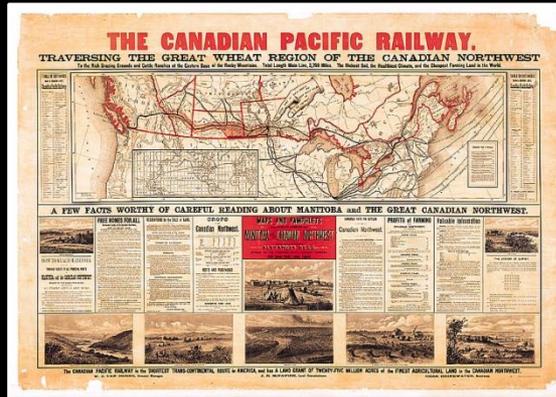


Chapter 1

1840-1896: The Formation of the Canadian Federal System

Section 1: The Act of Union



The Rebellions of 1837-1838

- The tensions in Lower Canada (and Upper Canada) came to a boiling point in the mid to late 1830s
- 1834 → The Parti Patriotes submitted a **document** to the British Parliament in London called '**The 92 Resolutions**'
- A document that outlines the complaints and **DEMANDS** of the Patriotes
 - Demanded **RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT**
 - Demanded elected officials → which would give a chance for French Canadiens
 - Full control to the assembly when it came to spending colony funds
 - Eliminate corruption in government

The Rebellions of 1837-1838

- How did the **British government** respond to the '92 Resolutions'?
- **Rejected the 92 Resolutions**
- Instead → British government published the '**10 Russell Resolutions**' → a set of rules that did not promote any change in government in the colonies
- This sparked many **public demonstrations**/protests by Louis Joseph Papineau, the **Patriotes** and their supporters

The Rebellions of 1837-1838



Painting: Assembly of the Six Counties by C.A. Smith
Depiction of the public demonstrations/protests/rallies before the
Rebellions of 1837-1837

The Rebellions of 1837-1838

- Eventually, after clashes in the streets of Montreal between British Party and Parti Patriotes supporters
 - The **governor banned public demonstrations**
 - Arrested some of the Patriotes leaders
- This was the final straw → the Patriotes resorted would now **resort to violence**
- This was coordinated with radicals in Upper Canada (same problems in UC)
- Patriotes supporters **clashed with British soldiers** in Lower Canada
- Some Locations:
 - **St. Eustache**, St. Denis, Beauharnois, Sorel

