

Priest, S. & Ritchie, S. D. (2023). Timeline of Canadian history and the evolution of outdoor learning. In S. Priest, S. Ritchie & H. Ghadery (Eds). *Outdoor Learning in Canada*. Open Resource Textbook. Retrieved from <http://olic.ca>

# Timeline of Canadian history and the evolution of outdoor learning

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This timeline of Canadian history uses speculative theory based on evidence from archeology, anthropology or geology, and Indigenous oral accounts to outline notable events prior to recorded history (before 1497 in this timeline). Spread across three pages, the timeline focuses on Canadian history for most of the first page and weaves in the evolution of outdoor learning on the following pages (Priest & Asfeldt, 2022).

Canadian history creates a context of past colonial conflicts, resource exploitations, land titles, and treatments of Indigenous Peoples that sets the stage for modern outdoor learning and many of its present day dilemmata. This timeline includes some, but not all, of the key dates and historical events. Other important contributions to outdoor learning may have been excluded.

Here are some notations (CE, BCE, c.) in use at the start of the timeline and two clarifying terms no longer used in historical recording (BC, AD).

NOTE	STANDS FOR	EXPLANATION
c.	circa	approximate estimation
CE	common or current era	the last two millennia; now used in place of AD
BCE	before comon or current era	prior to two millennia ago; now used in place of BC
AD	anno domini	in the year of our lord
BC	before christ	prior to Jesus' birth

## Reference

Priest, S., & Asfeldt, M. (2022). The History of Outdoor Learning in Canada. *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, 39(5), 489-509.

## TIMELINE OF CANADIAN HISTORY and the EVOLUTION OF OUTDOOR LEARNING 1

15000 -2000 BCE	Theory of arrival of Indigenous Peoples migrating from Siberia via Bering Sea land-bridge; creation of origin stories from oral history, such as the formation of Turtle Island (North America)	1760 -1761	Halifax Treaties between Britain & the Wabanaki Confederacy did not cede land title	1818	London Convention sets British Canadian & American boundary
796 CE	Council of Three Fires formed (first Indigenous Confederacy)	1763	1 <sup>st</sup> Treaty of Paris ceded French lands to Britain; British Empire defined "Indian Reserve" as all land west of 13 American colonies (later this became the rest of the United States of America or the USA)	1821	HBC territories widely extended to reach the Pacific & Arctic Oceans
c. 900	Settlement on the island of Newfoundland by Norse Explorers (Vikings)			1841	Upper & Lower British colonies merged to create Province of Canada
c. 1142	The Iroquois Confederacy (League of Peace & Power)	1774	Quebec Act (British) allowed province over Quebec for French	1846	Oregon boundary dispute settled by extension along 49 <sup>th</sup> parallel to the Pacific
c. 1450	Huron-Wendat Village Councils, The Blackfoot Confederacy & the Mi'kmaq Grand Council	1775 -1776	American Revolution included attempts to convince French to join forces against British	1862	Smallpox epidemic decimated western Indigenous population
1497	Cabot claimed Newfoundland for England (with Beothuk people already living there)	1780	Underground Railroad begins as escaped slaves travel to British lands	1865	Underground Railroad to Canada ended along with American Civil War
1534	Cartier claimed Quebec (Gaspé Peninsula) for France (although the Iroquois people already inhabited the region)	1783	2 <sup>nd</sup> Treaty of Paris; USA ended Revolutionary War and requested Britain return POWs and escaped slaves	1867	Confederation for the Dominion of Canada, formed from Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick, by the British N.A. Act
1605	Fur trade began (routes used by today's canoe travels); Champlain founded first French village at Port-Royal Acadia (Mi'kmaq territory)	1784	First purchases of Indigenous lands, reserve creation, with subsequent territory reductions	1869 -1870	CPR Railway started; Red River Rebellion by Métis & Louis Riel put down by Canadian Gov. Northwest Territories formed and Manitoba joined confederation
1670	Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) given exclusive fur trade lands for England (later British Empire)	1791	Constitutional Act divided British lands into Upper (Ontario) and Lower (Quebec)	1871 1873	North-West Mounted Police (later the RCMP) formed; Prince Edward Island & British Columbia joined confederation
1690 -1759	Period of hostilities between France & Britain, ended with Quebec City capture; Acadians expelled from Acadia (now Maritimes)	1812 -1815	American & British in land War of 1812; Laura Secord warned of American's attack	1876	The Indian Act defined Indigenous governance terms and "Indian status"

