

Asia Pacific
Foundation
of Canada

Fondation
Asie Pacifique
du Canada



Portrait Report
United Kingdom
June 2009



Portrait of Canadians Abroad: United Kingdom

Don DeVoretz & Diane Coulombe

**Portrait of Canadians Abroad:
United Kingdom**

Don Devoretz & Diane Coulombe

Executive Summary

Data from various sources reveal that more than 70,000 Canadians currently live in the United Kingdom, while more than 23,000 of them have been in the British labour force over the last few years. Estimates of the number of Canadian residents in the United Kingdom are likely to be biased downward since dual citizens with both Canadian and British citizenships probably report themselves as British rather than Canadians in official surveys.

The origins of Canadians personalities in the United Kingdom reflect the diverse composition of the Canadian population: some were born in Canada of British parents, others were born of immigrants who settled in Canada at one point, and a number of them were simply born and raised in Canada. Given the shared history between the United Kingdom and Canada, and a common language, Canadians in the United Kingdom make their mark in all sectors of economic and cultural activities, and some of them even reach global stardom.

Active commercial organizations reflect the traditional ties between the United Kingdom and Canada who share history, networks and values, while flourishing social groups take advantage of the culturally rich United Kingdom environment to promote networking, interactions in various contexts, and a welcoming attitude towards new and established Canadians and others.

The United Kingdom immigration and citizenship policies are currently undergoing crucial changes. For example, a new points system was recently adopted to admit workers, and a new concept of “earned citizenship” will guide rules and regulations for years to come. The complexity of the options offered when applying for citizenship reflects the United Kingdom history as an empire.

Interviews with several Canadians revealed the cost of being Canadians abroad in the form of a genuine frustration with systemic obstacles preventing them from exerting their voting right in national and provincial Canadian elections.

Portrait of Canadians Abroad: United Kingdom

A. Canadian Citizens Resident in the United Kingdom

The 2001 United Kingdom census reported that 72,518 Canadian citizens resided in the United Kingdom. This is an underestimate since citizenship status was self reported: many Canadian citizens who were dual citizens probably reported themselves as United Kingdom citizens, and not as dual or Canadian citizens. Based on recent survey data, Table 1 reveals more patterns.

Table 1. Canadian Citizens in United Kingdom *circa* 2006-2008

Year	<i>Lived</i>			<i>Worked</i>		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
2006	64,000	29,000	36,000	23,000	10,000	13,000
2007	72,000	31,000	41,000	29,000	15,000	14,000
2008	73,000	38,000	33,000	23,000	11,000	12,000
Average	69,666	32,666	36,666	25,000	12,000	13,000

Source: Office of National Statistics Labour Force Survey, 2009

First, total numbers of Canadians citizens living in the United Kingdom rose during the 2006-2008 period and reached a similar size as reported in the 2001 census. In addition, this survey reveals that female Canadian citizens substantially outnumbered Canadian males in 2006 and 2007.

Labour force participation for all Canadian citizens was extremely low, averaging only 36% for the sampled 2006-2008 period. Furthermore, both male and female Canadian citizens reported equally low labour force participation rates.

Even given their low labour force participation status, the majority of those Canadian citizens employed in the United Kingdom *circa* 2008 were in the professions.

Table 2. Canadian Citizens by Occupational Status: 2008

Occupation	Absolute #	Percentage
Professional	12,000	52.2%
Intermediate	10,000	43.4%
Other	1,000	4.3%
Total	23,000	100%

Source: Office of National Statistics Labour Force Survey, 2009

In sum, there were at least 73,000 Canadian citizens living in the United Kingdom *circa* 2008, mostly out of the labour force, but those employed were professionals.

B. Canadian Personalities and Organizations in the United Kingdom

Personalities: Media

1. **Kerry Shale** is a Canadian actor born in Winnipeg who has been living and working in London since 1978. He trained at Studio 58 Theatre School in Vancouver. In England he wrote and performed five solo shows at various theatres, appeared in numerous films and series on British television, and lent his voice to video games.

