

According to the census taken in that year, the number of persons of Finnish origin in Canada was 43,745. Of these, about 30,000 were living in Ontario, while there were about 7,000 in British Columbia, 3,000 in Alberta and between 1,500 and 2,000 each in Quebec and Saskatchewan. Of the large group in Ontario, the majority settled in the north, near Sudbury and Kenora, where they found a region of lakes and forests not unlike the landscape of their native land. Although the earlier Finnish settlers lived principally in rural areas, there is today a notable trend towards urbanization, and over half the Canadians of Finnish descent now live in cities.

Finnish settlers played an important part in the opening up and development of central and western Canada. In the early days they worked on major construction projects, but their range of occupation was broadened to include lumbering, ship building, carpentering, forest ranging and farming. While today many are still found in their original occupations, the later generations have tended, of course, to melt into the general Canadian scene.

Today one of the continuing links between Canada and Finland is a summer-student exchange programme conducted through Hart House at the University of Toronto, on a private basis. A Finnish architect, Viljo Rewell, was declared the winner, in September 1958, of the international competition for the design of the new Toronto City Hall. His success may be regarded as having increased the awareness of each country for the other in the cultural field.

Diplomatic Relations

Canadian representation in Finland began only in 1929, at the commercial level, when Finland was included in the territory of the first Canadian Government Trade Commissioner in Norway. This arrangement, however, seems to have permitted the Trade Commissioner to make only infrequent visits to Finland, so that when, in 1946, a Trade Commissioner was appointed to Stockholm, Finland was transferred to his jurisdiction.

Finland's representation in Canada, however, began as early as 1920, at the consular level, when an Honorary Vice Consul was appointed to serve at Port Arthur, Ontario. In 1923 an Honorary Consul was appointed at Montreal: his status was changed in 1926 when a Consul General *de carrière* was appointed to that post. In subsequent years a number of further honorary consular appointments were made in different Canadian cities with substantial numbers of Finnish residents. In June 1941, Finland declared war on the U.S.S.R.; by August of that year all the Finnish consulates in Canada were closed and the Swedish Government, first through its Consulate General in Montreal and, after 1943, through its Legation in Ottawa, became the protecting power for Finland's interests here. By December 1941, Canada and Finland were at war with each other. A peace treaty with Finland was signed on February 10, 1947, which came into effect when it was ratified on September 19 of that year. This opened the way for the resumption of normal diplomatic relations between the two countries.