## TIMELINE OF CANADIAN HISTORY and the EVOLUTION OF OUTDOOR LEARNING 2

1885	CPR Railway finished; area around Banff hot springs protected (several national parks follow); North-West Rebellion by Métis & Louis Riel again stopped by Canadian Gov.	1918	Women given right to vote	1962	Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia formed as the Mountain Access Society; the Trans-Canada Highway is finished, linking east coast and west coast by road
1887	First wildlife sanctuary at Last Mountain Lake in SK; (many others follow after)	1919	Bush flying commenced, providing quick access to remote wilderness areas	1963	National and Provincial Parks Association founded (later Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society) to preserve lands; Association of Canadian Mountain Guides formed
1889	Camp Big Cove (NS) first residential summer camp	1925	Writing for the Canadian Forestry Assoc, Archibald Belaney becomes Canada's first conservationist, but he misappropriates Indigenous heritage as "Grey Owl" a writer and speaker on environmental issues	1967	Centennial of Confederation; World Wildlife Fund Canada promoted sustainability, biodiversity, and preservation
1893	Algonquin Provincial Park formed (others in QC and BC soon follow)	1930	Great Depression brought wide-spread poverty and drop in fur demands; HBC initiated Beaver program to balance past over-trapping	1969	Outward Bound established Mountain School in BC (ON Wilderness School in 1976); Pollution Probe formed to protect the Great Lakes from phosphate pollution
1898	The Klondike Gold Rush brought Yukon Territory into confederation and flooded the area with 100,000 prospectors	1931	Statute of Westminster ended power of Britain to govern over Canadian law making	1971	Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario initiated; Canadian Recreational Canoeing Assoc. forms (Paddle Canada in 2007)
1899	CPR hires 35 Swiss mountain guides, ushering in the Golden Age of Mountaineering for the next five decades	1932	Ontario Camping Association formed (Canadian Camping Association formed in 1936)	1972	Strathcona Park Lodge started outdoor learning programs in BC; Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario held initial provincial conference with international attendance
1900	Canadian Forestry Assoc. formed to advocate for sustainability & recycling; Forest Reserve Act (1906) conserved timber & water	1948	Audubon Society of Canada established to stop poaching and commercial hunting (now Canadian Nature Federation)	1973	Supreme Court ruled that Indigenous titles existed before colonial settlement (led to land claims renegotiations)
1905	Alberta & Saskatchewan joined confederation	1949	Newfoundland was last British colony to join confederation	1982	Constitution Act gave Canada official independence from Britain, a guarantee of human rights and freedoms, as well as a guarantee of treaty rights for all Indigenous Peoples
1907-1910	Boy Scouts started in ON; Girl Guides started in ON	1960	Indigenous People received right to vote without giving up status or treaty rights; First school-based outdoor learning program begun by Toronto Board of Education (others followed in ON)		
1909	Boundary Waters Treaty formed international commission, became model for dispute resolution; Gov. Conservation Commission recommended resource use	1961	Canadian Wildlife Federation founded; Saskatchewan creates first government health system; transatlantic telephone launched		

