

**Module 4: British
North America**

1791-1867

- Population and Settlement

- Who were the people of the British wave and where did they settle?

- What happens to the French population?

- Economy and Development

- How did the fur trade change?

- What was the impact of timber?

- What was it like to farm in a township?

- New transportation?

- Culture and Thought

- What idea did the British settlers bring?
How did British Canadian Culture develop?

- What was the reaction of French Canada and the Roman Catholic Church to the new arrivals

- What ideas were flourishing in Lower Canada before 1837?

- Powers

- Veto VS The Vote

- The struggle between the British party backed by the governor and the Parti Patriote

- Rebellion and Reform

- How did Responsible government finally come about?

Module 3 to 4

- After the start of the American Revolution, Loyalists fled the 13 colonies and arrived in Quebec.
- Along with the French Middle Class (petite bourgeoisie) they demanded the right to vote and have a Legislative Assembly

Remember Gov?

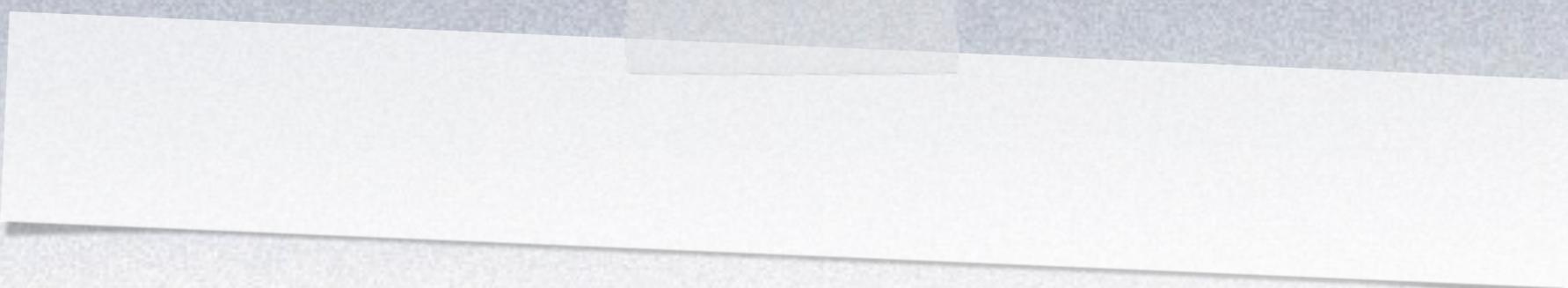
- The Leader in Canada during the entire British Regime was the Governor. He was appointed by the Monarchy and was NOT elected
- The Governor took all his orders from Britain and had to enforce those orders in the colony with the help of the Legislative Council (Executive) who were also NOT elected (Friends of the Governor)

Population

- After the Treaty of Paris: Roughly 65,000 people (mostly inhabitants) lived in the Province of Quebec
- The demographics consisted of: Canadiens, a minority of British subjects, a population of Amerindians and African Americans - some of which were slaves.

Late Loyalists

- Wave of immigrants in 1791 - ended in 1825
- Also known as “Americans”
- Moved in search of land, coming North to British North America
- They were called “Late Loyalists” by the Loyalists and their descendants

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- Whatever their motives, these Americans had a large impact on the settlement of places like the Ottawa Valley and the Eastern Townships
 - Philemon Wright started the commercial timber trade

What now?

- American independence and the immigration of Loyalists forced Britain to rethink the organization and functioning of the their northern colony
- A petition attacking the Quebec Act of 1774 as “inadequate” was sent to Britain
- London acknowledged it, but had no intentions of authorizing institutions that would give the people of Quebec too much individual power

Constitutional Act

- Cause: The Arrival of the Loyalists



Constitutional Act

- Purpose: Separate the English and the French

Constitutional Act

- Measures: Divide the Province of Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada
- Upper Canada: English, Protestant, townships and English laws (civil and criminal)
- Lower Canada: French, Catholic, French people could work in the administration and French civil laws would apply

Constitutional Act

- Success or Failure?: FAILURE
- Why?: It fails because the English and the French are still living together today.