Kerry Shale has acted in over 200 BBC radio plays and has written for BBC Radio and newspapers. He also recorded many audio books, including Canadian Yann Martel's award-winning *Life of Pi*.

2. **Kate Harrison Whiteside** was born in Minnedosa, Manitoba. She studied journalism in Calgary and managed her own communications company for 12 years before moving to England in 1998. Primarily a published writer and editor, she also has done training for a variety of clients. Among other things, she is currently the web editor of *The Westmorland Gazette*, an award-winning weekly newspaper.

Kate Harrison Whiteside now lives with her family in the Lake District where she writes and experiments with video literature. With a plain language consultant from Vancouver she recently co-authored two books that were published electronically.

3. **Lionel Blair** was born in Montreal and moved to London at a very early age, where he later starred in television series and, for about 10 years, was host of various game shows on television where he still frequently appears as a guest. He is an accomplished actor, singer and tap-dancer.

Since 2005 Lionel Blair has been choreographing and touring the United Kingdom in a dance production entitled *Simply Ballroom*. In 2008 he celebrated 60 years in show business.

Personalities: Commerce

1. **Terry Matthews** was born in Newport, Wales and initially came to Ottawa to work for a chipmaking operation. Formed in 1972 by Matthews and one partner, after a mishap the company *Mitel* kept at the forefront of high technology, was bought by British Telecom in 1985, then reacquired by Matthews in 2000, whose other companies has brought in billions.

Sir Terry Matthews' empire on Canadian soil includes an investment group, commercial and residential real estate and one resort.

2. **Hans Snook** grew up in Edmonton to a German mother and a British father and began his career in the hospitality business in Vancouver. In 1983 he became chief executive of

a wireless paging business in Hong Kong and was transferred to the UK where he developed the fourth largest mobile phone network. Subsequently bought by France Telecom, the mobile phone company Orange was created.

Hans Snook still plays a limited role in the cellular phone business while he owns shares in various alternative medicine schemes.

3. Born to a Turkish father and an English mother **Erdem Moralioglu** was raised in Montreal and earned a BA in fashion design from Ryerson University in Toronto. In 2002-2003 he moved to London to do an MA at the Royal College of Art. He showed his first collection in 2005 for which he received an award and has been collecting awards and accounts in the UK ever since, including Harrods and Ashley's Boutique.

Personalities: Sports

1. **Lennox Lewis** was born in London to Jamaican-born parents and moved to Kitchener, Ontario at age 12. He excelled at many sports and eventually won the world amateur junior boxing title in 1983 and finished in 5th place in the Summer Olympics of 1984 where he represented Canada as a Super Heavyweight. He won a gold medal in the 1988 Summer Olympics, declared himself a professional boxer, and moved back to England.

Lennox Lewis moved to Miami Beach in 2007 and is now a boxing television commentator and makes other regular television appearances. He was inducted into Canada's Hall of Fame in 2008.

2. **Gregory Rusedski** was born in Montreal. A very promising junior tennis player in Canada in the 1980s, he moved to England at age 22 and subsequently rose to World Number 4 on the Association of Tennis Professionals. He officially retired from tennis in 2007. Gregory Rusedski has done some acting and been commentator and analyst for various tennis tournaments with the BBC.

3. **Owen Hargreaves** was born in Calgary to English parents. At age 16 he left the Calgary soccer club to play for the Bayern Munich team. In 2007 he joined the Manchester United club for a fee of around £17 million.

Owen Hargreaves has had to convince the English fans that he was a worthy soccer player in spite of his German/Canadian accent.

