



Name: _____ Group: 404- _____ Date: _____

Notes 1.4

Chapter 1: The Formation of the Canadian Federation

Section 4: Towards a Canadian Federation & the BNA Act

Pages that correspond to this presentation

The British North America Act (BNA Act): Pages _____

- By the early 1860s, there were several separate British Colonies in North America:
 - _____ (Canada East/Lower Canada & Canada West/ Upper Canada)
 - New Brunswick
 - Nova Scotia
 - Prince Edward Island
 - Newfoundland
 - British Columbia

- Not to mention the territories:
 - Rupert’s Land
 - The Northwestern Territory



- Each one of these territories had their own interests in mind, such as:
 - Growing their respective economies
 - Protection from American invasions
 - Building possible transportation networks within their respective territory (railways)
 - Paying off debts
- Some of these issues pushed some politicians in United Canada to look towards uniting the colonies – Form a _____
- Federation = different territories uniting together with 1 central government and separate governments for each territory → also may be called “CONFEDERATION”

What _____ to want a FEDERATION?

- The main reasons for Confederation:
 - _____ towards the North American colonies (including Free Trade)
 - The _____ of an _____
 - The _____ for a _____ in the colonies
 - _____ in United Canada
 - A _____ after the Reciprocity Treaty was not renewed
- Confederation = the name given to the act of joining the BNA colonies together



1. British attitudes towards the North American colonies:

- British Empire still large
- Less focus on military dominance → more on commercial dominance (trade, etc.) → Commercial empire
- England wanted the North American (NA) colonies to take responsibility for themselves → they were becoming a financial burden on the Empire
- England wanted the NA colonies to unite BUT still report to England for the final say on important issues

2. The threat of an American invasion:

- 1861-1865 → _____
- England and colonies 'neutral'
- Union (Northern States) believed that England and it's colonies were secretly supporting the Confederate States (Southern States)
- There are _____ that suggest that this may have been true...

2. The threat of an American invasion:

- The _____ -
- In October, 1864 at least 18 men connected to the Confederate states left Canada and traveled into the United States –" St. Albans, Vermont
- They robbed banks and 'shot up the town'
- They later escaped to Montreal where they were caught, but later let go on technicalities
- The upset the Northern States even more!



- Because of this perceived support for the Confederate States → the Union basically said once the war is over, the British Colonies in NA would be invaded...
- England sent 14,000 troops to the NA colonies between 1861-1862 → this cost the British a lot of \$\$\$
- Even after the Civil war in the USA → Americans used the expression ‘Manifest Destiny’
- Americans believed that it was their destiny to hold all the territory in NA → they expanded westward to the Pacific Coast
- This was clearly alarming to the British NA colonies...
- They were concerned that the Americans may take portions of Rupert’s Land and possibly British Columbia...
- England did not want to pay to protect these colonies... Uniting together to protect themselves was a possibility

3. The need for an expansive railway network:

- As the colonies hoped to expand their commercial exports, a strong _____ was _____ → _____
- Cities like Montreal wanted to connect to ice free ports on the East Coast so imports and exports could be moved in winter
- Building such a railway system was _____ → the individual colonies were in large amounts of debt building small railway networks
- Tunnels and bridges required manpower, materials and time = VERY EXPENSIVE
- Uniting the colonies would help spread the costs and the central government could use its powers to negotiate trade deals that would help pay for the cost of the railway



4. Political instability in United Canada:

- By the 1850s → Canada West (mainly English speaking) had a larger population than Canada East (mainly Francophone)
- However Both Canada East and West had the same number of representatives in the government
- Politicians (the ‘Grit’ party) in Canada West complained:
 - More representatives for Canada West because the population was larger → _____
- In addition two main political parties held majorities in each of the Canadas
 - The _____ in Canada West
 - The _____ (*Les Bleus*) in Canada East
- This caused many ‘deadlocks’ when it came time to vote on laws → no clear majority
- A majority in both Canada West AND East was needed..... Didn’t happen very often
- This caused some problems:
 - Difficult to pass any legislation (laws) → nothing getting done
 - The representatives were voted on 10 times between 1854-1864 → 10 different governments in 10 years



- All of these issues....
 - British attitudes towards the British colonies in North America
 - Threat of an American invasion...
 - Need for a stronger transportation system (expensive railways)...
 - Ministerial (political) instability...
- Forced political leaders in the British North American (BNA) colonies to come up with a plan to help the British colonies in NA become independent (sort of...)