Constitutional Act Powers

- The Constitutional Act gave the people some say in government within the colonies
- The Governor held supreme power in the colonies and commanded all the armed forces. He was responsible for the administration of the colonies and named the members of the councils.
- The governor could VETO (turn down) laws

Constitutional Act Powers

- Both Lower and Upper Canada had Lieutenant Governors
- They each served as the Governors deputy
- In Lower Canada the Governor often served as the Lieutenant Governor too

Constitutional Act Powers

- Each colony also had an Executive Council
- They have 9 members each and the Governor appointed each member
- These councils were in charge of advising the Governor as well as to administer laws, the budget and the civil service

Constitutional Act Powers

- The Legislative assembly was different however.
- Each assembly was elected by the people. An election was held at least every 4 years
- Each had 50 deputies, who were the elected representatives of the people

Constitutional Act Powers

- The elected officials of the Legislative councils were not paid
- They tended to be professional people such as lawyers, doctors, and notaries
- It had the power to approve or disapprove taxes needed to run the colony

Constitutional Act Powers

- Ordinary people got some say in Government.
- Not everyone could vote. To be able to vote it was necessary to be a British subject over 21 years old.
- The voter also had to own property and earn over 20 shillings a year - women could vote if they fit these requirements as well.

Coming up short

- The act was supposed to help solve the problems of a colony that had both French and English speaking groups
- However, the act did not work well in Lower Canada, even though the French Canadiens agreed and welcomed it at first.

What Went Wrong?

- There were fights over the language to be used during debates in the assembly
- English speaking merchants wanted to tax property
- Land owning Canadiens wanted to tax goods
- Merchants wanted to spend money to build canals to make it easier to reach UC

Representative Gov't

- The type of government was called Representative Government
- The people elected their representative to members of the Legislative Assembly
- The members could propose and pass laws, but the appointed governor or the appointed Legislative Council could VETO them. THIS IS NOT DEMOCRATIC.