Personalities: Entertainment

1. **Bryan Adams** was born in Kingston, Ontario to English parents and grew up abroad until his family returned to live in North Vancouver. At age 15 he quit school to play rock in nightclubs. At age 18 he signed on with A&M Records in Toronto for \$1. Sixty-five million records later, the singer and songwriter has won countless awards in the music and film industry and is also a successful photographer.

Bryan Adams currently lives in London and owns a recording studio in Vancouver. A noted social activist, he performs all over the world. For example, in February of 2008 he performed in Toronto to help the Sunnybrook Hospital Women and Babies Program.

2. Romanian-born **Irina Lazareanu** emigrated to Canada with her parents at age 5 and settled in St-Hubert, Quebec. At age 13 she moved to London to study ballet but injured herself and came back to Montreal where she signed up with a model agency at age 17. She had modeled all over the world when supermodel Kate Moss, an acquaintance of hers, invited her to model for an issue of Vogue.

Irina Lazareanu has since modeled with many top designers and is currently also pursuing a musical career.

3. **Nicole Appleton** was born in Hamilton, Ontario then lived in Toronto, New York City and London. In 1995 she and three other women, including her sister Natalie, formed the band *All Saints*. Band members split six years later after scoring five #1 singles.

Since the band breakup Nicole Appleton has appeared in one film. With her sister she released a debut album for a new band called *Appleton* in 2003, the year a documentary on the two sisters was aired by the BBC. In 2008 she married *Oasis* group frontman Liam Gallagher with whom she has a son.

Personalities: Education

1. **Margaret Macmillan** was born in Toronto where she received a BA in history. She furthered her studies at Oxford University, was a professor of history at Ryerson University in Toronto for many years and the Provost of Trinity College in Toronto. She is currently the fifth Warden of St. Anthony's College at Oxford University.

Margaret Macmillan is an award-winning author who was editor of the *International Journal* for eight years. She sits on the boards of several Canadian institutes, councils and foundations, including the Churchill Society for the Advancement of Parliamentary Democracy (Canada).

2. **Todd Swift** was born in Montreal and made his mark early on as a champion debater. He received a BA from Concordia University, Montreal and an MA in creative writing from an English university. He co-edited his first anthology of poetry in 1988. His poetry has been widely published and translated in many languages. Since 2004 he has been Oxfam Great Britain's poet-in-residence. He also lectures on creative writing and literature at Kingston University, England.

Todd Swift is a contributing editor of Quebec's longest running English-language literary magazine and is poetry editor of an award-winning online magazine.

3. **Jordan Lancaster** was born and educated in Canada. She holds two degrees from the University of British Columbia and a Ph.D. in Italian and French from the University of

Toronto. During her career she taught Italian language, literature and history at the University of New York and conducted post-doctoral research on Neapolitan intellectual history. In 2005 she published a book on Naples and another is forthcoming.

Jordan Lancaster now owns a language school in London where she mainly works as a professional translator and interpreter while pursuing further studies.

Personalities: Other

Autumn Phillips was born in Montreal where she earned a BA in East Asian studies from McGill University before starting a career as management consultant. She met Peter Phillips, the only son of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips, at the Canadian Grand Prix in 2003. Later she moved to the UK and worked as a personal assistant to broadcaster Sir Michael Parkinson, an English broadcaster and journalist.

Autumn Phillips converted to Anglicanism and married the eldest grandchild of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip in 2008.

Organizations: Business/Chambers of Commerce

1. The **Canada-United Kingdom Chamber of Commerce** was incorporated as a United Kingdom company in 1927. It seeks to facilitate trade, commerce, and investments between Canadian, British and European parties, and to disseminate appropriate information to its members. Networking activities include breakfast meetings, lunches, and seminars where members can bring guests. Lecturers have included Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The Chamber offers various types of membership, starting with “personal.” Charter and corporate membership includes prominent airlines, banking establishments, research firms, etc., and is a testimony to the enduring historic links between Canada and the British Empire.