The Rebellions of 1837-1838



Paintings by Charles Beauclerk depicting the Rebellion battles in 1837-1838

Left: Battle at St. Eustache

Right: Battle at St. Charles

The Rebellions of 1837-1838



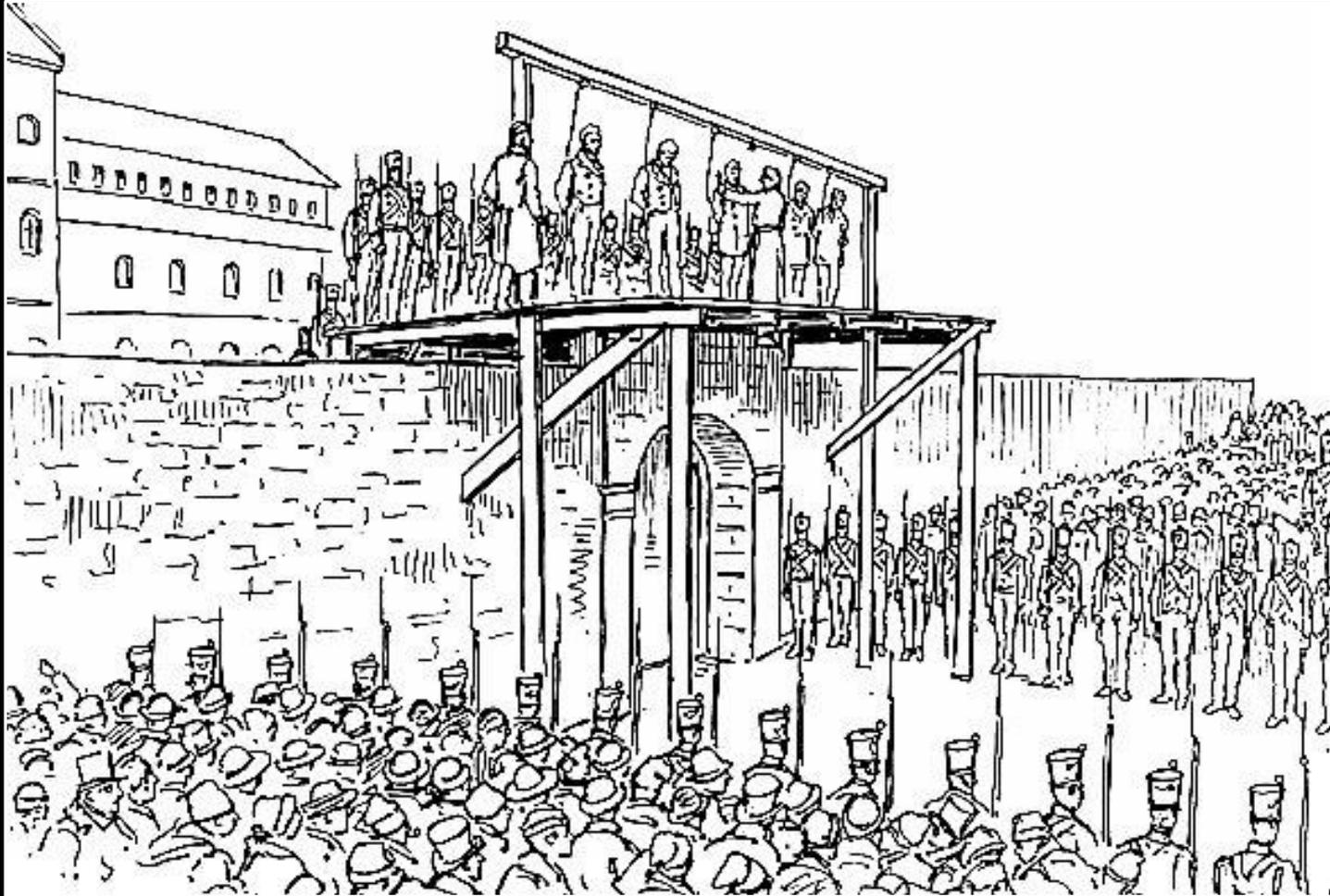
Left: Famous drawing of a 'Patriotes' going to fight in the rebellions

Right: Flag used during 'Journée des Patriotes'

The Rebellions of 1837-1838

- Results of the Rebellions:
 - The British army in Lower Canada was too strong
 - Patriotes supporters were ‘regular’ people fighting against trained soldiers
 - **The Patriotes were defeated**
 - Many of the leaders were arrested
 - Some sent away in exile → to Australia
 - **12 Patriote leaders were hung** in a public square in 1838
- The British government knew it had to take action
→ there was too much civil unrest in the colonies