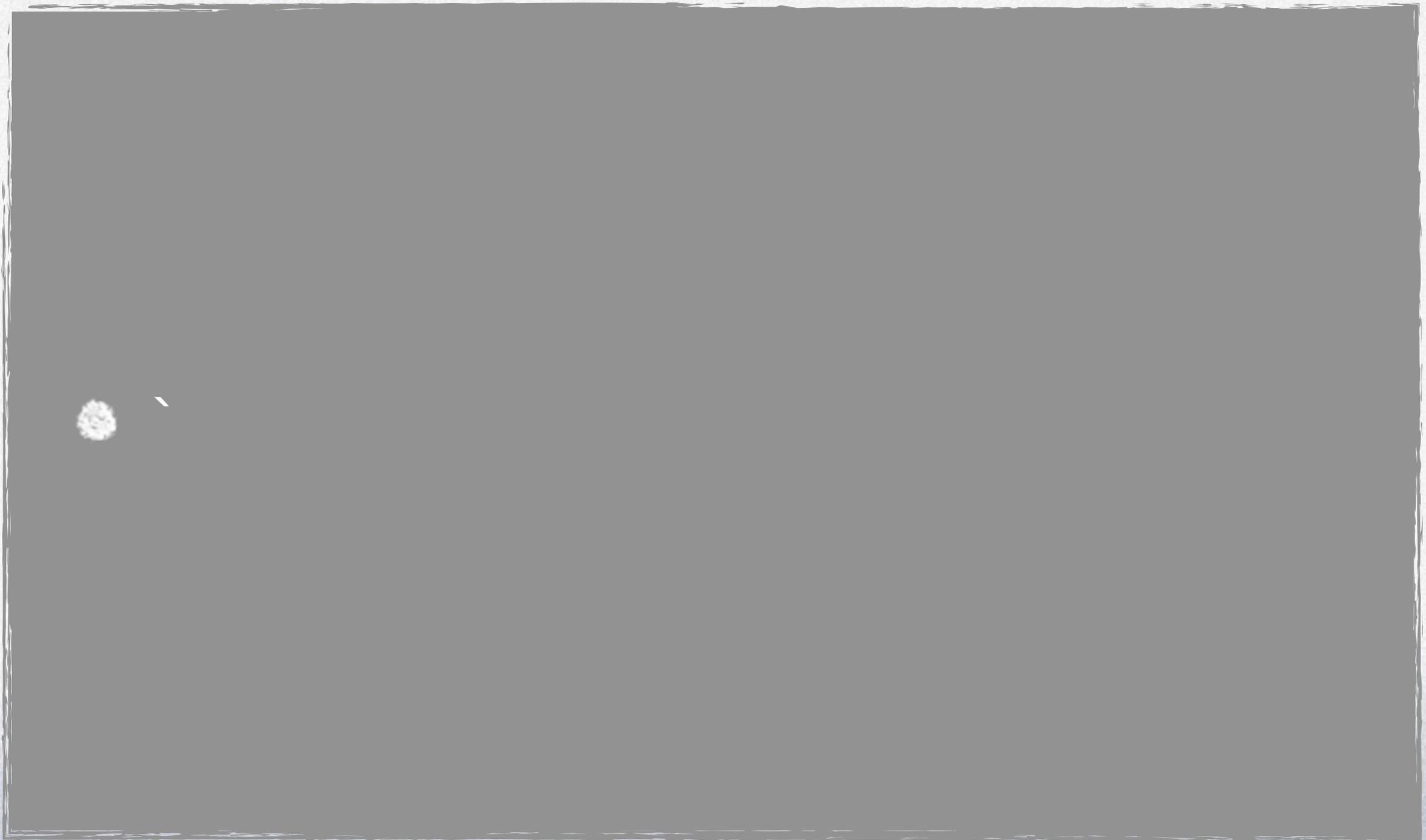
Lower Canada

- In Lower Canada most of the elected officials were french speaking, while the appointed councils were a major of English speakers
- The governors were aristocrats from Great Britain who were not well informed about Canadian affairs
- This meant that in most cases they tended to side with the English speakers

Chateau Clique

- These merchants and the Governor were known as the “Chateau Clique” because the governor's residence was at the Chateau St. Louis
- The Chateau Clique held the real power as they could veto any law they disagreed with

Sir James Craig



Sir James Craig

- He called the protests of the nationalists a “reign of terror”
- He dissolved the Assembly three times because he disagreed with votes taken by its nationalist majority
- Craig’s policies met with strong oppositions from the Canadian leaders who were lawyers and merchants. It is here that Louis Joseph Papineau will begin to emerge as one of their leaders

War of 1812

- 1812-1814
- Britain VS The United States
- Even though the Americans had formally gained their freedom from the Treaty of Paris in 1783, tensions between the two countries remained

Causes of the War of 1812

● Causes

- British support of Aborigines in the United States west (uncertain borders) represented a lack of respect from Britain
- They didn't pull their army out of the western USA until the late 1790s

Causes of the War of 1812

- Imprisonments of US citizens into the British Royal Navy (Americans forced to serve on British ships and fight Napoleon “War Hawks.”) Politicians from US south and west determined to drive British out of North America

American Strategy

- Cut Canada in two - divide and conquer
- Hope Canadians will rise up and rebel against the British
- Americans weren't united in their war effort - New England was even against it
- Poor leadership and unmotivated early in the war

British Strategy

- Hold the colony until reinforcements arrive from Britain
- Problems:
 - They did not trust recent American immigrants in Canada (loyalists). They also fear the French Canadians will be disloyal
 - Tied down in Europe fighting Napoleon's France
 - Poor Communication and transportation

The War - Part 1



Tecumseh



Isaac Brock



General Hull

The War - Part 1

- 1812: several badly organized American attacks on the Canadian colonies failed
- 1813: the Americans captured and burned the small town of York (current day Toronto) in Upper Canada
- In October, an American army was defeated in the Chateauguay valley by a much smaller force of French Canadiens militia and Aborigines
- November 1813: another American army was defeated at Chrysler's Farm (near today's Upper Canada Village)

The War - Part 1

- The American's are coming!
- The real Laura Secord was a pioneer and a mother of five whose husband was injured at the battle of Queenston Heights
- He had been wounded and left for dead, but Laura found him and brought him home for treatment
- She was nursing her husband back to health when the American arrived and took over the Secord homestead.

Laura Secord

- Laura overheard the American officers discussing their plan for a surprise attack against the British
- The following morning she set out to warn the British troops
- She made the 32 kilometre trip across a war torn section of Canada and warned Lieutenant Fitzgibbons

The War - Part 2

- 1814
- British gets troops to North America and take war to the USA
- Washington DC and the White House is burned



Results

- War ends in a stalemate (neither side wins)
- The Americans failed to gain the support of most people in Canada - the Loyalists felt safer with their British rulers
- Pre war borders are agreed upon and confirmed
- Today it is a largely forgotten war in the USA

- The war did improve the Canadian economy
- Since the French controlled Europe, Britain was cut off from all traditional sources of supply
- Britain's North American colonies became a major source of timber, tar, potash, and wheat for the British market
- These exports made the colonies more prosperous

