

"In the descriptions of Canadian peoples favoured by politicians and academics there are some rather curious distinctions. Debate swirls around the question of federation and the status of Quebec and one hears constantly the phrases 'founding races' and 'founding peoples'. To the stranger's surprise, these are not Indians and Eskimos, but French and English. The people who laid the real foundations of human existence on the North American continent are referred to as 'native peoples'. The implications of this distinction are that Indians and the Eskimos merely occupied the land, as the buffalo and the caribou did. The building of a civilization and of a nation was the achievement of those who came afterwards."

GEORGE WOODCOCK
Canada and the Canadians, 1970

Plains of Abraham, though a few more shots were exchanged, more or less ended the French and Indian War in North America.

1763: The Peace of Paris gave Britain a colony of 60,000 new, Catholic, French-speaking subjects who stubbornly maintained their culture, their civil law and their identity.

1774: The Quebec Act accepted the status quo and extended the colony's boundaries to include the Ohio valley.

A Conservative inspired "Union" government pushed conscription through in World War I and made Quebec a Liberal stronghold for decades to come. In World War II the Liberals handled the issue more adroitly and Quebec supported Prime Minister Mackenzie King nationally, but within the province Premier Maurice Duplessis (right centre) and his repressive Union Nationale were definitely in charge. After his death came the Quiet Revolution, led by Liberal Jean Lesage, and then, in November 1976, the Parti Québécois had its night of victory.

1776-1791: Loyalist refugees from the new United States moved into sparsely-populated sections of Quebec, and the Constitutional Act of 1791 divided the colony into Upper and Lower Canada (now Ontario and Quebec). Both provinces were allowed to elect legislative assemblies, but the assemblies could be overruled by the king's appointed executives or their councils.

1834: Louis-Joseph Papineau persuaded Lower Canada's assembly to pass the Ninety-Two Resolutions setting out grievances. The protest became rebellion in 1837. The *patriotes* (and the contemporaneous English-speaking rebels in Upper Canada led by William Lyon Mackenzie) failed to get anticipated support from the former British colonies to the south.

1841: The British passed the Act of Union, uniting Upper and Lower Canada and giving them equal representation in a single legislative assembly. French- and English-speaking members often voted together along conservative-liberal lines, but on issues such as education and public expenditures they usually voted one province against the other.

1867: After conferences in Charlottetown and Quebec, colonial politicians led by John A. Macdonald and George-Etienne Cartier agreed that a federation would best serve all their interests. The British accepted their proposal and passed the

VOTEZ LIBERAL



Ne laissons pas rouiller les mailles de la chaîne qu'a soudée le forgeron



THIS IS NO TIME FOR PARTY
VOTE - UNION - GOVERNMENT