

British North America Act. It made both French and English official languages in the Canadian Parliament and Quebec. It also gave official status to tax-supported denominational schools and divided powers specifically between the federal and provincial governments.

1869 and 1885: Louis Riel led rebellious Métis, first in Manitoba and then in Saskatchewan. The rebels were demanding their rights as westerners rather than as Francophones, but when Riel was hanged for treason in 1885, many Quebecers adopted him as a hero.

1899: Britain fought the Boers, and Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Canada's first French-speaking prime minister, compromised with the Empire builders by allowing Canadian volunteers to serve in South Africa as part of the British force. Henri Bourassa led the nationalists, mostly from Quebec, who objected to the Canadian involvement.

1889-1916: Manitoba ended its support of a dual French Catholic/English Protestant school system. In 1897 it agreed to provide bilingual instruction where ten or more pupils requested it, but this was dropped in 1916. Quebec accepted the move as an affirmation of provincial rights.

1913: Regulation 17 of the Ontario Department of Education forbade primary instruction in French.

1914: Canada entered World War I, under a Conservative government, with the support of Laurier, the Liberals and Henri Bourassa. There were many French-speaking volunteers at first, but the lack of distinctly French-Canadian units and the use of Protestant clergymen as recruiters in Quebec discouraged enlistment. Some English-speaking Canadians believed that French Canadians had a responsibility to support the war and that they were not meeting it.

1917: Prime Minister Robert Borden decided conscription was necessary and formed a Union government with English-speaking Liberals. Laurier refused to join. The Union ticket carried all but Quebec, and it would be forty years before Quebec would give a majority to the Conservative party.

1923: The possibility of separation was timidly considered by some Quebec intellectuals. One declared at a conference, "At last we are beginning to realize the need to sever our destiny from that of our neighbours."

1930s: Though the Great Depression converted many, Quebec nationalism remained a fringe movement.

1942: Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, who for twenty years had said publicly and repeatedly that no Canadian would again be conscripted to fight in a European war, asked the voters to release him from that promise. He carried the day (though not Quebec) in a national

plebiscite and then cautiously delayed conscription until 1944.

1944: Maurice Duplessis' Union Nationale and André Laurendeau's Bloc Populaire opposed conscription, and both ran against Quebec's Liberal government. The Union Nationale won the election, and Duplessis remained in power until his death in 1959. Laurendeau became an articulate critic of Duplessis' ties with the Church and the English-speaking business elite, the corruption of his office holders and his brutal suppression of trade unions.

1957: Raymond Barbeau formed "L'Alliance Laurentienne," a weak separatist movement, one of several.

1959: Duplessis died, and reformist Liberals under Jean Lesage ended *la grande noirceur* and began *la révolution tranquille*. "The French Canadians before 1960," a young Quebec intellectual, Pierre Trudeau, wrote later, "were a people vanquished, occupied, leaderless, kept aside from business and life and away from the cities, gradually reduced to a minority role and deprived of influence in a country which after all it had discovered, explored and settled." The Quiet Revolution displaced the old ruling hegemony, reformed the educational system, showed an acceptance of the unions and created a new culture. French-speaking Canadians trained in business and competed with the entrenched English-speakers. The new nationalism was much concerned with economic as well as political grievances.

1963-1970: Prime Minister Lester Pearson's Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism provided the basis of the Official Languages Act, which requires federal government services in both languages to be available to all.

1967: The optimism of Canada's centennial celebration and Expo '67 were tarnished by fears of terrorism in Quebec.

1970: Members of the Front de Libération du Québec kidnapped British Trade Commissioner James Cross on October 5 and Quebec Labour and Immigration Minister Pierre Laporte on October 10. The federal government invoked the War Measures Act on October 16. On October 17, Laporte was killed. Cross was released in exchange for his abductors' safe conduct to Cuba on December 3.

1976: Running as a government reformer and promising not separation but a referendum on it, René Lévesque and the Parti Québécois won a majority in Quebec's National Assembly.

Colour photos. Page four: Smart, Manitoba (top); Victoria, British Columbia (lower left); Rue St. Denis, Montreal, Quebec. Page five: Halifax, Nova Scotia. Page nine: St. Jean Baptiste, Quebec (top); Toronto, Ontario, (inset, middle left); High Arctic (middle right); Ukrainian church, Manitoba (lower left); Vancouver, British Columbia.