Changes in the Fur Trade

- After the conquest, English speaking merchants took over the trade - Montreal continued to be a fur trading centre
- After formation of USA, trades moved onto the North of British North America, an area which later would become Western Provinces and Northern Territories

- Hudson's Bay Co: Was based out of London England, and its crews took furs by shorter routes to company posts called "factories." The ships would come in late summer to collect the furs and take them to England
- The Northwest Co and the XY Co: Were based out of Montreal, and were owned by English speaking entrepreneurs. Their large canoes needed to travel 3000 km to the west to find good furs. The route became very long. To reduce costs they joined in 1804

- Wheat and timber become far more important during this period
- Changes to borders and territories
- In 1821, the Hudson Bay Company headquarters in London, took over the last major Montreal fur company, the Northwest Company
- Montreal ceased to be a major centre for the fur trade after this

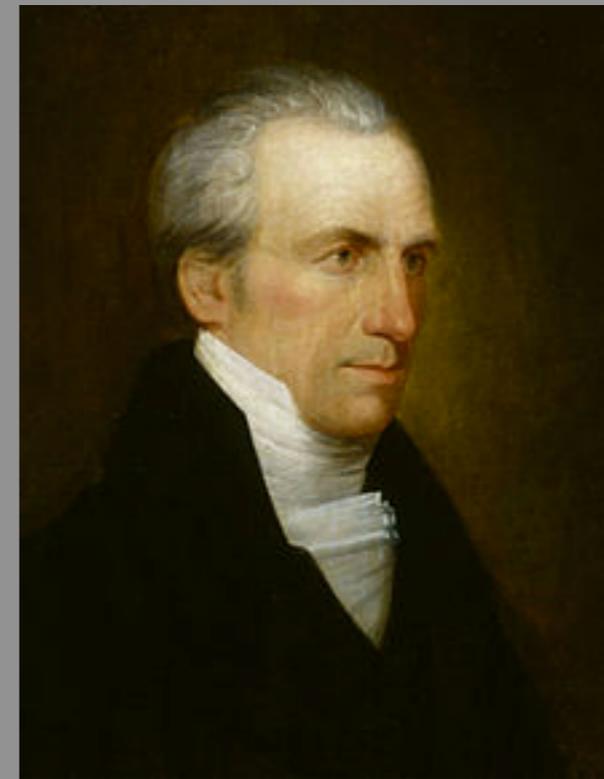
The Economy of BNA

- When Canada becomes a part of the British Empire it gained access to a high growing and prosperous market.
- Canada has acquired important trading link

Timber

- What events led to a demand for the white pine of BNA (and especially the Ottawa Valley)?
- Who was the original driving force behind the industry in the Ottawa Valley?
- Describe the impact of the trade on the settlement of the valley

- Timber becomes the most important new staple in BNA. There was a need for lumber in Britain due to the Napoleonic Wars (The Napoleon Blockade)
- Excellent prices could be had
- Philemon Wright
 - 1806



- Main logging areas in Lower Canada were along the Ottawa Valley, in the Gaspé, and in the Saguenay area
- These forests had never been logged before, so there were many big trees
- Logs were formed into rafts and floated down the river to Quebec City where they were loaded aboard ships - for Britain
- Labour intensive - required many workers mainly in the winter

- Logging required many workers, mainly in winter
- Trees were cut down using axes and cross cut saws
- Skidders used horses to drag the logs out, while skilled men used special axes to square the logs.
- Cooks prepared meals in the logging camps which were often deep in the forests
- In spring, raftsmen built huge log rafts and then guided them down river to market

- Many Canadiens worked on their farms in summer and then worked in the forests in winter. It gave them the extra income that they needed for a better standard of living.
- Local shopkeepers and merchants grew prosperous supplying the forest workers
- The Irish however riveted the French Canadiens as they were willing to work for lower wages. Fights and brawls were common if the two groups met in taverns

Timber Is The New Fur

- Timber replaced fur as the main export in Canada
- It formed 74% of all exports in 1810 as Britain placed low tariffs on timber
- Between 1808 and 1812 exports of pine timber increase by 1300%
- Many ordinary people made money working in the forest and thus gave them more to spend
- English speaking owners, many who lived in Montreal, became rich. This meant they had more capital to invest

