

Module 7: Contemporary Period in Quebec and Canada (1939-today)

Population and Settlement:

Number of inhabitants and Composition of the Population of Quebec

1961- approx. 5 million inhabitants

Majority Francophones

Minority Anglophones

Small number of Allophones (people who have neither French nor English as their first language)

2006 - Approx. 7.6 million inhabitants

Majority Francophones

Minority Allophones

Small number of Anglophones

Note: The Quebec population has become increasingly multicultural as time goes on

Population Growth

Population growth in QC has been due to **NATURAL GROWTH** and **IMMIGRATION**

One period of strong natural growth occurred during the **BABY BOOM** (1945-60)

Immigration

Reasons people would immigrate to Quebec

1. Improvement of their lifestyle (more money, better jobs, etc.)
2. Escaping bad political situations in their home countries (political persecution/ imprisonment)
3. Reunite with family in QC

Where most immigrants to QC come from:

1. 19th Century (1800s): Great Britain, USA
2. 20th Century (1900s): Eastern Europe, Haiti, Southeast Asia

Measures taken by the State

Canada's 1952 immigration Act actually discriminated against Blacks, Asians and homosexuals while encouraging immigration from Western Europe and the USA

Canada's 1976 Immigration Act changed how Canada evaluated immigration and gave more powers to the provinces (less discrimination):

People were not judged by their ethnicity (race: Asian, Black, etc.) but rather by whether or not they could contribute to Canadian society

QC was able to give preference to immigrants who spoke French
(France, Haiti, etc.)

As a result, the Canadian and Quebec populations became more diverse and multicultural over the years. Cities have developed ethnic neighbourhoods (Chinatown, Little Italy, etc.), businesses were developed for the communities and many new places of worship were constructed (Mosques, Synagogues, Temples, etc.)

Quebec Today

Demographics (What the population is like):

Low natural growth (people having fewer babies)

The population is Aging (the largest number of people are getting to retirement age) which means there will be a labour shortage and more costs to the healthcare system

There is increase immigration which is necessary to help fill the jobs left by retired workers

We have developed a set of shared values in QC:

French Language, Human Rights and Freedoms, Democracy

Economy and Development:

Agriculture

Changes between 1945-60:

Duplessis brings electricity to rural regions

Development of cooperatives (Co-ops)

Changes between 1960-80:

Fewer farms (Urbanization and use of machines means less people)

Use of fertilizers and pesticides

Changes since 1980:

More access to international markets

Focus on organized crops

Less Land available for farming (due to urban sprawl)

War Industry (WWII 1939-45)

World War II pulls Canada out of the Great Depression as materials are needed for the war effort and jobs are created

Women make up a large part of the workforce in factories as men are sent off to fight

Post War Economic Development 1945-1960

Industrial development:

- Increase in factory production

- Mineral Production

- Petrochemical production (oil, natural gas)

- Industrial development at this time was due to:

 - Helping rebuild Europe after the destruction of WWII

 - The USA had a large demand for raw materials and military materials

- Effects on society were:

 - Labour struggles (workers make more demands)

 - People began to have more individual purchasing power (higher standard of living); more money means more money to spend

- Employment growth in the tertiary (third) sector:

 - Many people were getting an education and started to get jobs in the service sector instead of manufacturing or resource extraction

- Effects on the territory

 - Development of cities and suburbs

 - Creation of the St. Lawrence Seaway

 - Expansion of the road network

Economic Development from 1960-1980 (QUIET REVOLUTION)

Economic development:

- Creation of small and medium sized business grows

- Quebec develops first multinational companies

- Reasons for economic development:

 - More government intervention in the economy made it easier for smaller businesses to grow

 - Examples of government intervention:

 - Crown Corporations (Hydro-Quebec)

 - Regional development plans

 - Stock Savings Plans

 - Effects on society

 - Increase in unions and union activity

 - Improved working conditions

 - Creation of new social problems

Effects on the territory

- Development of industrial zones
- Increase in residential construction
- Development of transportation infrastructure
- Construction of suburban shopping centres

Economic Development from 1980-1980 - 21st century

Reduced importance on the Primary (resource exploitation) and Secondary (manufacturing) sectors

Huge development in the high tech sector

Quebec becomes part of the worldwide competitions (**GLOBALIZATION**)

Effects on society:

- Job relocation

- Training programs for laid off workers

- Creation of new businesses

- Workers rights (Parental leave, Pensions, better work schedule, increased salaries)

Depression and Recession

Recession since the 1970s

- Caused by oil prices increases

- Closure of mining towns and less primary and secondary sector development

- Solution: Retraining programs, job creation, neoliberal economics (free trade agreements)

Economic Cycles

Economic indicators (measuring tools to help us see how the economy is doing):

- GDP (Gross Domestic Product) - Value of all the "stuff" the country makes

- Unemployment Rate

- Balance of trade (do we export more or import more?)

