CHAPTER 10 - EXPANDING CONFEDERATION

Time and Change

Lastly, let's find out how Canada gained five more provinces. These are: British Columbia, Prince Edward Island, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador.

BRITISH COLUMBIA JOINS CONFEDERATION

In 1867 many newcomers came to Canada to settle on the vast prairies of the North West Territories. They came because of the fertile farmland. At first, farming was only possible in the mountain valleys and river deltas. The people also came for gold.

A Gold Colony

The fur trade attracted the first Europeans to the Pacific coast. In the early years the only European settlement was a small British colony at Fort Victoria, on Vancouver Island.

In the 1850’s, all of this was about to change. The First Nations who lived along the Fraser River, had been mining gold for hundreds of years. When Hudson’s Bay Company set up a trading post nearby, the First Nations miners brought their gold there to trade. Word that there was gold in the mountains quickly spread to the outside world. Before long prospectors in search of gold stampeded into the region. In 1885 25,000 prospectors were scrambling along the banks of the Fraser River.

Governor James Douglas was concerned that thousands of miners – mostly Americans, flooded into British Territory. Because there was a problem in California with the miners, Douglas began issuing licenses to the miners. To maintain law and order, he created a police force and appointed magistrates (judges) to enforce the law.

The Stol’lo and Nlaka’pamux Nations lived along the Fraser River. They relied on salmon for their livelihood. As the miners searched for gold they scared the fish away. The First Nations blocked the river to keep the miners out. The standoff turned violent. Many First Nations people were killed. Douglas and a band of soldiers arrived to restore peace. They assured the First Nations that they would be protected from the miners.

To bring law and order, Britain created the colony of British Columbia in 1885. Douglas was appointed governor of both colonies.

First Nations in British Columbia

Various First Nations lived on the mainland and islands of British Columbia. They hunted sea mammals in the ocean, gathered shellfish along the coast and fished the Mountain Rivers. The rain provided them with a dependable food source. They had developed a trading network.

In 1850 –1854 Governor Douglas bought 14 parcels of land on Vancouver Island from the First Nations. These became known as the Douglas Treaties. Douglas set up small reserves where the First Nations people could live. He recognized their right to hunt and fish on unoccupied territory. In return the people agreed to move off their traditional lands. These were the only land deals in British Columbia for many decades.

One Colony on the Pacific

The purpose of the colonies was to provide wealth and power for the home country. On the Pacific coast, fish, furs and then gold added to Britain’s wealth. Britain valued its two Pacific colonies for
their location. They provided a base for the British fleet on the Pacific coast. And in return Britain paid for the colonies’ defense and government. As the gold rush wound down the colonies almost went bankrupt. The gold was nearly gone. The fur trade was in decline. It was too costly to run two colonies. It decided to **unite Vancouver Island and British Columbia**. Now there was just one colony - **British Columbia**.

The colony was deeply in debt. It spends most of its money building the Cariboo Road and other roads and providing public services.
The colony had three choices:
1. to remain a British colony
2. to become a province of Canada
3. to join the United States

**Confederation Achieved**

In 1870 three delegates from British Columbia travelled to Ottawa. They wanted to talk about joining Canada.

If they were to join they wanted:
1. they wanted Canada to pay the colony’s debts.
2. they wanted a road to be built across the prairies to the Pacific.
   It would link British Columbia with the rest of Canada
3. they wanted Canada to make payments to the new province every year.

To British Columbia’s surprise Canada agreed to their demands.
They also offered to build a transcontinental railway – and they would do it within 10 years.

**On July 20, 1871 British Columbia became Canada’s sixth province.**

**PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND JOINS CONFEDERATION**

**Rejecting Confederation**

The people of Prince Edward Island had wanted two things.
1. they wanted more money
2. they wanted more Members of Parliament.

The other colonies were not willing to meet PEI’s demands.

**Rethinking Confederation**

What factors convinced the people of PEI to change their minds?