## TIMELINE OF CANADIAN HISTORY and the EVOLUTION OF OUTDOOR LEARNING 3

1982	International Association for Experiential Education (USA) Conference held in Toronto, ON	2003	International Adventure Therapy Conference held in Victoria, BC	2020	Widespread protests over BC pipeline constructions; COVID-19 shut down world with many outdoor learning programs severely impacted
1989	"Pathways: ON Journal of Outdoor Education" published first issue	2008-2009	Outdoor Council of Canada formed to promote and enable education and recreation outdoors; first forest school in ON; initial Canadian Adventure Therapy Symposium; Truth and Reconciliation Commission established	2021	First criminal negligence case resulting from a 2017 school student swimming fatality, but the outdoor educator was acquitted
1990	Aventure Écotourisme began in QC; Oka Crisis was first of many protests by Indigenous activists			2023	"Outdoor Learning in Canada" published
1991	Green Teacher established providing resources & supports for environmental education teachers	2012	Child and Nature Alliance of Canada formed; Forest School Canada founded		
1993	Gwaii Haanas Agreement stopped old growth logging after road blockades; timber protests saved Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island; Canadian Network for Environmental Education & Communication formed	2014	Connecting Canadians with Nature report released by Canadian Parks Council		
		2015	NWT On The Land Collaborative launched to provide financial support for Indigenous land-based programming; Truth and Reconciliation Commission report with Calls to Action		
1996	Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples report identifies challenges and solutions for relationship improvement with government and society	2016	Canadian Parks Summit; Nature and Forest Therapy of Canada founded		
1998	Recreation Nova Scotia established to provide outdoor industry support	2017	Trans-Canada Trail (aka the Great Trail) completed as 24,000+ Km of land and water routes linking all provinces and territories; Outdoor Play Canada formed		
1999	Nunavut Territory split off from Northwest Territory				
2001	Aventure Écotourism Québec revitalized, with government supported unification of professionals and organizations under a single banner	2019	PaRx: A Prescription for Nature developed by the BC Parks Foundation began spreading across the nation; Réseau plein air Québec formed, representing many outdoor activity federations; Cannabis Act legalized "pot/weed" for recreational use		

### Notes for Outdoor Practitioners

Outdoor learning can trace its roots to the 19th century establishment of national and provincial parks, wildlife sanctuaries, and residential summer camps. Before then, the events in this historical timeline either directly or indirectly relate to Canadian outdoor learning in complex interrelated ways. Not only is it important to recognize that many of these disparate events had varying degrees of influence, it is perhaps more important for the outdoor learning community in Canada to engage in reflective practice related to how some of these events may have influenced their own approaches and experiences. For instance, the fur trade began in 1605 and continued as Canada's primary industry for over 250 years; and outdoor learning evolved to use many of these same travel routes and much of the fur trade legacy has been included in outdoor learning curriculum. However, the information provided through the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples in Canada in 1996, and the more recent information available from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report in 2015 has helped contribute another perspective on how the fur trade was a colonial practice that also contributed to the marginalization of Indigenous people in Canada. Last, the past wars and conflicts between Britain, France, and America shaped Canada's socio-political structure, but also brought different influences to bear on outdoor learning as it evolved.

Other events can be linked together in a more positive manner. For instance, the 35 Swiss Guides, hired by the CPR in 1899, led to the professionalization of mountain guiding, the formation of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides in 1963, and then to an international reputation for mountain guiding expertise and leadership. For many other historical outdoor learning practitioners, possibilities for outdoor learning expanded dramatically when the Trans Canada Highway was completed in 1962, and bush flying supported access to some of the most iconic wilderness areas in Canada. The Klondike Gold Rush led to a rapid civilization of the Yukon Territory and is now an important part

of the cultural heritage of the territory. In the first few decades of the twentieth century, the burgeoning camping and scouting movement in Canada led to the development of outdoor education programs in public schools. In 2015, the innovative NWT On The Land Collaborative began funding dozens of land-based programs in Indigenous communities across the territory every year. This program has dramatically influenced outdoor learning in the territory within a very short period of time. There are many other examples of interrelated influences that led to the evolution of outdoor learning in Canada, and many of these are discussed from various perspectives through the lenses of the expert authors who contributed chapters in this book.