By: Lana, Aayushi, Amal, Urooj and Kelly

Mechanized Agriculture and The Canadian Family Farm

**Mechanized Agriculture:**

* Same as industrialized agriculture
* **Definition**: Large-scale agriculture dependent on complex technology and biotechnology rather than human power to increase production.
* results in larger farms => less human labour => More machinery
* More usage of fertilizers, insecticides, and other chemicals that maximize production
* Negatives:
  + added expenses of purchasing the essentials
  + consumption of more energy
  + environmental damage (water pollution from pesticides and fertilizer runoff)
  + Possible health risks due to genetic enhancement of seeds
* In Canada, government agencies control the financial aspect of the mechanized agriculture.
  + For example:
    - the purchase of land
    - taxation

**The Canadian Family Farm:**

* Immigrants play a dominant role in the development of the mechanized agriculture industry.
* They bring their agricultural expertise that aids the process
* Despite the increasing dependence on technology, the true essence of Canadian farming remains the family farm as it is a strongly independent family-owned enterprise.
* Jobs on the farm are divided in terms of gender.
  + Men do physical jobs
    - such as operating farm equipment
  + Women do chores and take care of the children
  + However, women may help the men
    - driving grain trucks and picking up machine parts
  + Children are expected to help at an early age
* Successful until the mid 1970s
* Recently, they have been facing many problems
  + Such as rising expenses, increasing debt and fears of environmental contamination
* These obstacles cause a threat to Canadian family farms
  + Statistics show that:
    - In 1976, Canada had 338 552 farms, in 1996 Canada had 276 548 farms