Expansion (growth) and contraction (recession):

- Expansion = more exports, more production, less unemployment

- Contraction= less production, less exports, more unemployment

Economic Policies

NAFTA 1994

Effects of Free Trade

- Some job losses in QC manufacturing

- Increase in some exports

Powers and Countervailing Powers:

Power Relations Between the Church and State

Main Characters:

Monseigneur Lafleche, Boucher de Boucherville, Duplessis, Frere Untel

Demands made by the church:

Colonization of new regions

Changes to the law that created the Department of education

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

Catholic Unions

Sermone

Support for Strikers

Effects of power relations:

Colonization of new regions

Refusal to give women the right to vote

Power Relations between the Nationalist Movements and the State

Main Characters:

Ligue pour la défense du Canada, Henri Bourassa, Rene Lévesque, Trudeau

Demands made by the Nationalists:

Change in the political status of Quebec

Passage of laws to protect the French Language

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

Founding political parties

Organizing the "Etats generaux du Canada francais

Demonstrations

Effects on power relations:

Plebicite on conscription

Using the "War Measures Act" during the October Crisis

Referendums

Clarity Act

Power Relations between the Feminist Groups and States

Main Characters:

Suffragettes, Federation des Femmes de Quebec, Adelard Godbout (PM of Quebec)

Demands made by the Feminists:

The Right to Vote

Equality in the workplace (harassment, pay, maternity rights)

The creation of a public daycare

Methods used by the Feminist to include the decisions by the state:

- Calling for a strike
- Organizing marches

Effects of power relations:

- Passage of the Women's minimum wage act
- Appointment of Women to the boards and directors of Crown Corporations
- Introduction of provisions on maternity leave into the Act Respecting Labour Standards

Power Relations between the Media and the State

Main Characters:

Andre Laurendeau, L'Action Catholique, Claude Ryan, The Gazette

Main role of the media : Conduct investigations, inform the population

Demands made by the media:

- Access to information
- Protect sources of information

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

- Maintaining a presence in the press gallery
- Broadcasting reports

Effects of power relations:

- Recognizing freedom of press
- Laws on censorship
- Passage of the "Act respecting access to documents held by public bodies and the protection of personal information"

Power Relations between the Linguistic Groups and the State

Main Characters: Societe St. Jean Baptiste, Alliance Quebec, Governments of Canada and Quebec

Demands made:

- Recognition of the primacy of the French language in Quebec
- Amendments to the rules for commercial signs

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

- Challenging sections of the language laws
- Organizing demonstrations
- Taking cases to court

Effects of power relations:

- Creation of "office de la langue Francaise"
- Mandatory French content on radio and TV broadcasts
- Passage of Language Laws

Power Relations between the Environmentalist Groups and State

Main Characters:

Frederic Black, Regroupement des Conseils regionaux de l'environnement,
Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador

Demands made by the Environmentalists:

Protection of flora and fauna
Signing and following international agreements

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

Media events
International Summits
Founding political parties

Effects of power relations:

Regulations to protect the environment
Awareness campaigns
Ministere de l'environnement

Power Relations between the Social Justice Groups and State

Main Characters:

Church, community groups, municipalities, Ecole sociale popular

Demands made:

Fair distribution of wealth
Social housing programs

Methods used by Social Justice groups to influence the decisions by the state:

Program de restauration sociale
demonstrations
Petitions

Effects of power relations:

Solidarity programs
Construction of social housing

Federal -Provincial relations

Main characters:

Parti Nationale (Honore Mercier), Trudeau, Levesque, Belanger-Campeau
commission

Demands made by the Province:

Respect for areas of jurisdiction
Changes to the equalization system

Methods used by the Provinces to influence the decisions by the Federal Government:

- Inter-provincial Conference

- Launching negotiations

- Signing Agreements

- Taking part in Federal - Provincial meetings such as the Victoria Conference

Effects of Power relations:

- Overlapping of programs

- Federal Gov. getting involved in areas of provincial jurisdiction