Timber Exports from Canada

Year	Exports
1802	13,500
1807	40,500
1809	135,000
1840	750,000
1846	1,125,000
1860	900,000

Impact of Timber

- Banks
 - A pool of capital (\$)
 - Bank of Montreal 1817
- Transportation
 - Canals
 - Railroads - Canada's first opened in 1836
- Sawmills



BNA “Mercantilism”

- BNA timber (and wheat) exports were protected by Preferential tariffs
- Vocabulary
 - Tariff:
 - Tax on IMPORT goods
 - Prefer: to favour something

- The impact (effect, result, consequences) was that BNA exports to Britain rose dramatically and money flowed into BNA)
- Timber was a MARKET



- In addition million of tons of hay oats and wheat were needed for the men and horses who worked the bush.
- This is why people settled here in the Pontiac in particular and the Ottawa Valley as a whole
- Farmers now sold things to the people working in the timber trade

Agriculture in Townships

- All new land was to be settled after 1791 into townships
- Millions of new acres in Upper and Lower Canada came into production (began farming)
- Wheat become the new staple
- The British market was growing

Agriculture in Townships

- The British North America Market itself was growing
- The Timber industry was a market for farmers in certain regions (including the Ottawa Valley)
- As the 19th century progressed, farmers diversified into other crops and into dairy

Canals

- In the days of New France the road system was not ideal
- Roads were very muddy and were at their best in the winter months
- Rivers were used to carry furs and the small amount of goods traded
- However, during the British period it was necessary to transport soldiers and settlers and the goods they needed to upper Canada

Canals

- Fierce rapids at Lachine and further along the St. Lawrence were a major problem
- English speaking merchants wanted the government to build canals round these rapids
- This led to disputes in the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada
- French speaking seigneurs and professionals opposed spending money on canal building

Canals

- They argued that the canals would mainly benefit the English speaking settlers in Upper Canada
- 1780: first canals were made along the St. Lawrence between Lac Saint Louis and Lac Saint Francois
- These canals were shallow and narrow
- They could only use small boats and travellers and goods still had to travel by roads

Canals

- 1824: the Lachine canal opened between Montreal and Lachine
- The canal was only 5 ft deep but soon became very important
- 1825: Erie Canal connected Lake Erie and the Mohawk/Hudson rivers. It drew a lot of cargo from the Great Lakes to the Port of New York
- 1829: Welland Canal opened between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. It carried boats round Niagara Falls

Canals

- The Rideau Canal from Ottawa to Kingston opened in 1832
- It was considered to be a safer route since it lay inland from the American border along the St. Lawrence River



Early Railroad

- Canada's first railway in 1836
- The short Champlain and St. Lawrence railway ran from La Prairie to Montreal to Saint Jean
- 1839: The Ontario and Erie Railroad began to carry passengers and goods around Niagara Falls
- 1847: Montreal to Lachine line was opened
- Transportation has vastly improved!

Immigration

- Before 1760: The population of New France was almost entirely French and Roman Catholic
- After 1760: There were three waves of immigration

New Arrivals

- Soon after the conquest, merchants came from Britain and the American Colonies in hopes to gain economic prosperity
- After the American Revolution about 1/3 of the Loyalists moved to the remaining British Colonies in North America

Quarantine

- New Arrivals in Canada docked in Grosse Ile
- This was a quarantine station located down river from Quebec City
- Immigrants brought diseases to Lower Canada such as cholera and typhus
- There were several epidemics (rapid spread of disease)

New Arrivals

- 1791 - 1825
 - American's in search of land (Late Loyalists)
- The British Wave
 - Huge wave of immigration to BNA
1815-1896
 - Over 1 million British immigration to BNA
 - England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland

New Arrivals

- The voyage across the Atlantic was long and miserable.
- Poor immigrants were crammed together below deck
- Food and sanitation was poor
- Many died during the voyage - Cholera and typhus were the dreaded disease aboard ship
- 1847-1848: out of 76 000 Irish who set sail, 8 000 died at sea, 10 000 died in Quarantine

New Arrivals

- British



- English

- Push factors: Industrialization, and agricultural revolutions

- Scottish



- Push factors: lack of opportunity

New Arrivals

- Irish



- Push factors:

- lack of land, lack of opportunity, religion and famine
- Largest group, minority were protestants, very few Irish came to BNA after the Great famine (most “famine Irish” went to the USA)
- Grosse Ile

New Arrivals

- The majority of immigrants moved to Upper Canada
- However those who remained in Lower Canada found work in Quebec and Montreal
- Immigrants were a cheap source of labour
- Irish labourers played a major role in the construction of public works (bridges/canals/etc.)

