

## Module 6: Challenge and Change (1896-1939)

### Population and Settlement:

#### *Number of Inhabitants and Composition of the Population of Quebec*

1901- Approximately 1.7 million inhabitants  
Majority Francophones  
Minority Anglophones  
Small number of Aboriginals and other groups of people

#### *Measures taken by the State*

The Canadian government made an effort in the 19th and 20th centuries to control immigration to Canada; by either encouraging or discouraging people from various parts of the world to come to Canada:

During the late 1800s and early 1900s the government was offering **FREE LAND IN WESTERN CANADA** to immigrants from the US or parts of Northern and Western Europe

The Chinese Immigration Act (sometimes called the “exclusion act”) of 1923 basically excluded people from China from immigrating to Canada.

#### *Urbanization*

Over the years, the population of Quebec has become more and more urban (more people living in the cities than in the countryside):

1901: Urban population smaller than rural  
1931: Urban population slightly higher than rural population  
2001: Urban population much larger than rural population

Between 1851 and 1901 many people moved to the cities to look for factory jobs that had developed due to industrialization

Today, many people move to the cities because they are new immigrants and want to have cultural support from their friends and families and help from government services that are located in cities

Since 1901, the look of cities has changed as well. Cities have expanded to include “**SUBURBS**”; residential areas outside of the downtown where people can live but still take transportation into the city for work

Transportation in the cities has developed to help people get from the suburbs to the city centre (train, bus, metro, highways)

Public health campaigns, CLSC, hospitals, etc.

Vaccination campaigns  
Construction of sewer systems and freshwater supplies

Shopping centres were built in the suburbs so that all of the people's consumer needs were located in one place (i.e. Tanger Outlets, Kanata Centrum)

Due to the great expansion of the cities, the government has had to do more to improve living conditions and build new "infrastructure" (roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, etc.)

### Economy and Development:

Second Phase of Industrialization 1900-1920

Energy Resource: hydroelectricity

Need for specialized labour (workers with special skills: machinists, engineers, etc.)

More complex mechanization

Resources exploited: copper, silver, gold, zinc, asbestos, water

New areas developed for natural resources: Abitibi, Cote Nord, Gaspesie

Effects of natural resource exploitation on the territory:

Development of the regions

Railway construction

Harbour development

Depression and Recession

Recession of 1870s

Banks in bad financial situation

Increased unemployment

Solution: National Policy established to save the economy

Depression of the 1930s

Stock Market Crash

High unemployment

Low Production

### Power and Countervailing Powers:

*Power Relations Between the Financial Circles and State*

Main Characters:

Canadian Pacific Railway, John A. MacDonald, Electricity Trusts

Demands made:

Income tax reductions

## Subsidies

Methods used by financial circles to influence the decisions by the state:

- Lobbying
- \$\$ contributions to political parties

Effects of power relations:

- Nationalization of hydro-electric companies
- Creation of crown corporations for economic purposes
- Passage of the Act of Govern the Financing of Policial Paries

## *Power Relations between the Unions and the State*

Main Characters:

- Monseigneur Charbonneau, Knights of Labour, Canadian Catholic Confederation of Labour

Demands made:

- Prohibition of child labour
- Deduction of union dues at the source
- Support for family life (respect the need for work/balance life)

Methods used by the Unions to influence the decisions by the state:

- Testify before the Royal Commission on relations of Labour and Capital
- Forming a "Common Front"
- Publishing the "Manifest de Grevistes" (pamphlet for strikers)

Effects of power relations:

- Recognition of Labour associations
- Intervention by the provincial police during labour conflicts
- Passage of the Act Respecting Labour Standards (laws that improved working conditions)