

The requirement for Finns to be registered in Canada was removed in September 1945. The Paris Peace Treaty was ratified by the Parliament of Canada on September 19, 1947, and Finland's enemy status was revoked.

Neither the "Red" nor the "White" approach proved very successful in winning over younger second-generation Finns in Canada.

The war years brought with them a string of changes in the lives of the Finnish Canadians. At first, Finns and Finnish Canadians received a lot of sympathy as almost heroes, while a small fraction in the left-wing Finn community righteously argued that the Soviet Union had been provoked by Finland to attack. Then, during the years of the Continuation War, the Soviet Union suddenly became an ally of Canada. The Canadian Finns became "enemies," which affected their living conditions and attitudes towards Finnish Canadians. Their community was split, as the so-called loyalist or "White Finns" wanted to assure their sympathies for the Canadian state and society. However, following the end of the Second World War, the situation began to normalize: controls over the Finnish Canadians were lifted, and friendly relations between Canada and Finland gradually resumed.

Canada entered into a postwar boom. Canadian export industries in the agricultural and resource sectors were short of workers at the same time as many returning soldiers – younger Canadian Finns included – were looking to live and work in the growing urban regions. The Canadian government therefore encouraged immigration schemes that placed the newcomers as construction, mine, farm, and lumber workers.

The postwar years saw a new immigration wave arrive to Canada from Finland. Travel increased, and visa requirements were removed at the beginning of 1959. As already shown in Figure 1, the most important feature in the Finnish Canadian community from the end of the Second World War until 1960 was renewed immigration from Finland.

The Finnish newcomers were usually much better educated and came with a broader mix of skills. Given this background and their experience of the Winter and Continuation Wars against the Soviet Union, few among the new arrivals were attracted to the left-oriented politics of the early immigrants. Edward W. Laine argues that the newcomers were not altogether enamoured with the resident "White" Finns, their customs or organizations, either. They often found them to be uncouth and uncultured individuals who had been further debased by their long time presence in Canada. In their view, neither the Finnish-Canadian old-timers nor their offspring spoke proper Finnish any more, but used a corrupted form of "kitchen Finnish" called "Finglish". Nor were they thoroughly schooled in the cultural values and identity of true Finns. Under the circumstances, those newcomers aspiring to leadership roles in the "White" community took over the executive positions in existing organizations or founded rival organizations of their own. There is an equal gap to be found between the third-wave immigrants and the more recent newcomers from Finland who generally boast postgraduate schooling, professional careers, refined technical skills, or backgrounds in high technology.

In the postwar years, the leftist Finnish Organization of Canada was depoliticized and marginalized. There was still individual-level support both financially and morally for a left-wing ideology and labour unionism in many industries and locations, and the organization still continued to

Finns have had a special history, which has been acknowledged in the strong Finnish areas of the Great Lakes and the West in particular. Most of all, they have contributed to the building of the Canadian welfare society.

feature in many local and regional elections. In this respect there was a lot of similarity with the left-of-centre experiences in the United States: the Cold War years had a distressing impact on the left supporters in both countries.