1. **The Land Question**
   Absentee British landowners owned most of the island. This meant that instead of owning their own homes and farms most Islanders paid rent to the landowners. If PEI would join Canada they would buy the land from the Absentee British landowners.

2. **Building a Railway**
   In 1871 the government of PEI decided to build a railway across the island. It would provide jobs and get produce to market. The railway was expensive. After Union with Canada the government could help pay for it.
3. Trading Goods
PEI was trying to make a trade deal with the United States. It wanted to move goods tax-free across the border. The British government was mad at PEI and the talks went nowhere. PEI had to look elsewhere for a market for its produce. The only option left was Canada.

4. America to take over Island
Britain wanted to rid itself of the cost or running a colony. Canada worried the Americans secretly planned to take over the island. Both Canada and the Britain put pressure on PEI to join the union.

A Better Deal
In 1873 delegates from PEI went to Ottawa. They wanted to discuss joining Canada. They were tough negotiators. As part of the deal Canada agreed to

1. pay the island’s debts
2. pay the province an annual (yearly) sum of money
3. take over the cost and building of the island’s railway
4. provide year round steamboat service between the island and the mainland
5. give PEI six Member of Parliament in the House of Commons
6. buy back land from the absentee landowners in Britain.

The Islanders voted in favor of joining Canada. On July 1, 1873 Prince Edward Island became the seventh province of Canada.

William Henry Pope (1825 – 1879)
William Henry Pope was a lawyer, politician and newspaper editor. He was a strong supporter of union with Canada. He thought it would be good for the economy. Few people agreed with him including his brother James, who was the Premier of the colony. When PEI decided against confederation, William quit politics. He continued to write editorials and give lectures. He still had contact with Prime Minister John A. Macdonald. Finally he helped persuade PEI to change their minds. PEI joined Canada in 1873.

TWO NEW PROVINCES IN THE WEST, ALBERTA AND SASKATCHEWAN JOIN CONFEDERATION

Government for the Territories
Canada purchase Rupert’s Land from the Hudson Bay Company in 1869. It had carved out part of the area as the New Province of Manitoba. The rest became the North West Territories. The North West Territories Act made Regina the capital city. An appointed lieutenant governor led a small-appointed council. Eventually the people got an elected Legislative Assembly of 22 members. In 1897 the North West Territories were granted full responsible government.

The North West Territories had been given four seats in the federal House of Commons in 1887.

Provincial Status
Responsible government was not enough for the people of the North West Territories. The population was growing and they wanted the same status as the other provinces.

Schools, roads, railways and other services were badly needed. People wanted their territory to become a province. Then they could collect the taxes and pay for the things they needed.
The North West Territories were already a part of Canada. The issue was whether or not they should become a province.

Three issues had to be settled

1. the number of provinces to be created
2. the division of powers and ownership of resources
3. minority rights

1. **One Province or Two**

Frederick Haultain was a lawyer and leading politician in the North West Territories. He led the fight for provincial status. He wanted the Territories to remain as one province.

Laurier insisted that two provinces were better than one. He argued that a single province would be too large to manage. He was afraid that a single province would be too powerful.

Laurier hoped that one of them would support minority education rights. **In 1905 the Saskatchewan Act and the Alberta Act created two new provinces.** Each province had a government with control over local matters.

2. **Federal Versus Provincial Power**

The second question was over natural resources. Haultain wanted the provinces to own the land and control the natural resources.

Laurier disagreed. To populate the West his government needed to control the land. Laurier wanted to make sure that new immigrants could obtain cheap land for settlements.

Unlike, the other provinces the North West had never been a colony, which owns its land. The federal government did keep control of public lands and resources. In return it paid each province just over a million dollars. **The two provinces did not receive title to their lands for another 25 years.**

**Types of Schools**

- **Public Schools** – for all students
- **Separate Schools** – is a public school meant for a particular group, such as the Catholic students
- **Private Schools** – is a private school funded by parents through tuition fees. (Registration fees)
- **Protestant Schools** - is for Protestant students.
- **Catholic Schools** - is for Roman Catholic Students

3. **Minority Rights**

The third issue was to deal with the minority education rights. The first schools in the North West Territories were Catholic, Francophone schools. The Roman Catholic Church ran the schools. In 1875 the North West Territories Act allowed Catholics to have their own separate schools. French could be used in the classroom.

Over time a great many newcomers arrived. They wanted their children educated in English. The Francophone’s had become a tiny minority. In 1892 the territorial government changed its mind. It now wanted just one education system for all – an English one. **Ordinance #29 made English the language of instruction in all schools.** The French were very disappointed. All instructions would be in English. Only one hour of French language instruction was allowed each day.
Francophone’s turned to Prime Minister Wilfred Laurier for help. Would he enforce the minority education rights that were in the Constitution? Laurier believed that provinces should be independent. Laurier thought that the Catholic minority should keep its right to a school system. Laurier made sure that the Alberta Act gave a guarantee of separate schools. In the schools, however, English would still be the language of instruction. An hour of French instruction would still be permitted.

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR JOIN CONFEDERATION**

**First Nations in the New Provinces**

The changes that led to the creation of Alberta and Saskatchewan had a major impact on the First Nations and Métis peoples who lived there. The treaties moved the people onto reserves. Canada adopted a policy of assimilation. It wanted to absorb the First Nations into a uniform Canadian society. It demanded that First Nations parents put their children in residential schools. These were boarding schools that taught the English ways.

**Economic Disaster**

The economy of the colony of Newfoundland and Labrador was based on exporting natural resources such as fish, wood and minerals. During the Great Depression of the 1930's this became a problem. As the world economy collapsed prices fell. No one had the money to buy natural resources. Thousands of Newfoundlanders lost their jobs. The colonial government faced a crisis. It could not afford to pay the interest on money it had borrowed. The colony was about to go bankrupt. Things did not get better until the Second World War in 1939. Then Canada and the United States built military bases in the colony. Now there were jobs for everyone.

**Confederation Revisited**

At the end of the war Britain wanted Newfoundland to take over its own affairs. The people had three choices:
1. to return to colonial status
2. to leave the commission in place
3. to become the tenth province of Canada

**Deciding the Issue**

One June 3, 1948 the people of Newfoundland voted in a referendum (public vote) about their future. On July 22, a second referendum took place. The result was close 52.3% voted to join Canada. 47.7% voted to stay a British colony. The majority ruled. On 31 March 1949 Newfoundland and Labrador became the tenth province of Canada.

**The Consequences of Confederation**

The people gained access to Canada’s social programs: employment insurance, health care and old age pensions. Some things improved – electric power to rural areas, iron mills increased, fishing, and forest industries did well and the Trans Canada Highway stretched across the province.

**The Impact on First Nations and Inuit**

The government failed to meet the needs of First Nations and Inuit. The Mi’kmaq at Conne River gained recognition under the Indian Act. Their community was recognized as a reserve. In Labrador the Inuit, Innu and Métis formed associations to promote their cultures and reclaim their traditional lands.
CHAPTER 11 - ENCOURAGING IMMIGRATION

Immigration and Identity

One of the important factors that changes a country’s identity is immigration. Canada is very dependent on immigration to this day.

THE NEED FOR IMMIGRANTS

In 1881, 4,381,256 people lived in Canada. Nearly 89% of Canadians were of British or French descent. The vast majority of them lived in the East. The West did not have many people living there.

The Laurier Factor

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was Canada’s first French Canadian prime minister. Laurier’s most famous remark was, “The twentieth century belongs to Canada”. He meant that Canada’s economy would soon get very big. He thought Canada would become a great nation.

What did Laurier need? People

1. He wanted newcomers to start farms in the West.
2. Laurier also needed more workers for all the country’s growing industries.

How did Laurier do this?

1. His government doubled the amount of railway tract, making travel into the West easier.
2. He advertised for immigrants in far off countries. Government agents went overseas to find interested groups.
3. Canada offered them special treatment. (for example they received large tracts of land).

