on the back of an entry certificate.



Exclusion Act requires immigrants to re-register.

**C.I.45** [1923 to 1947]

C.I.45 is created to register Canadian-born Chinese. Most are produced over the one-year deadline. Those who were abroad registered upon re-entry to Canada.



C.I.36



C.I.28



C.I.30



C.I.45

Images in this section courtesy of Library and Archives Canada.

## LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA

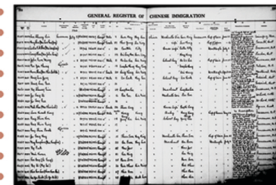
**Chinese Immigration (C.I.) records**  
**Passenger lists**  
**Census records**

Please note that records in Library and Archives Canada collections are those that were retained for long-term preservation. Many records were destroyed, or remain restricted.

### General Registers of Chinese Immigration [1885 to 1949]

Registers (ledgers) list the names of arriving Chinese immigrants. Those in Canada prior to 1885 were registered retroactively.

Separate registers were kept by Newfoundland which was not part of Canada until 1949 and had its own Chinese Immigration Act (1906 to 1949).



Over Exclusion, less than 50 new Chinese are admitted to Canada.

**C.I.44** [1923 to 1947]

C.I.44 form is used to register all Chinese in Canada. Most are completed over the one-year deadline. Those who were abroad registered upon re-entry to Canada.

### C.I.9 outward registration [1910 to 1954]

The C.I.9 form was issued to and returned by a Chinese person granted temporary leave of Canada. It was usual for men to return to China to marry and have a family.

### Chinese immigration case files [1885 to 1962]

Case files were kept on individuals, businesses, and community organizations under investigation for engaging in illicit activities including false identities. Files are restricted and require submitting a formal request for access as per Canada's access to information and privacy acts (ATIP).

### Passenger lists [1905 to 1922]

List of immigrants arriving at an official port of entry (Victoria or Vancouver) on a particular ship on a given date. Also known as a ship manifest.



C.I.44



C.I.9

1871

1881

census years

1891

1901

1911

1921

1931

1941

1951

1961

1971