The Road to Confederation: _____

- The political Situation in Canada was a bit complicated around 1864...
- In Canada West:
 - Conservative Party
 - The Clear Grit Liberal Party
- In Canada East:
 - 'Parti Bleu' → French Conservative Party
 - 'Parti Rouge' → French Liberal Party
- The Conservative Party and the 'Parti Bleu' held the same ideologies
- Clear Grit Liberals and the 'Parti Rouge' sometimes held the same ideologies



- Each major part had their own _____ within United Canada
- However → political deadlocks and ministerial instability didn't allow any of the parties to advance their objectives
- George Brown decided to approach 'JAM' and Etienne-Cartier and ask them to for a coalition → even though they were from different political parties
- _____ = _____
- Both JAM & Etienne-Cartier agreed to the coalition
- They can now 'steer' United Canada in the direction they want → to form a country somewhat independent of England
- The three men also agreed on certain terms if the coalition were to work long term:
 - _____ would get 'Rep. by Pop.' & expansion of Canada's territory
 - _____ would get a central government to help control/direct the country
 - _____ would get a provincial government that looked out for French Canadian values, culture, education and language

The Road to Confederation: _____

- The maritime colonies (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland/Labrador) agreed to discuss federation
- The Maritime colonies were holding a _____ in Charlottetown, PEI during September of 1864 to discuss the idea
- The Coalition from United Canada were going to crash the party!
- Conference = large meeting



- The United Canada coalition convinced the Maritime colonies to hold off on creating a Maritime union in Charlottetown
- JAM & George Brown convinced leaders from PEI, Newfoundland, NB and NS that joining United Canada and forming a federation would be a good idea
- Also: there was a lot of 'partying' → so convincing the leaders from the Maritimes was easy!
- Everyone decided that another meeting was needed
- October 10th, 1864
- United Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI and Newfoundland all in attendance
- The goal of this conference was to establish _____ if it were to become a country
- The colonies would have to agree on these rules and bring them back to their respective assemblies for approval
- In addition, England would have to agree on the rules as well



The Road to Confederation: _____

- The rules the colonies agree on were written in a document called the _____-
 - These 72 Resolutions would be the foundation for Canada’s political structure
 - The main ideas included:
 - Allowing each colony to have _____ within the federal government
 - Giving _____ and _____ (individual colony) governments
 - Stronger taxation powers to the federal government
 - The construction of a railway to connect the Maritime colonies to United Canada
1. Allowing each colony to have equal representation within the federal government
- The legislative portion of the government
 - Legislative = people that vote on laws
 - House of commons AND Senate
 - Laws are introduced and voted on
 - Laws can also be blocked and/or changed



2. Allowing each colony to have proportional representation within the federal government

- The Senate would have 72 members: 24 representing Canada West (Ontario), 24 for Canada East (Quebec), and 8 for EACH Maritime colony
- The members of the senate would be appointed (chosen)
- The House of Commons would have members from each colony (province) based on the population
- More people living in a province would mean that province has more representatives

3. Giving central powers to the federal government and local powers to provincial (individual colony) governments

- The colonies wanted to have a certain level of independence within the country
- However, they except a central (federal) government with certain powers
- The colonies (provinces) would have power over local/cultural issues
- The central (federal) government would have power of issues that concern the WHOLE country

4. Stronger taxation powers to the federal government

- The federal government would have the ability to tax the population at a much larger scale
- The Provinces would have much more limited taxation powers



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- Politicians such as Antoine Aime-Dorion did not like the 72 Resolutions
 - They believed that French Canadians would be ‘washed out’ within the federal government
 - Since English representatives would outnumber them due to Canada West and the Maritimes
 - Many debates were had to discuss the unification of the colonies
 - Since the 2 Canadas were combined, the vote was overwhelming → 91 for, 33 against
 - It was clear that there were still a large number of French Canadian representatives who did not favour a unification of the colonies
 - Reactions to the 72 Resolutions in Canada East

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- The same vote was passed in each of the Maritime provinces:
 - Nova Scotia = _____ to unification
 - New Brunswick = _____ to unification
 - PEI = _____ to unification
 - Newfoundland = _____ to unification
 - With the votes done, the _____ (United Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick) agree to send a representative to London to propose Confederation in 1866
 - The British parliament (government) _____
 - They adopt the _____ → which comes into effect on July 1st, 1867



