

# Thoughts on Canada's Future

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Read the following quotations and select one to illustrate as a political cartoon.



Sir Wilfred Laurier

"It has been observed on the floor of this House, as well as outside of this House, that as the nineteenth century had been the century of the United States, so the twentieth century would be the century of Canada. This option has not been deemed extravagant. On this continent and across the waters, it has been accepted as the statement of a truth, beyond controversy."

~ Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Prime Minister, House of Commons, 21 February 1905

"Okay, okay, Wilfrid Laurier got it wrong. The 20<sup>th</sup> century didn't belong to Canada. Instead, this country belongs to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, belongs to it more completely, than just about any other of the 188 member states of the United Nations."

~ Richard Gwyn, columnist, *The Toronto Star*, 1 January 2000

"By the year 2000, more people will live in the cities of Calcutta and Greater Bombay than in all of Canada."

~ George J. Demko, *Why in the World: Adventures in Geography*, 1992

"Assuming a fertility rate of 1.7 and net migration ... of zero, Canada's population would stop growing in 2022 and then begin a long, lingering decline that would continue until the last Canadian, unable to find a mate anywhere from Victoria to St. John's, dies of loneliness in 2786."

~ David K. Foot and Daniel Stoffman, *Boom, Bust and Echo: How to Profit from the Coming Demographic Shift*, 1996

"If we were to stop the tap of immigration tomorrow and not let one person in, the last Canadian would die in 175 years."

~ Sergio Marchi, Minister of Immigration, *The Globe and Mail* interview, 27 June 1994

"Human numbers and the acceleration of human activities made possible by advances in science and technology have reached the point at which we are now the architects of our own future. We literally have responsibility for our own evolution."

~ Maurice Strong, Chairman of the Earth Council, 1995

"One of Canada's great strengths in the past has been that you always come to the future *second*; you let someone else make the mistakes."

~ Peter Druker, as quoted by Douglas Bell in *The Globe and Mail's Report on Business Magazine*, July 1995

"At the end of the day, the people of this great country will decide upon the future they want."

~ Charles, Prince of Wales, address at Queen's University in Kingston, 28 October 1991

"The future is here now. The teacher of the future is always the present and it is very difficult to look at the present. Everything that is going to happen in ten or twenty years is happening now, right under our noses."

~ Marshall McLuhan, "Education in the Electronic Age," 1967



Marshall McLuhan

Photo Credits

Sir Wilfred Laurier: collections.ic.gc.ca

Marshall McLuhan: www.utoronto.ca