

Brion Nono

Amanda Ciafone

MACS 317

5 November 2020

Journal of a Plague Year: Canada 1918

Studying the article from Montreal, Canada, *The Gazette*, I found very interesting points on what happened to our neighbors up north when and how they had to deal with the Spanish Influenza. When choosing what country to focus on, I wanted to focus on a country that we do not really talk about and I wanted to see what their newspapers were like back then and what they were talking about.

To begin with, during this time Canada was part of World War I like most countries, so most of the men are out for war. The article date that I analyzed was from October 4, 1918, so this article was right near the end of the war. As I analyzed the one page of the newspaper you can see that the articles vary from different things like news regarding the flu and then other stuff that does not focus on the flu. Unlike the United States, Canada made articles relating to the flu in American cities like; Boston, Philadelphia, and others. I can assume that with articles pertaining to America that Canada did not suppress the flu in their news. America hid it on the news and it rarely had articles about it but Canada posted articles about the flu and even had articles that focused on American cities as well. Also during this time of the flu the country was able to build something groundbreaking that is very important to the country now, they were able to create the Federal Department of Health, *Health Canada*. This shows that during drastic times we are able to make the most of it and how the government responded to the pandemic very well.

Living in a pandemic like the Spanish Flu pandemic is often scary to think about, especially since it was so long ago and it still feels the same. As I researched the death tolls and cases of the Flu in Canada back then, they accumulated over 400-500 cases during the article when it was made and it was less than America back then too. This feels like what we are living through right now because America has over 8 million confirmed cases of COVID and over 200K deaths while Canada has 10K deaths and 200K cases in their country. This shows how each country cares for the health of their people and how they want to handle it. From what I also noticed on *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, they talk about how they handled the flu and what they did to take precautions for it. It is almost uncanny how similar the world is now as it was back then. When the flu hit Canada they did a whole country wide quarantine to protect their people, they wore masks and a lot of businesses closed due to the pandemic. History really repeats itself and shows how nothing really changed between the time. It seems like Canada is able to take care of the pandemic a lot better than America and it shows in both the history of the country and with the pandemic that is happening right now.

Cites Used

Dickin, Janice, et al. "1918 Spanish Flu in Canada." *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, 18 Mar. 2020, [thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/1918-spanish-flu-in-canada](https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/1918-spanish-flu-in-canada).

<https://search-proquest-com.proxy2.library.illinois.edu/hnpmontrealgazette/pagelevelimagepdf/2150877481/pagelevelImagePDF/DBD03FAE001746E9PQ/1?t:lb=t&accountid=14553>