

## **Distinctly Canadian**

**Teacher Seminar, 06 March 2009**

**Speaker: Dr. Meike Zwingenberger, BAA**

Organizer: Amerika-Haus-Bibliothek, B.A.Z. Amerika-Haus

Canada is the second largest country in the world, but with only three people per square kilometer, it has the fourth lowest population density. According to the United Nations Human Development Index, Canada has not only the highest quality of life, but also the world's highest tertiary education enrolment. The stereotype of the Canadian lumberjack does not hold true any longer for most of the population but is still a very strong image in popular culture's ironic self-portrayals.

In this seminar I will provide a short introduction to Canadian national symbols – the Mounties, the flag, the lumberjack. Then we focus on a wide range of topics: First Nations, the arrival of French and British settlers, westward expansion from earliest European settlement to the the flourishing city of Vancouver on the West coast. Although often thought of as a contemporary concept, the notion of Québec as a distinct society goes back to the Québec Act of 1774. Until today Québec is distinguished from the rest of Canada concerning language, culture, and civil law.

But French is not the only different language spoken in Canadian metropolises. Immigration programs spurr the coming of well-educated migrants from all over the world. After becoming Canadians these migrants profit from an official multicultural policy since the 1970s. Film clips will illustrate these issues and are in itself subject of analysis: The Canadian film industry becomes more and more important as the Hollywood of the North.

### Program:

- 9.00 Introduction
- 9.30 Westward Expansion and Settlement History
- 10.00 Québec: A Distinct Society?
- 10.30 Coffee Break
- 11.00 Multiculturalism, Immigration and the Economy in Canada today
- 12.00 Short Film Clips
- 12.30 Final Discussion