- The BNAA is now called the ‘*Constitution Act, 1867*’
- This act gives way to the creation of the ‘Dominion of Canada’ Not just ‘Canada’
- The first 4 provinces within the Dominion of Canada are:
 - _____ - (formerly Canada East)
 - _____ (formerly Canada West)
 - _____
 - _____
- The first flag of Canada was called ‘The Red Ensign’
- Ottawa, Ontario continued to be the capital city

The Dominion of Canada- _____

- After July 1st, 1867:
 - Canada is called a _____
- What does this mean/why is that important?
 - Canada has some political independence from England → control over it’s own finances and internal affairs
 - England still represents Canada with regards to external relations (meetings with other countries)
 - Canada will not have it’s own diplomats
- Diplomat = a person that represents his/her country when visiting/meeting with other countries



- After July 1st, 1867:
 - Canada has 3 sections of government: the prime minister and his cabinet, the Senate AND the House of Commons
- The _____ is the head of the government → his/her political party has the largest amount of representatives in the House of Commons (voted in by the population)
- The _____ is a group of people the prime minister chooses to advise him in special areas (finance, labour laws, etc.)
- After July 1st, 1867:
 - Canada has 3 sections of government: the prime minister and his cabinet, the Senate AND the House of Commons
- The _____ is a group of people appointed by the prime minister from all over Canada
- These people can serve on the Senate until 75 years of age
- Their job is to debate laws passed in the House of Commons
- They can: pass laws, reject laws, suggest improvements before laws are passed AND propose laws themselves
- Every law MUST be passed by the Senate before it becomes official
- The Senate helps balance the government
 - Some areas of Canada like Ontario have much more representation in the House of Commons because of a large population



- After July 1st, 1867:
 - Canada has 3 internal sections of government: the Prime Minister and his cabinet, the Senate AND the House of Commons
- The _____ is a group of people VOTED by the population
- Each person in the House of Commons represents a specific area within Canada
- Some provinces have more representatives because the population of that province is larger
- Laws usually start in the House of Commons → members debate the laws before the laws are passed on to the Senate
- After July 1st, 1867:
 - Canada has 1 external section of government: the governor general → represents the Queen of England
- The _____ (GG) is chosen by the Queen of England on recommendation of the Prime Minister
- The GG's job is to advise the head of the government
- His/her job is mainly ceremonial → however, the GG can dissolve/stop Parliament
- **Expanding Canada's Territory after 1867**
- After July 1st, 1867:
 - 4 provinces: Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia
 - Quebec & Ontario's territory only a fraction of what they are today
 - A large portion of Canada as we know it now was called either _____ OR 'The Northwest Territories'

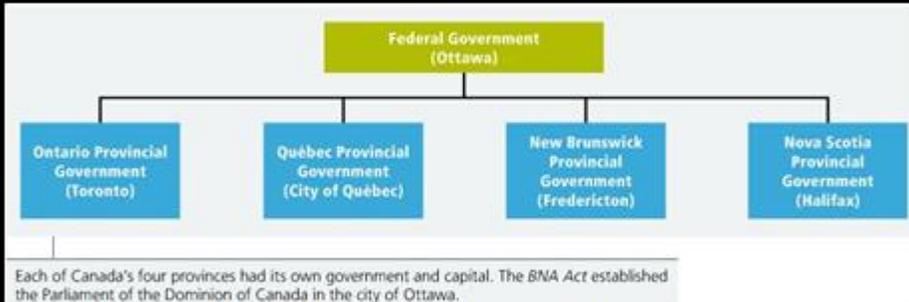


- These territories belonged to the Hudson Bay Company but were forced to merge the territories together → keeping the name 'The Northwest Territories'
- By 1870 → 'The Northwest Territories' were sold to Canada for £ 300,000
- £ = British Pound (it is like our \$)
- Why did Canada want to buy Rupert's Land & The North Western Territories?
 - To _____ from surrounding Canada (Remember the expression 'Manifest Destiny'?) → the USA already bought Alaska from the Russians in 1867
 - To have _____ from Europe who may want to settle in Canada
 - More immigrants = larger population = more people to buy Canadian made goods = stronger internal economy



