

THE 1960s

For many evangelicals, the 1960s were discouraging. The counter-culture revolution threatened longstanding moral and cultural values. Growing secularism, turbulence, and occasional violence accompanied rapid changes in Canada. Conservatives in the United Church were dismayed by the 1964 "New Curriculum" for Sunday schools, which challenged traditional views of biblical authorship and authority. Anglican conservatives were stung by Pierre Berton's critique in his 1963 book *The Comfortable Pew*. Major Protestant denominations began a numerical decline that has continued into the 1990s. And many saw the spreading charismatic movement as a divisive and threatening intrusion.

Yet the 1960s can be viewed as a decade in which some evangelical denominations grew rapidly and evangelicals launched significant new initiatives. The Navigators and Campus Crusade established themselves in Canada. The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada was organized in 1964. Countering decades of increasing secularization in higher education, in 1962 the Evangelical Free Church established a Christian liberal arts college, Trinity Junior, now Trinity Western University in Langley, B.C. Today it is Canada's largest evangelical institution of any kind. Evangelicals also entered graduate education with the reorganization of Acadia Divinity College in 1966, the establishment of Regent College in 1968 and Canadian Theological College (now Seminary) in 1969.

Evangelicals also began to adjust to the charismatic movement. Views varied on particular beliefs and practices, but some non-charismatic leaders began to appreciate the vitality, evangelistic impact, and renewed emphasis on worship it brought to many churches.

Montreal's Expo '67 featured two Christian pavilions, one sponsored by Roman Catholic, mainline Protestant and Orthodox churches, and the other by evangelicals. The first featured searching questions and cooperation with other faiths; the second sought to gain interest in the gospel by demonstrations of scientific wonders that illustrated spiritual truths, known as Sermons from Science.



the summer of 1967 attendance averaged more than 5,000 per day. So great was the interest that the pavilion remained open for nine summers following Expo '67.

The pavilion was significant in several ways. It demonstrated that evangelicals saw their message in different terms than did the mainline denominations. It brought together tens of thousands of evangelicals from many denominations. Finally, some observers credit it with creating an openness that contributed to a significant wave of evangelical church planting in Quebec in the 1970s. (Photo: Christian Direction)

1971 - MULTICULTURAL POLICY ADOPTED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
1972 - CANADA-SOVIET HOCKEY SERIES
1976 - ELECTION OF PARTI QUEBECOIS, LED BY RENE LEVESQUE, IN QUEBEC
1980 - REFERENDUM ON 'SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION' IN QUEBEC. 60% 'NON' VOTE
1980 - TERRY FOX RUNS TO RAISE AWARENESS OF, AND FUNDS TO FIGHT CANCER
1982 - NEW CANADIAN CONSTITUTION AND CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS PROCLAIMED
1984 - PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVES UNDER BRIAN MULRONEY ELECTED
1988 - FREE TRADE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH U.S.
1990 - MEECH LAKE CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD FAILS
1991 - 7 PERCENT GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST) IMPOSED
1992 - CHARLOTTETOWN CONSTITUTIONAL ACCORD DEFEATED IN NATIONWIDE REFERENDUM
1993 - ELECTION OF LIBERALS UNDER JEAN CHRETIEN
1994 - NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITH U.S. & MEXICO SIGNED
1995 - FEDERAL DEBT REACHES \$500 BILLION
1995 - SECOND REFERENDUM ON SEPARATION IN QUEBEC NARROWLY DEFEATED
1997 - REFORM PARTY UNDER PRESTON MANNING REPLACES BLOC QUEBECOIS AS OFFICIAL OPPOSITION
1998 - DELGAMULUKW DECISION OF SUPREME COURT RECOGNIZES ABORIGINAL RIGHTS TO LAND
1998 - FIRST FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SURPLUS SINCE 1969-70 RECORDED

1976 - ONTARIO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (NOW TYNDALE SEMINARY) ESTABLISHED
1977 - 100 HUNTLEY STREET TELEVISION PROGRAM BEGINS BROADCASTING FROM TORONTO BY DAVID MAINSE
1979 - TRINITY WESTERN WINS RIGHT TO GRANT BACCALAUREATE DEGREES
1983 - FAITH ALIVE (LATER FAITH TODAY) FIRST ISSUE PUBLISHED
1986 - VINEYARD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCHES BEGIN IN CANADA
1987 - CHRISTIANWEEK FIRST ISSUE PUBLISHED
1988 - ASSOCIATED CANADIAN THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS (ACTS) BRINGS TOGETHER FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CONFERENCE BAPTIST AND EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH SEMINARIES AT TWU
1993 - MACLEAN'S-ANGUS REID POLL REPORTS 15% OF CANADIANS ARE 'EVANGELICALS'
1994 - "TORONTO BLESSING" - UNUSUAL MANIFESTATIONS AT TORONTO'S AIRPORT
1998 - NEWFOUNDLAND ENDS CHURCH-ADMINISTERED SYSTEM OF EDUCATION
VINEYARD - DRAWS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

FaithToday

SNAPSHOTS Evangelicals in Canada 1900-2000

SELECTION AND TEXT BY ROBERT BURKINSHAW

PHOTO RESEARCH BY KRYSIA LEAR

We carry the past into our future, although the influence of our history may be unrecognized and unacknowledged, especially when a sense of national community is weak.

Among Canadian evangelicals the awareness of our shared history in Canada is vague at best. Yet events in one part of the family have affected us all, and become a common story, our common heritage. We profit by even an introductory grasp of the highlights.

For a selection of some elements that define Canadian evangelicalism in this century, we turned to Robert Burkinshaw, professor of history at Trinity Western University. *Faith Today* asked him to select crucial events and phenomena that, taken

together, have greatly affected evangelical life in Canada.

This list does not in any way comprise a full portrait of evangelicals. Nor does it encompass events within specific denominations, unless there was a spillover effect on others.

We might have included additional events, or wanted to name more people. Yet there's no question that these events and developments are of great significance in describing who evangelicals are on the brink of a new century.

Larry Matthews
Managing Editor

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M.I.P. Box 3745, Markham, ON L3R 0Y4
(905) 479-5885 (voice); (905) 479-4742 (fax); ft@efc-canada.com



The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada