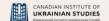


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NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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.

Sandra Sawchuk, Data Services & User Experience Librarian, Mount Saint Vincent University

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.

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