New Demographics

- Montreal became a city with an English speaking majority
 - 57% of the population was English in 1844
- By 1850 there were several areas with high anglophone populations:
 - Eastern Townships: 64% anglophone
 - Ottawa Valley - 80% anglophone
 - Southern counties (areas south on Montreal) 75% anglophone
 - Gaspesie 50% anglophone

New Demographics

- As a result of the arrival of English immigrants, three distinct groups emerged in Lower Canada
- French: Roman Catholics who spoke french and farmed on seigneuries. Their numbers grew rapidly due to a very high birthrate
- Irish: Roman Catholics who spoke english. Some were Protestant if they were from Ulster. Many of them were labourers or worked in the forests

New Demographics

- English/Welsh/Scots: Mostly English Protestants. Some farmed in townships, some were labourers and tradesmen, while the rest were businessmen, bankers and high officials

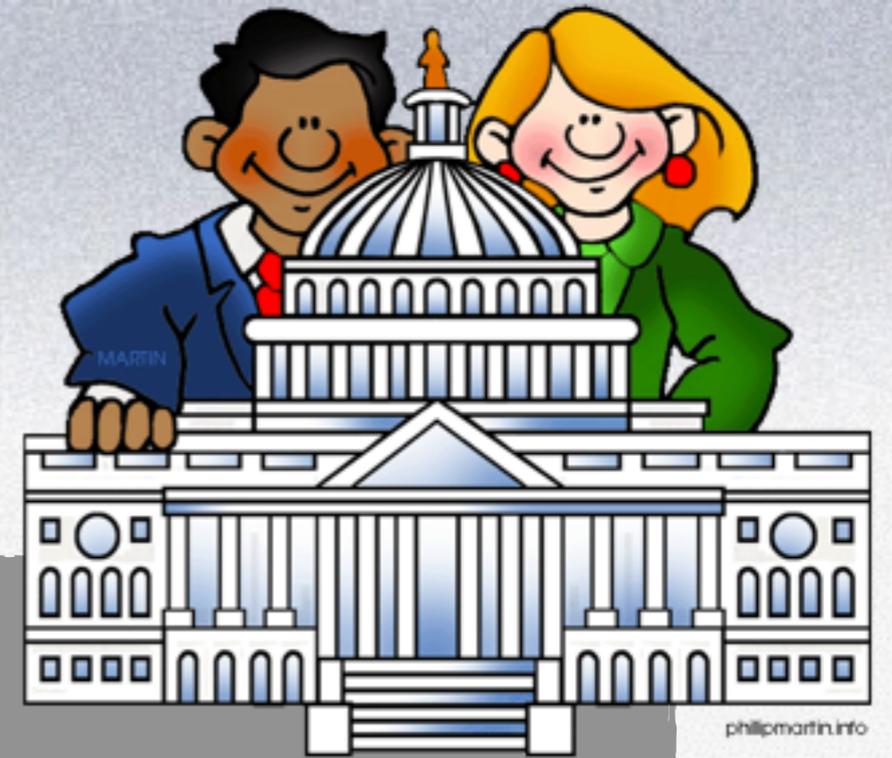
French Feel Cornered

- Due to the high number of english speaking immigrants, the French population were concerned.
- Many feared that the outbreaks of cholera and typhus would bring new epidemics
- They worried that the immigrants would work for lower wages, and thus take their work
- They worried about competition for land
- Business and banks were controlled by the English

Upper VS Lower Canada

- The population of Upper Canada was expanding rapidly.
- Previously, Lower Canada had a much larger population than Upper Canada
- Despite their high birth rate, Lower Canada was losing ground to Upper Canada
- Soon the French speaking population would be outnumbered by the English - most being protestant

Social Groups



- High government administration:
 - Governor, council members, and senior civil servants
 - English Speaking
 - Most came from Britain
 - They hoped the French would be assimilated

Social Groups

- Wealthy Businessmen
 - Bankers, Merchants, Entrepreneurs
 - Mostly English Speaking
 - American, Scottish, English
 - Mainly lived in Montreal and QC City
 - They had close contracts with the administrators of the Government, making sure laws favoured their interests (trade)