2. **Canadian Affair** is a London-based airline that promises cheap flights, tours, and holidays to Canada. It employs over 60 people in its two United Kingdom offices. Created in 1995, in 2006 Canadian Affair was acquired by Transat A.T. Inc., one of the largest international tour operators that employs more than 6000 people worldwide and has its headquarters in Montreal.

Canadian Affairs now has a sister company in Montreal to serve those who want to travel from Canada to the United Kingdom. The airline has won various yearly tourism awards since 2002.

Organizations: Social Networking

1. The volunteer-run **Network Canada** was created in London in 1999 as a social and business group that already counts more than 850 members. The aims of this organization are to network, meet friends, and provide information resources to newcomers. Activities include sports events, seminars, dances, literary events, concerts, movies, political meetings, alumni get-togethers, etc.

Network Canada raises funds for a number of Canadian charities, including the Terry Fox Foundation, the Arthritis Society of Canada, and others.

2. The **Canadian Women’s Club** was founded in 1932 as a social club that also took on a humanitarian dimension during World War II. It numbers over 200 members, Canadian and non-Canadian women with links to Canada, as well as permanent and temporary residents in the United Kingdom. Its mandate is to provide a framework to exchange views and participate in a wide variety of activities (walks, lunches and dinners, reading evenings, card games, crafts, French gatherings, etc.) and events in and around London.

The Canadian Women’s Club continues its fundraising for the Maple Leaf Trust, which in turn supports its two charitable causes, the Canadian Centennial Scholarship Fund (created in 1967 to help outstanding Canadian students in the United Kingdom) and the Veterans’ Support Committee (created in 1949 to help Canadians who remained in the United Kingdom after the World Wars and are not eligible for Canadian pensions).

3. The **London Vandoos** is a social group started in 2001 with over 400 members who generally meet in pubs on the 22nd of each month. Both Canadians and non-Canadians are invited, transient or regulars. A typical pub night comprises around 50 people. Membership is free but cover charges may apply.

The London Vandoos owe their name to the 22nd Regiment, a famed World War I battalion made up of French Canadians; the anglicized “vingt-deux” is pronounced “vandoos”.

Organizations: School Alumni

University Alumni Associations in the United Kingdom advertise their activities on the **Network Canada** web site which also shows a list of London contacts for more than 20 groups.

Organizations: Religious Groups

No religious group was identified as solely Canadian on United Kingdom territory.

Organizations: Other

The **Canada House Cine Club** shows Canadian feature films monthly at a 48-seat private theatre located in London's Canada House. Membership in the Club created in 2000 guarantees screenings, among which several world premieres, at preferential costs. Movie program is posted on the Club's web site.

C. Summary of United Kingdom Immigration and Citizenship Policies

United Kingdom Immigration Policies

A new points system dividing immigrants to the United Kingdom into five tiers was put in place in 2008. Canadians who seek long-term employment in the United Kingdom can now either apply as highly-skilled workers, investors, entrepreneurs, or post-study workers (Tier 1), or as sponsored skilled workers, ministers of religion, and sports people (Tier 2). The latter can include nurses, teachers, intra-company transfers, members of religious orders, and elite sports players or coaches.

The points system was in part adopted for its transparency for users and its adaptability to the manpower needs of the United Kingdom. For applicants in Tier 1, for example, points are allocated for age, qualifications, previous earnings, work experience in the United Kingdom, English skills, and financial solvability.

For Tier 2 workers points are attributed for sponsorship (maximum number of points for a job in shortage occupations), qualifications, previous earnings, English skills, and financial solvability.

Temporary low-skilled workers who fill temporary labour shortages, for example in the construction sector, can enter the United Kingdom in Tier 3. Students make up Tier 4, while Tier 5 comprises six categories of temporary workers, including employees of overseas governments and of international organizations and their households, and young people from countries participating in a mobility scheme to experience life in the United Kingdom.