Partners in the Effort

The government worked hard to attract people to Canada. They were not the only groups trying to bring newcomers into Canada. Some private companies got involved. They bought land in the West and sold it to immigrants at a profit. Church groups took an interest. They wanted to build religious communities in a new land. They liked Canada’s policy of religious freedom. Railway companies were involved too. The government gave them land for building the railway. The companies made a big profit when they sold some of the land.

CANADA CALLING

Spread the Word

The person in charge of immigration to Canada was Clifford Sifton. He was a Member of Parliament from Manitoba. Sifton started a publicity campaign. The GOAL was to attract people to Canada.

How was this done?

1. Millions of posters and pamphlets were made in many languages.
2. The governments brought foreign journalists to Canada. They toured
the country. They wrote newspaper stories about it when they returned home.

3. The government sent speakers round the world. They spread the word about the great Canadian West.

Some of Canada's efforts seem a little odd. In 1907 a huge buffalo died at the Banff Zoo. The government had it stuffed and sent to the Canadian office in London. It stood in the window as a symbol of the West. This strategy worked. It got people excited.

**Who the Government Targeted**

Sifton sent advertisements to three regions.

1. **United States** – American farmers knew how to farm on the prairies. The US was running out of good farmland.
2. **Great Britain** – Most Canadians were of British origin. They thought this would strengthen the British character of the country.
3. **Eastern Europe** – They were experienced at growing crops. They would put up with the hardships of pioneer life. He believed they would assimilate to English culture.

**Betrayal of the Promise of Confederation**

Sifton and the government most wanted new citizens who either spoke English or would learn it. (This is why the government did not try to convince the Canadiens from Quebec to move west). The government had a vision of Canada as one nation with one language.

**The Trap**

For many immigrants the move to the West was “a trap”. Life here was much harder than the advertisements had led them to believe. On the prairies there were few trees to build a shelter. Most newcomers made sod houses. After a downpour, it would continue to “rain” inside for days. Later when they had the time and money they would build permanent wood frame houses. Few had money to pay for the trip back home.

**PUSH AND PULL FACTORS**

**Emigrant and Immigrant**

*Emigrants* are people who leave their homelands. *Immigrants* is when they come to live in a new land

**Reasons for Emigrating**

Why were Canada’s new immigrants looking for a place where they could make a better life? For many, the conditions in their homelands made them want to leave. The factors that push people to leave their homelands are called **push factors**.

1. **Population growth** – not enough jobs for everyone and not enough land to farm.
2. **Religious persecution** – they were treated badly in their homeland
3. **Political persecution**
4. **Natural disasters** – famine, such as the Irish potato famine of 1847
5. **Affordable travel** – steamships made voyages shorter and cheaper.
Reasons of Immigrating to Canada
Why did some of them choose Canada? Factors that influence people to choose a certain country are called Pull Factors.

1. Free land
2. Jobs
3. Completed railway
4. Better Machinery
5. Improved Farming Techniques
6. Growing demand for Wheat
7. Religious and Political freedom
8. Friends and family

CHURCHES AND IMMIGRATION
Churches and religious groups took a special interest in immigration. In some cases, church members were persecuted for their religious beliefs in their home countries.

The Barr Colony
Anglican Church leaders helped many British Anglicans come to Canada. One of these leaders was a Canadian born Anglican minister named Isaac Barr. He placed an ad in the British newspaper. Barr thought that the Canadian West should be filled with English speaking Anglicans. He wanted to strengthen the British character of Canada. Barr purchased a large tract of land on the border of Saskatchewan and Alberta. He led a party of 2684 men, women and children from England. He did not plan well. The ship he had could only carry 900. He crammed everyone aboard anyway. When they arrived in Saint John, there was no rail transportation that was arranged. Reverend George Lloyd stepped in and made the arrangements. The immigrants ended up losing most of their luggage. They had to travel with few supplies by ox cart from Saskatoon. The immigrants came from industrial towns they did not know how to drive oxen. The journey was a disaster and many gave up. Barr was forced to resign. They replaced him with Lloyd who helped them at every step. The colonists named their main town Lloydminster after George Lloyd.