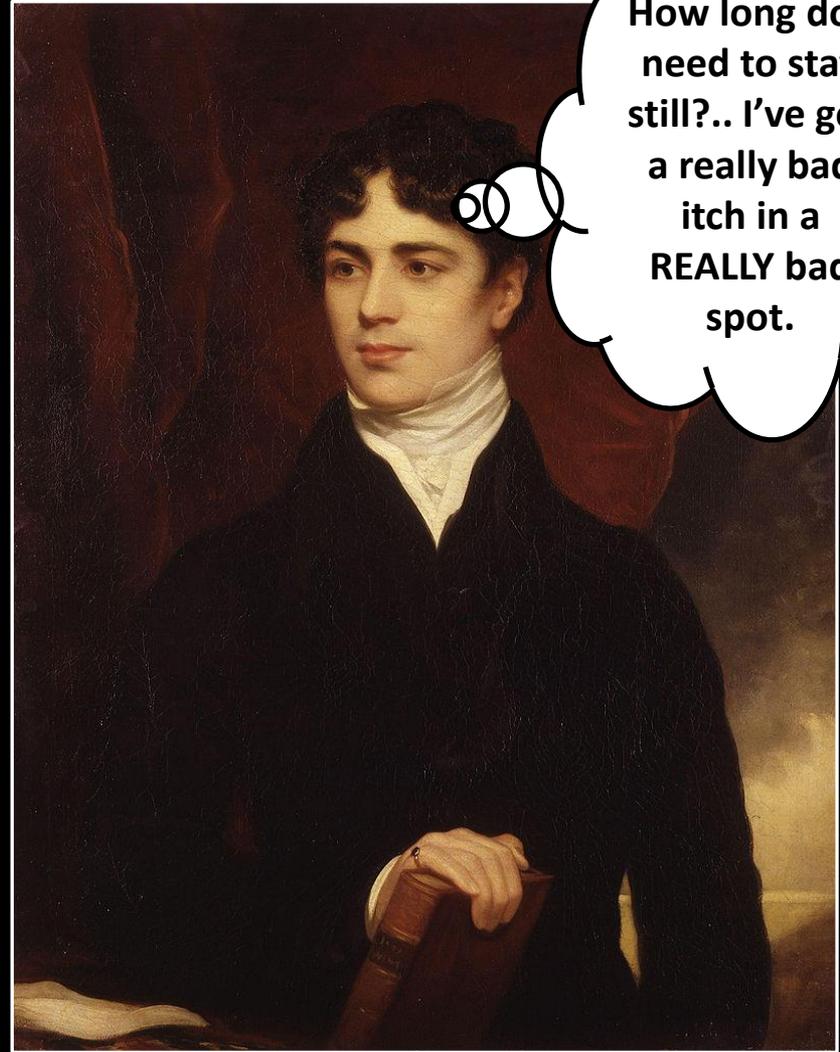
The Rebellions of 1837-1838



Artistic depiction of Patriot leaders hung in a public square. Montreal- 1838

The Durham Report

- The British government had to act quickly → they had to send someone to investigate the revolts in upper/Lower Canada
- They sent a man named **Lord Durham** to the BNA colonies to investigate the causes of the revolts & **suggest possible solutions**
- Durham came up with several 'solutions' for Upper/Lower Canada



Artistic depiction of Lord Durham

The Durham Report

- Durham writes a report → **'Durham Report' in 1839**
- There were two 'races' in the colonies → English & French (according to Durham)
- Durham said the French were inferior → no culture, no literature → **French must be assimilated**
- **Merge Upper & Lower Canada → 'United Canada'**
 - **One Legislative Assembly** for the whole colony
 - This way, French (language/ideas, concerns) will be the minority within the government → more difficult to have a voice → possible assimilation
- Durham will also **suggest RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT** to be implemented in the colony
- The British Government will only listen to **SOME** of Durham's suggestions...

The Union Act (A.K.A. the Act of Union)- 1840

- 4th constitution during British rule
- Implemented to help British government regain 'control' over the colony after rebellions 1837-1838
- Suggested by Lord Durham (Durham Report)
- **Upper & Lower Canada merged into 'United Canada' → Canada East & Canada West**

British Territories in North America after 1840



The Union Act (A.K.A. the Act of Union)- 1840

British Territories in North America after 1840



The Union Act (A.K.A. the Act of Union)- 1840

Characteristics of the territory of United Canada after 1840

- The Ottawa River was the dividing line between Canada West and Canada East
- The capital City was Kingston (Canada West)
 - It was in between the two largest cities in the colony: Montreal & Toronto
- United Canada was bordered by Rupert's Land to the West and New Brunswick to the East and The United States to the South

