

management, immigration policy, public finance, civil service pensions, education, manpower and training, unemployment benefits, control of natural resources, and, of course, that hardy perennial of Canadian Federalism, equalization of payments.⁶⁴

Federalists were not alone in enlisting administration to support their cause. Quebec separatists, most notably Premier Lucien Bouchard, frequently tempered the high rhetoric of sovereignty with the mundane details of education, employment, health care, civil service reform, and financial management that would make it all possible and worthwhile.⁶⁵

The striking variation in the value Canadians and Americans assign to public administration marks an important difference in the political culture of the two countries. Some have traced it back to the American Revolution, arguing that refugee Loyalists brought to their new country an affection for government that was quite literally alien to their erstwhile rebellious neighbors to the south.⁶⁶ This affection, so the argument goes, was reinforced by the warm welcome they found in what remained of British North America. Whatever the explanation, the phenomenon itself is clear enough today among both federalists and separatists. It was also true in 1865 when both friends and foes of the Quebec Resolutions enlisted detailed questions of administration as weapons in defending their respective positions.

The Confederation Debates reveal a host of administrative questions that absorbed the attention of the delegates. The topics ranged from broad generalizations on the hopes for improved administration from the stable institutions confederation was expected to provide, to more focused attention to public works, and, finally, to very specific discussions on canals and schools.⁶⁷ Woven into the fabric of these arguments was a curious debate over the provision in Resolution 64 that the "General Parliament" would make "an annual grant in aid" to each province "equal to eighty cents per head of the population, as established by the census of 1861." Subsequent resolutions provided special benefits for New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. These