

UKRAINIAN IMMIGRATION TO CANADA:

FROM POST
INDEPENDENCE
TO POST WAR

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

21 & 22 April 2023
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Canada



Session: Before 2022 - A Canadian Snapshot, Part I

3:30PM, April 21, 2023

“To those who came before us”: Understanding the settlement and migration of Ukrainians in Canada between 1991 - 2021.

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Ukrainian Canadians began to settle in western Canada in 1892 near the Star region in east-central Alberta (Lehr, “The Landscape of Ukrainian Settlement in the Canadian West”). Settlement occurred in ‘blocks’, which were farm-sized quarter sections demarcated by the Dominion Lands Survey. Block settlement was initially preferred by land agents, as it made their work easier, but eventually the practice fell out of favour (Lehr, “The Government and the Immigrant”). Despite government opposition, Ukrainians continued to settle in the same areas as those who came before them (Katz and Lehr).

This pattern persisted through each wave of immigration, continuing long after the period known as ‘fourth wave’, which began in 1991 (Mokrushyna). Newly released data from the 2021 Census of Population indicates that residents of Canada with a Ukrainian ethnic origin still reside primarily in the prairie provinces (Statistics Canada).

This presentation will use data from the Canadian Census of Population to understand the migration patterns and settlement of Ukrainians within Canada between 1991 and 2021. Settlement data from this period will provide an important benchmark in understanding the potential ‘fifth wave’ of immigration, the effects of which will be represented in the next Census, scheduled for 2026.

The Census of Population is Canada’s most important sociocultural dataset, allowing us to understand Canada as it was, and as it may be. The geographic information collected by the census allows for a detailed analysis of the movement of Ukrainians across time and space, tracing migration patterns from the earliest settlers through to the spread of the Ukrainian diaspora as it exists today.

Bibliography

Katz, Yosef, and John C. Lehr. *The Last Best West: Essays on the Historical Geography of the Canadian Prairies*. Jerusalem: Magnes Press, Hebrew University, 1999.

Lehr, John C. "The Government and the Immigrant: Perspectives on Ukrainian Block Settlement in the Canadian West." *Canadian Ethnic Studies = Etudes Ethniques Au Canada*, vol. 9, no. 2, 1977, p. 42.

2023-02-03 Canadian Institute for Ukrainian Studies Conference Sandra Sawchuk
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Mokrushyna, Halyna. "Is the Classic Diaspora Transnational and Hybrid? The Case of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress." *Nations & Nationalism*, vol. 19, no. 4, Oct. 2013, pp. 799–818, <https://doi.org/10.1111/nana.12032>.

Statistics Canada. Table 98-10-0338-01 Ethnic or Cultural Origin by Generation Status: Canada, Provinces and Territories, Census Metropolitan Areas and Census Agglomerations with Parts. Oct. 2022, <https://doi.org/10.25318/9810033801-eng>.