British Territories in North America after 1840



The Union Act (A.K.A. the Act of Union)- 1840

British Territories in North America after 1840

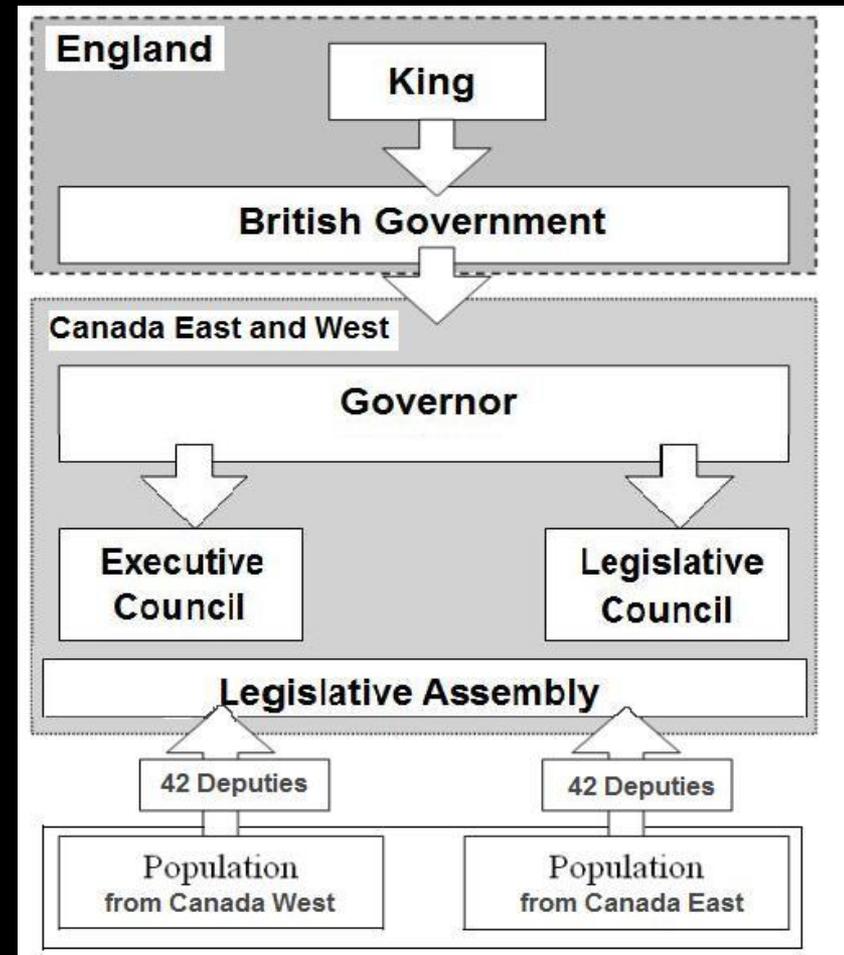


- Kingston would remain the capital of United Canada until 1844
- Montreal would take over from 1844 until 1849
- The capital would move to Toronto from 1849 until 1852
- Then Quebec City from 1852 to 1856
- Then back to Toronto in 1857-1858
- Then back to Quebec City from 1859-1866