Social Groups



● Professionals

- Lawyers, Notaries, Doctors and Surveyors
- Mostly French speaking
- Leaders in the rural areas
- Served in the Legislative Assembly
- Became spokesmen for the French Majority
- Opposed the policies of the colonial administration and the wealthy businessmen

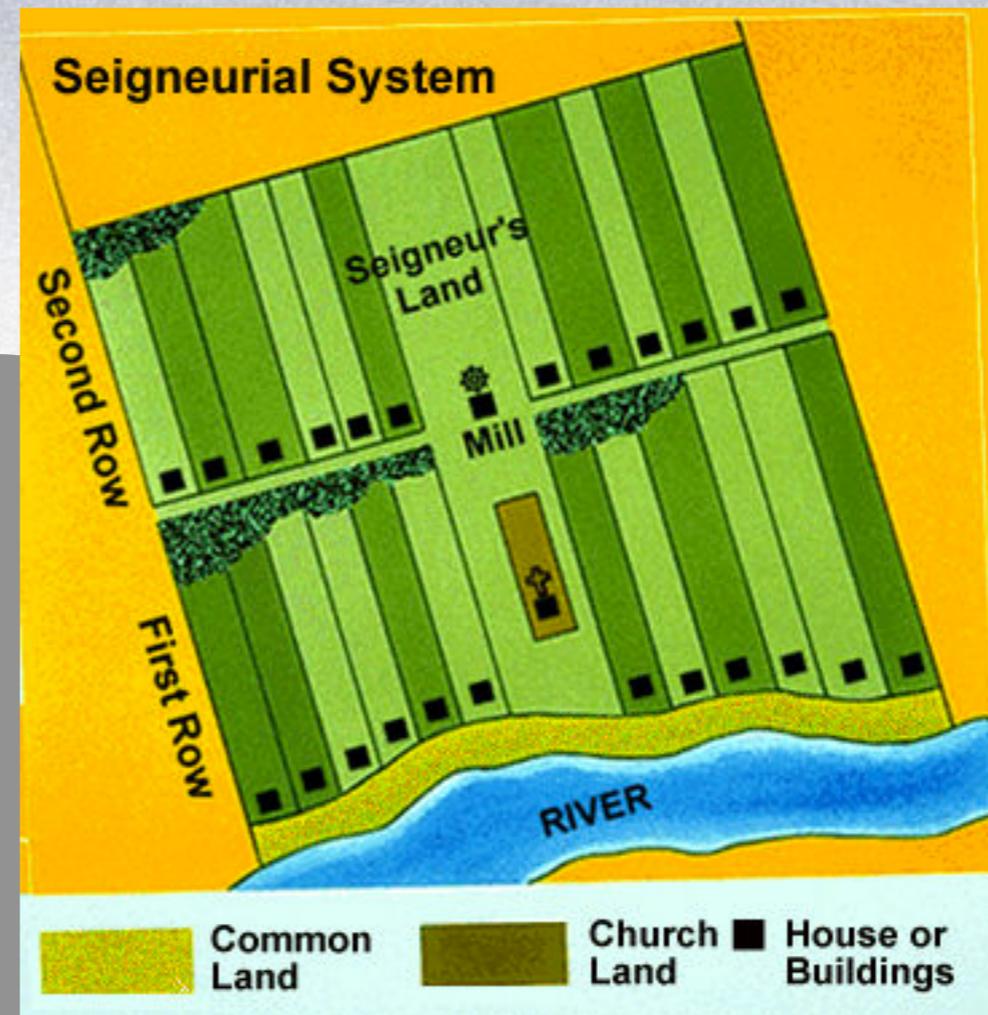
Social Groups



- Clergy
- Bishops and Priests
- Lost some of their influence on the professionals
- Wanted to have control over the schools
- Mistrusted the attempts by the Assembly to control education

Social Groups

- Seigneurs
- Land owners
- Nearly all were French
- They had conservative ideas and clung to their privileges
- Often opposed the Legislative Assembly



Social Groups

- Small Businessmen
 - Storekeepers, General Merchants, and Tavern Keepers
 - Mostly French Speaking
 - Feared the power of rich businessmen
 - Tended to support laws that favoured trade and higher profits

Social Groups

- Common People
 - Farm workers, craftsmen, labourers
 - Most farmers were French, while English immigrants lived in the townships
 - Most were poor and opposed increases in taxes
 - Had little direct power