

in settling thousands of Irish farmers in 27 townships on the north shore of Lake Erie between 1804 and 1837.

Irish emigration to Canada peaked during the "Hungry Forties", when the potato famine had its greatest impact. In 1847 alone an estimated 80,000 Irish disembarked in Canadian ports. When Canada's first census was taken in 1871, Irish-Canadians numbered 846,414, the English 706,369 and the Scots 549,946. Those of Irish origin were second only to the French-Canadians in number. The Irish character of Canada at the time of Confederation in 1867 is reflected in the number of Canadian political figures with Irish names. After Confederation, immigration from Ireland dropped relative to other European countries. Nevertheless, one century later in 1971, those Canadians who identified themselves as of Irish origin numbered 1,581,730, which was equal to 53% of the population of the Republic of Ireland in the same year.

Irish societies have been established in most cities from St. John's to Vancouver. The celebration of St. Patrick's Day on March 17 has become a major event in the calendar, enjoyed by both Irish and non-Irish Canadians. Protestant Irish immigrants founded Orange Associations and still hold their traditional parades in some towns. Because of their arrival in her formative years, Irish-Canadians contributed a great deal to Canada's social character and her early economic development. The Irish heritage in Canada is highly valued.

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FOLLOW-UP TO PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S PEACE INITIATIVE

The Canadian Parliament is currently considering a proposal to establish a Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. The proposed Institute has its origins in Prime Minister Trudeau's peace initiative, launched last autumn, and is intended to give his initial efforts further momentum and an institutional framework. According to the proposal, the Institute will study all fresh ideas and new proposals on arms control and international security and will disseminate them with a view to encouraging public discussion.

CONFERENCE MINISTERIELLE A OTTAWA SUR LES PLUIES ACIDES

Le 20 mars 1984, le Premier Ministre adjoint et Secrétaire d'Etat aux Affaires extérieures, M. Allan MacEachen, accueillit les ministres de l'environnement de neuf pays européens, dont la France, l'Allemagne, le Danemark et les Pays Bas, ainsi qu'un représentant de la Commission européenne, à une conférence sur les pluies acides qui se tenait à Ottawa. Les participants étaient signataires d'une déclaration mettant en oeuvre des réductions de leurs émissions nationales annuelles de soufre d'au moins 30% le plus rapidement possible et au plus tard avant 1993 (en prenant les émissions de 1980 comme référence de base). M. MacEachen réaffirma l'indivisibilité de l'environnement mondial et la nécessité absolue de trouver des solutions aux problèmes posés par la pollution transfrontière. Au Canada les gouvernements fédéral et provinciaux ont convenu de doubler leur objectif pour la réduction des émissions d'anhydride sulfureux d'ici 1994, de 25 à 50%. Mais aucun pays ne peut s'attaquer seul au problème de l'acidification et de la destruction de ses lacs et forêts. Par conséquent, le Canada cherche à promouvoir la coopération internationale et à convaincre les principaux délinquants à adopter leurs propres programmes de réduction d'émissions.