The Union Act (A.K.A. the Act of Union)- 1840

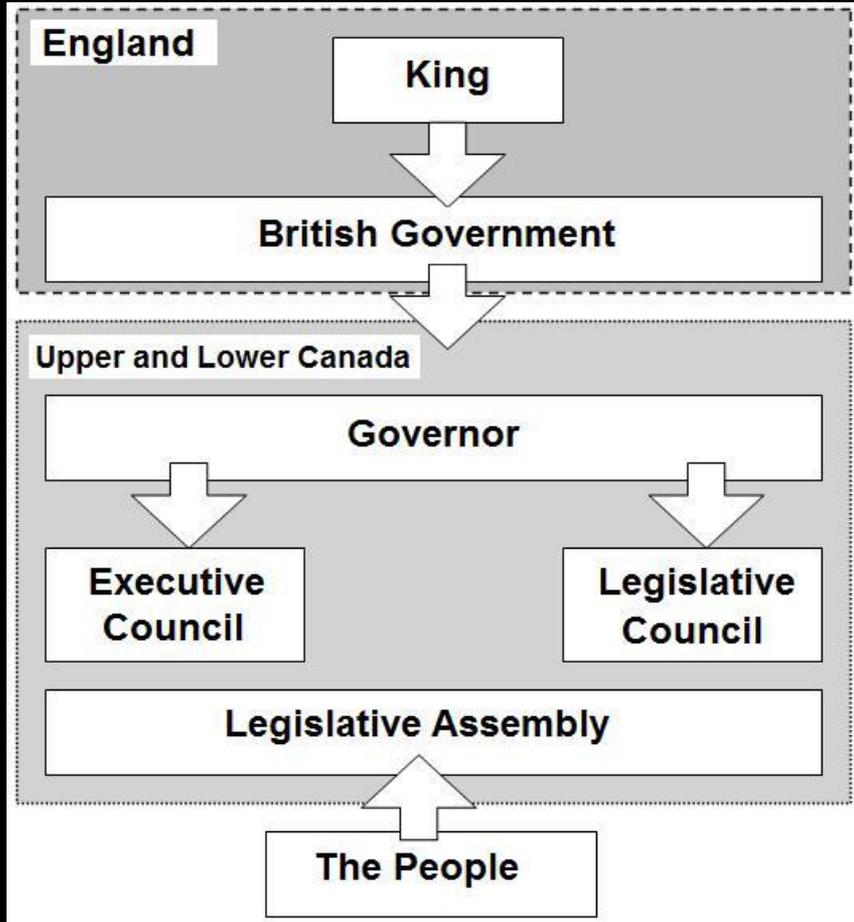
- The structure of the government changed
- **ONE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY** for whole colony → no more split between Upper/Lower Canada
- 42 members from Canada West AND 42 members from Canada East
- Legislative Council is STILL appointed by governor
- **NO RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT → GOVERNOR STILL HAS POWER OF VETO**
- Both French & English population demand responsible government that is elected!