The Hutterties
The Hutterties are a Protestant religious group. They live collectively in isolated communities and refuse to fight as soldiers – they are pacifists. In Russia they were persecuted for not fighting. They fled to United States. When the First World War broke out the Americans began to view them with suspicion. The Hutterties spoke German, the language of the enemy. The Hutterties decided to move to southern Manitoba and Alberta. They would be allowed to teach their children in their own schools and avoid military service.

A Different Settlement Pattern
Settlement patterns are the way human dwellings are arranged. Most early farming families on the prairies lived on large farms. Each family lived far away from other people. The Hutterties had a communal lifestyle. That means that there was no private property. Everyone in the colony owned everything. That included farm equipment, books, toys and even bank accounts. A group of elders made all the important decisions.

British Home Children
Between 1867 and 1924, 100,000 British Children were sent to Canada. They hoped to join Canadian families. Two types of groups set up these ventures- to bring these children to Canada.
1. Religious organizations
2. Charitable organizations

FRANCOPHONES IN THE WEST
The Francophone’s had lived in the West for generations. They were the first non-Aboriginal people in the West. The Francophone’s put their mark on the West.
**Leaving Their Mark**
The Canadiens and Métis named rivers, lakes, and regions. Many street and parks have Francophone names. The Francophone farmers in the Red River and Saskatchewan River are quite distinct. They are long and narrow with houses near the water. **This method of farming is similar to the seigniorial system on New France.** Many Canadiens went west as missionaries. The Sisters of Charity, now better known as the Grey Nuns. They started a convent and a school in St. Boniface. They also started a hospital at Lac Sainte-Anne.

Early Francophone businesses, like **Coal Mines, Fur Trading and First Credit Union** gave people jobs and helped get the economy rolling.

**Internal Migrants**
Many Canadiens and English Canadians moved westward during the period of massive settlement from about 1890 to 1914. People who move from one region to another within one country are called **internal migrants**.

Many Canadiens migrants felt welcome at first. They were:
1. confident that Manitoba was meant to be bilingual.
2. attracted to the education system, modeled after Quebec’s, which allowed for French Schools.
3. happy that people had the right to speak French in courts and in government.

As time went by, Canadiens began to see that the government would rather make the West Anglophone and so eventually fewer migrants from Quebec moved west.

**Boosting the Francophone Population**
Soon the Canadiens realized that internal migration would not be enough to keep the Francophone community strong. The Catholic Church took on the job of attracting more French Catholics to the West. It gave the priests the task of attracting them. Father Jean-Baptiste Morin alone drew 2475 Francophone immigrants to Alberta from 1891 to 1899. In 1886, the Francophone population of the prairies was about 16,000 people. By 1921 the number rose to 137,000.

**A Pluralistic Society**
By 1911, more than 80% of the people living in the Western provinces had been born outside Canada. They had endured years of hardships. They ploughed under the prairie sod with animal drawn ploughs. They struggled every year to bring in crops of wheat in Canada’s short growing season. They did all of this alongside people from a wide variety of backgrounds in order to succeed.

**Great Grain Growers**
The homesteaders living on the prairies came from a variety of ethnic groups. They all worked from sun up to sun down. The homesteaders had something else in common: nearly everyone was farming wheat.

**The Machinery**
By the end of the 19th century new machinery was being produced that made farming much easier. Steam powered tractors replaced horses and oxen. Farmers used binders to harvest the wheat. A binder cuts the wheat, rolled it into bundles called sheaves and tied each sheaf with twine.

**The Wheat**
Early farmers used a type of wheat known as Red Fife. It made excellent flour, but it ripened late in the season. An early frost could wipe out an entire harvest. Early in the 1900’s Canadian government scientists William Saunders and his son Charles produced a new type of Wheat. It was called Marquis, and it ripened quickly. Wheat became the most important crop in Canada. It was shipped around the world to feed many people. The first shipment of wheat left Manitoba in 1876. By 1921, Canada produced 156 billion bushels of wheat.