



May marks Asian Heritage Month in Canada. It has been a focus of celebration in many communities across Canada beginning in the 1990s. In December of 2001, May was officially designated Asian Heritage Month nationally after Senator Vivienne Poy's proposed motion was adopted by the Senate. The history of Asian immigration in Canada can be traced back to more than one hundred and fifty years ago when Chinese workers arrived in the west coast and joined with workers to build the Pacific Railway in the mid-nineteenth century. This month is an important time to celebrate the contributions and achievements Asian Canadians (from over 30 different countries) have made to our society, including enriching our culture, politics, diversity, and everyday life. Asian and South Asian Canadians have overcome great adversity to live here; generations of hard work has transformed communities and helped make Canada prosperous.