Structure of the Government in United Canada after 1840

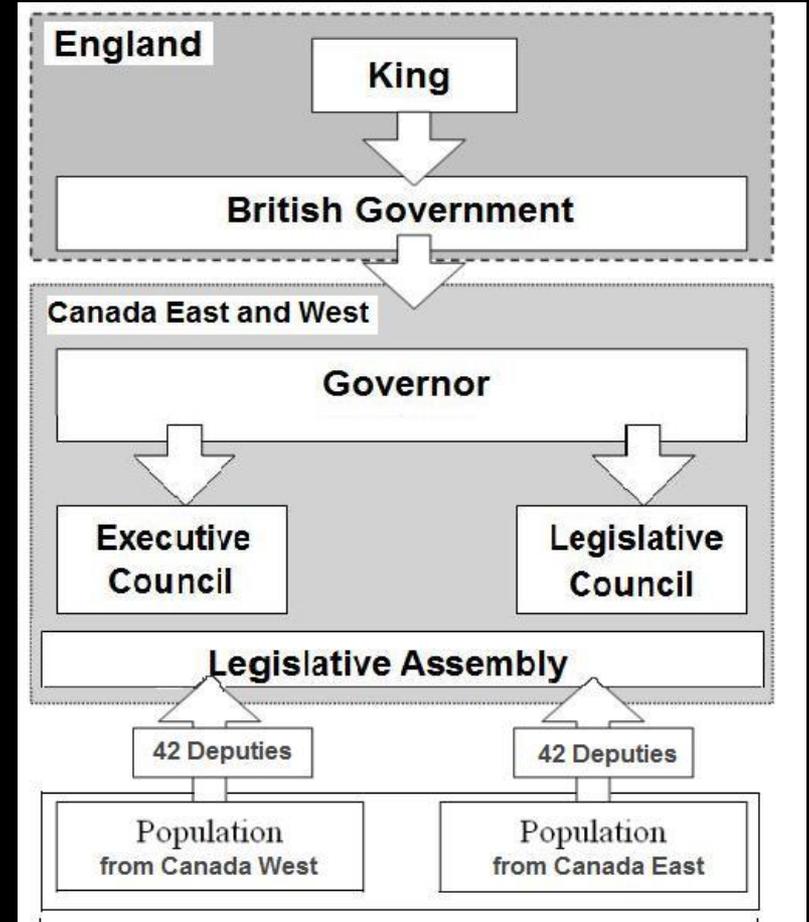


The Union Act (A.K.A. the Act of Union)- 1840

Government changes



BEFORE 1840

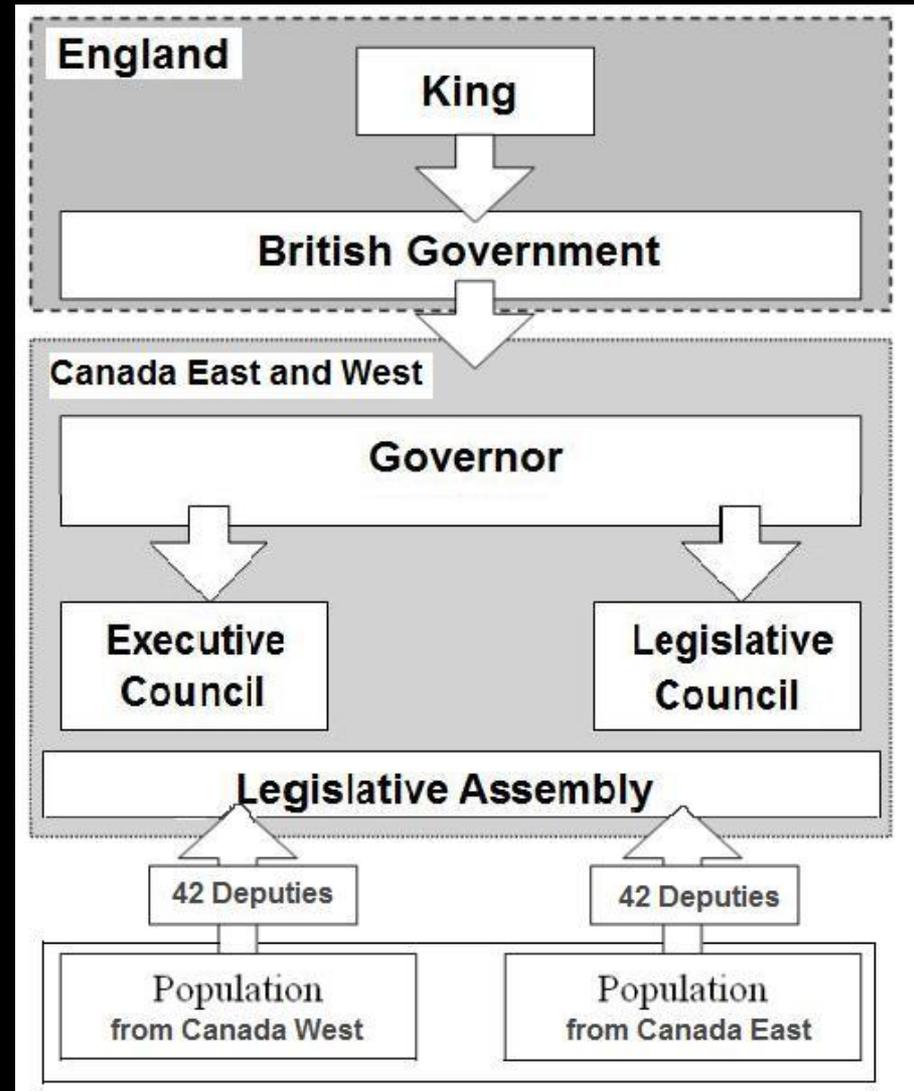


AFTER 1840

The Union Act (A.K.A. the Act of Union)- 1840

- **One assembly**
- Canada East has 42 representatives (deputies)
- Canada West has 42 representatives (deputies)
- Governor still has power of veto
- Councils still appointed
- **Not responsible government**
→ **NON democratic**
- People who represent British/English interests are the majority → ALL of Canada West & some in Canada East
- Even though Canada East had a larger population (650,000 people compared to 450,000 in Canada West)