United Kingdom Citizenship Policies

In an effort to make the citizenship process more transparent, an "Earned Citizenship" approach, whereby people wanting to become British citizens will have to go through the three following stages: 1) temporary residence, 2) probationary citizenship, and 3) British citizenship/permanent residence, will be adopted in 2009. The new laws reserve access to benefits and social housing for citizens and permanent residents, and foreign nationals committing offences will either be deported or see their application for citizenship delayed. These measures will be the most important changes to British immigration laws since 1971.

Currently British citizenship is one of six following types of nationality, in force since the beginning of 1983: British citizenship, British overseas citizenship, British overseas territories citizenship, British national (overseas), British protected person, and British subjects.¹ Only British citizens, and some Commonwealth citizens, can live and work in the United Kingdom automatically, a privilege called the “right of abode”. Moreover, anyone who is a British citizen can apply for a British passport, and some people with other forms of nationality are eligible for a variety of British passports.² Neither marriage nor the right to live in Britain makes people automatically eligible for a British passport.

One can be a British citizen either by descent or “otherwise than by descent”, i.e., born after January 1983 to, or adopted by, at least one British citizen, or of parents settled in the United Kingdom at the time of the birth. Citizens “otherwise than by descent” can automatically pass on their British citizenship to their children born outside the United Kingdom, but these will become British citizens by descent who cannot, in turn, pass their own citizenship on to their children born abroad. Finally, British citizens by descent cannot become British citizens “otherwise than by descent” unless they were born before 1983 and held a British passport.

People over 18 with at least five years of residency in the United Kingdom – three years if married to, or civil partner of, a British citizen – may apply for full citizenship if they can show proof of good character and of the ability to make their own decisions.

Dual Citizenship in the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom does not require that people give up other citizenships or nationalities to become British citizens, but British subjects and British protected persons (see footnote 1 below) lose their citizenship if they acquire another nationality.

D. Interviews of Canadians in the United Kingdom

Profiles of Canadian citizens abroad are shaped by a particular political and economic milieu. As noted above the Canadian citizen population in the United Kingdom is unique in at least two respects: it is dominated by females and most citizens are not in the labour force, i.e., namely students and retirees. A total of eleven interviews on issues surrounding Canadians abroad were conducted in London, Canterbury, and Oxford, to reflect this population.

Citizenship revisions and restraints on voting were the primary concerns of those Canadians interviewed. In particular, interviewed female Canadian citizens were both unaware and incensed when they learned of the pending changes to citizenship ascension

¹ For information on the forms of naturalization, go to the Home Office UK Border Agency excellent web site: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/britishcitizenship.

² Go to the Home Office Identity and Passport Service for eligibility and types of passports: www.ips.gov.uk/passport/apply-eligibility-am-i.asp.

for naturalized Canadians living abroad, i.e., constraints placed on ascension to citizenship by blood. In a similar vein all interviewees had experienced difficulty voting in the 2008 federal election. Moreover, two interviewees suggested that provincial voting was equally important to them and, although unsure of their rights and obligations, they felt that residency requirements precluded their participation in these elections. Their frustrations ironically attest to the interviewees' deep attachment to Canada.

The majority of interviewees were either in the labour force or students, and all planned to return to Canada to work or live. Most of them had been in Canada in the past year and regularly used the internet (Skype, Facebook) to keep in touch with friends and relatives in Canada. Worthy of note is that only the minority of those interviewed consider tax liability as an issue that could prevent them from returning.

Except for their participation in 'Canada Day' celebrations, however, the interviewees' continuing and strong attachment to Canada was not manifest: none belonged to a Canadian social group. To improve on this situation they made suggestions ranging from requesting an 'outreach' program funded by the Canadian High Commission to more 'on line' social linkages with Canadians in the United Kingdom.

In sum, these eleven interviews of lawyers, students, business people and others point to their strong views on Canadian citizenship and their stated strong attachment to Canada.

References

Numerous web sites and e-mails