The Dominion of Canada- Structure of Government

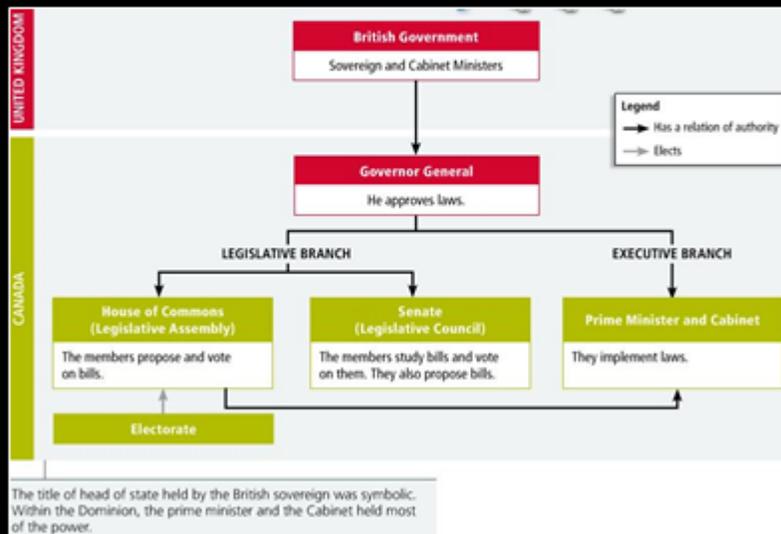
Federal-Provincial connection – the Federal system of Canada



Source: Fortin, S., Lapointe, D., Lavole, R. & Parent, A. Reflections on the 150th Anniversary of Confederation. Chénelle's Education, 2017, Page 51

The Dominion of Canada- Structure of Government

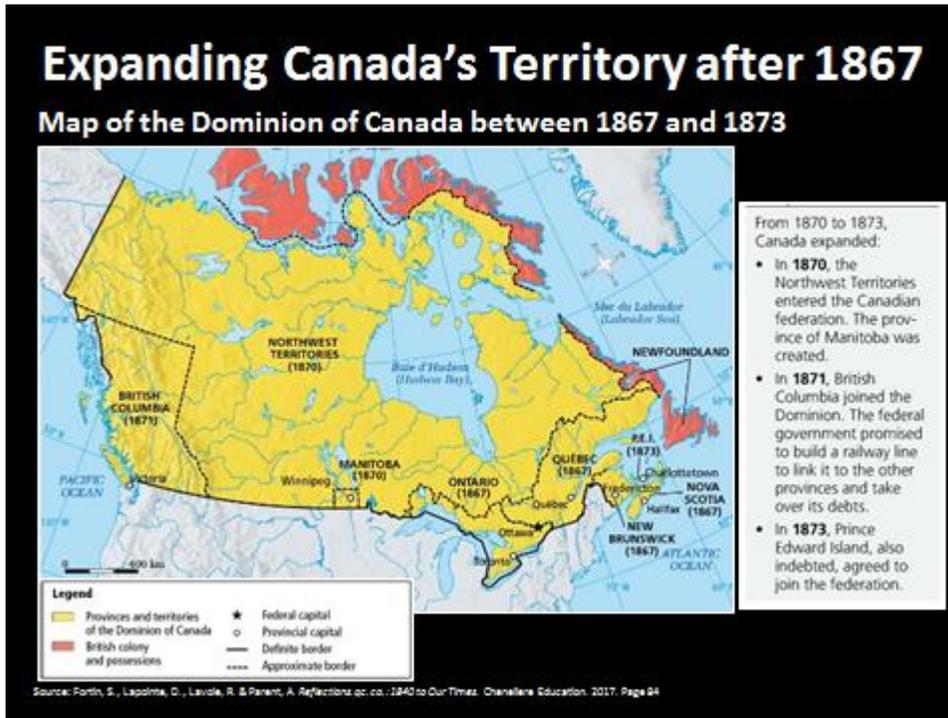
Canada's political connection to England after Confederation



Source: Fortin, S., Lapointe, D., Lavole, R. & Parent, A. Reflections on the 150th Anniversary of Confederation. Chénelle's Education, 2017, Page 52

Notes
Secondary IV – History of Quebec & Canada
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Review Questions

1. Name 4 reasons why politicians wanted to enter into a federation amongst the BNA colonies.

2. What was the ‘Great Coalition’? Who was involved?

3. For which reason(s) did the British Government grant responsible government in Upper and Lower



4. What was the BNAA? When did it happen? Which 4 provinces were the first Canadian provinces?

5. Why would Canada want to expand its territory by buying Rupert’s Land?