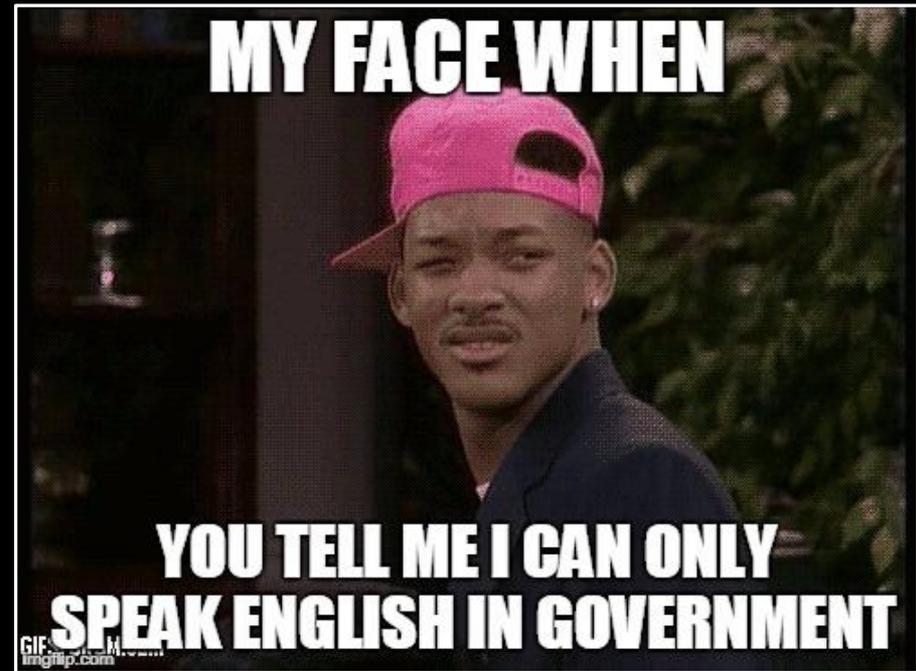
Structure of the Government in United Canada after 1840



The Union Act (A.K.A. the Act of Union)- 1840

Major problems after the Act of union:

- **Unfair representation** within the government → there should be more representatives from Canada East
- The **official language** spoken in government was changed to **ENGLISH ONLY** → this upset the French speak representatives

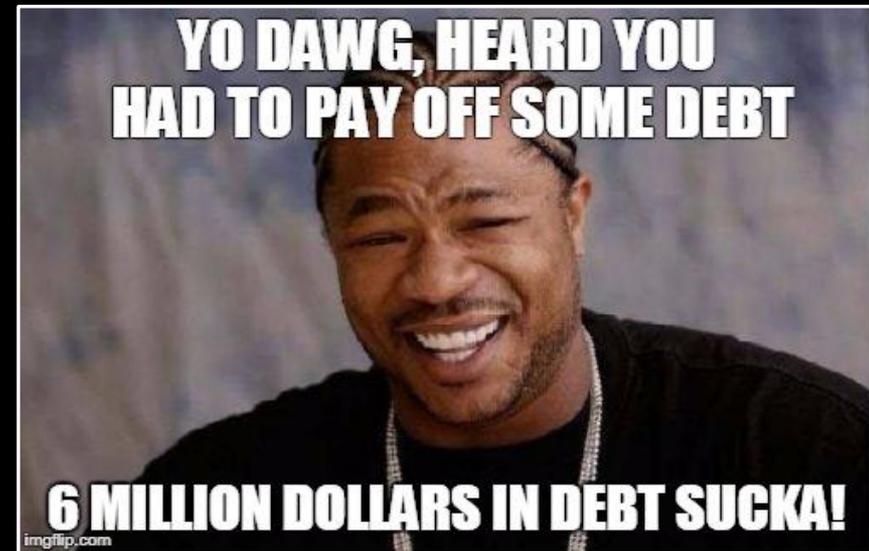


A meme created by Mr. O'Neill (please laugh)

The Union Act (A.K.A. the Act of Union)- 1840

Major problems after the Act of union con't:

- The **debts** of both 'Canadas' are combined → before the Act of Union → Lower Canada (Canada East) only had half a million dollars of debt → Upper Canada (Canada West) has 6 million dollars in debt.
- **Canada East had to pay for the spending of Canada West**



Another meme created by Mr. O'Neill
(please laugh again)

Connections the MEES 'Precisions of Learning' / Knowledge to be acquired

<i>Act of Union</i>
a. Socio-political and economic context
b. Political structure
c. Administrative provisions
d. Territory of the Province of Canada