



“Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy.”  
Psalm 126:5

## ST.FRANCIS XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

School News

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International  
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# Something About Canada

*Will Yang*

### *Introduction on Canada and Will's life:*

Hello boys and girls, my name is Will Yang and I am from Canada. I moved



to Vancouver, British Columbia when I was 4 years old and now I am currently studying Electrical Engineering at the University of Toronto. The University of Toronto is located in Toronto, Ontario.

The reason why I'm here today is because of an organization that I joined at my school called AIESEC. It's an international organization that was formed after WWII to spread cultural awareness and to understand global issues while spreading community development in various countries around the world. I am here to share with you the culture and country that I am most familiar with, Canada.

Canada was formed in 1867 and is part of the Commonwealth of Nations with Queen Elizabeth II as the current monarch. The queen does not have any political influence but is a public figure head. Canada is now currently the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest country in the world with a landmass of roughly 10,000,000 kilometer squared that covers its' 10 provinces and 3



territories and has a population count of only 34.48 million.



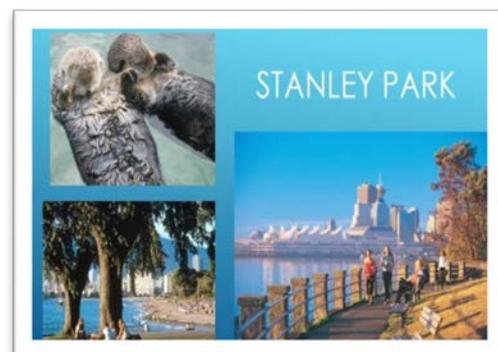
Amongst the current and past Canadians that have roamed the lands, Canada has had quite a few innovative minds such as Henry Woodward, Matthew Evans, Alexander Graham Bell, and Gideon Sundback. Woodward and Evans were the first people to have

successfully produced and patented an electric filament lamp. Bell immigrated to Canada in his early 20s and was credited for creating the telephone along with a few other inventors. Sundback's innovative design of the zipper has become an essential part of clothing designs. Some notable Canadian singers and athletes include Celine Dione, Justin Bieber and Steve Nash. When we talk about Steve Nash, everyone immediately thinks of a basketball. The game of basketball was also invented in Canada!

Aside from its' sports and media, Canada is known to have some of the world's most beautiful and breathe-taking sceneries and tourist attractions. Each province holds its own ground when it comes to beauty

Starting off on the West coast of Canada we have the city of Vancouver. The province of British Columbia is known as B.B.C. because it is referred as Beautiful British Columbia. Everywhere your eyes reach; there are mountains with snowcapped tops lying at the maximum range of your peripherals. There is a lot of green for the eyes to take in as there are many parks and places filled with nature in B.C.

One of the world's largest urban parks is located in Vancouver. Stanley Park is known for its' seawall path around the coast of the park. This stone wall allows for pedestrians, in-line skaters, and cyclists to share a magnificent view of a vast body of water while bathing under the moderate Vancouver weather that usually plays nice in the Summer/Spring seasons. At Stanley Park you can also see large totem



poles that were made by Native Canadians. Each segment of these poles represents different spiritual beings or can represent family crests. These monumental sculptures hold sentimental value for the Native Canadians. Along with the wild critters that scatter throughout the park, there is also an aquarium that shelters many different animals. Stanley Park is a must-go to place on everyone's bucket list if they decide to travel to Vancouver in the Summer/Spring seasons.



If you enjoy that cold, mountain air and want a snow sanctuary, Grouse Mountain and Whistler Mountain are the best places to get your fill. The slopes are huddled with people looking to ski, snowboard, or simply to enjoy a warm cup of hot cocoa on a cold winter evening. Whistler Mountain also played host for the 2010 Winter Olympics. Canada won the most gold medals during the Winter Olympics!

Grouse and Whistler Mountain may trigger your thirst for more of that majestic mountain view. The Rocky Mountains are the perfect remedy to quench that thirst. The Rocky Mountains stretch across Canada into the U.S.A. and have animals such as deer, caribou, bears and mountain goats wandering around these areas. There are many wonders in the mountainous parts of Alberta including Lake Louise, Lake Moraine, the ice fields, and Drumheller, which is known as Dinosaur Valley. The geographical landscape and the air in these areas are simply divine.

Eastern Canada also has many beauties of its' own such as Niagara Falls. This huge waterfall is shared between Canada and the U.S.A. (Canada has a better view of the actual waterfall though). I strongly encourage everyone to come check out these marvels of the world, hopefully someday soon!



Aside from its' natural beauties, Canada also has many beautiful cultures that live together as one across this vast land. What is so great about having

different cultures together? We celebrate different festivals! Some of the local cultural festivals include the Vancouver Symphony of Fire, the Calgary Stampede, the Quebec Winter Carnival, and the Toronto International Film Festival. Other widely- celebrated festivals include St. Patrick's Day, Vaisakhi, and Chinese New Year. St. Patrick's Day is a festival carried over from Ireland. Vaisakhi is a festival brought over from India. Chinese New Year is a celebration carried over from China.

## *Now on to something different..*

At St. Francis Xavier High School, I see a lot of students playing basketball and volleyball. In Canada, we play basketball and volleyball as well but I do not think that either of these sports are dominant in the world of sports over in



Canada. High School teenagers are often seen playing soccer, football, rugby, lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee, and roller hockey. School starts around 8 AM and ends around 3 PM for students in Canada so this allows for students to have a lot of

time to participate in sport teams and sport related activities.

Along with participating with sports, students also join clubs and student organizations such as Students' Council and Graduation Council. In these councils, students would organize events such as school-wide dances, fashion shows, bake sales and car washes. Money collected from these events is usually put towards a good cause or towards a larger event such as prom.

Prom (short for promenade) is a graduation party held at the end of senior high. It is a major event among high school students. Boys take an hour or so to get ready in their spiffy suits while girls take the entire day to get ready, and then complain about their feet hurting from their high heels. Prom is a night of fun, memories, and tears. This magical night will eventually be an event everyone can reminisce back to.

At my high school, it is a tradition to go graduation camping the day following prom. I have always loved camping by a lake so it is something that I look forward to doing every year in the summer time. We leave our electronics behind, wave good bye to our parents, and then we're off into Mother



Nature's arms. You can do many activities such as canoeing, kayaking, fishing and swimming. At night time, we would sit around an open fire and cook hotdogs and roast marshmallows. After roasting the marshmallows, you can combine it with a piece of chocolate and sandwich them together with graham crackers and make a scrumptious Smore.

One reason why I allow myself to enjoy these fun activities in the summer time is because of a motto that I've always followed in: Work Hard! Play Hard! This phrase should NOT be read as "Word and Play Hard." No. We must work hard first, then we can allow ourselves to play hard.

I hope all of you get a chance to visit Canada someday. There are many different and interesting things to experience and see in the world. Please allow yourself to step outside of your own comfort zone and travel the unknown. Educate yourself and let yourself explore!

