

# The history of the province of Québec, from land to property Part II (1700-1867)

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# The transformations of French language

- Many newcomers from the West of France with their own dialects (Normands, Saintonge...)
- There will be a unification of the language that worked much better than in France.
- The Ursulines of Québec took part in the diffusion of French language from 1639.
- Pehr Kalm, a Swedish botanist and disciple of Carl Linneaus, made a travel to North America between 1747 and 1751, he was impressed by the quality of the French Language.



2022-08-18 Pehr Kalm, [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pehr\\_Kalm](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pehr_Kalm)  
Portrait of an unnamed Royal Academy of Turku  
professor, probably by Johann Georg Geitel, 1764. The  
person is commonly assumed to be Pehr Kalm (1716–

# A new culture at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century

- Contacts with Indigenous tribes / adaptation to a new environment, new cultural habits. They call themselves « Canadians » around the years 1580. Agathe de Saint-Père (1657-1748), a French-Canadian business entrepreneur who engaged in fur trade and textile industry.
- During the British conquest, the cultural rivalry emerged as the people from New England also used the name « Canadians »
- From 1840 until 1963-1964, the people from Québec call themselves the « French Canadians ». After the Silent Revolution in the 1960s, they began to call themselves Quebeckers (Québécois)

## Seven Years' War (1756-1763)

- The wars in Europe were also propagated in the Americas.
- Global war between the empires with the different alliances.
- Rivality with the British, French, Spanish and Portuguese empires

# Seven Years' War (1756-1763)

- Difficulties for the colony of the *Nouvelle France*. Isolation of the colony, less contacts with France and the colony of *Nouvelle Angleterre* has a growing population
- One of the most interesting confrontation between the British and French strategies: confrontation between Montcalm and Wolf who died almost at the same time during the battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759 (Venière, 2021)
- [Public Domain](#) File:Louis-Joseph de Montcalm cph.3g09407.jpg Created: 1 January 1790 (credits)
- [Public Domain](#) File: James Wolfe.jpeg Created: posthumous, c. 1760-80.



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*Sergent del.* *et sculp. 1790.*

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# Louis-Joseph de Montcalm and James Wolf

- Two officers who observed each other. Montcalm was sent by Louis XV in 1756 to protect the *Nouvelle France* whereas Wolfe was perceived as extravagant but excellent Officer in the British army.
- Both had some problems with their own hierarchy (rivalities with the *gouverneur général* for Montcalm and with some other British Officers for Wolf)
- Montcalm won the battle of Carillon in 1758 but Wolf took huge risks to attack the French army (18.000 men) from the cliffs near Québec city (the British troops had 11.000 men). The most important battle in Canadian history (the battle only lasted 30 minutes)

# Treaty of Paris (1763)

- 1755 the « *Grand dérangement* » for the expulsion of Acadians to south Louisiana (Cajun culture)
- 1763, the *Nouvelle France* becomes the province of Québec (First Constitution for Québec). Resistance of the First Nations which feared the loss of territories during the British conquest
- Canada was under British control. Britain led 13 colonies in North America. For Canada, Britain gave Saint-Pierre and Miquelon and returned two Caribbean islands, Martinique and Guadeloupe.

# The consequences for France

- France saw its empire declining
- No hope for the future of *Nouvelle France*
- The treaty of Paris gave 18 months to the French Canadians to become British citizens or return to France.
- But, with the Act of 1774, there is a will to win the loyalty of the French Canadians

# The Québec Act (1774)

- It granted the French Canadians the right to conserve their language, their religion and their civil rights.
- Public domain File:Québec Act, 1774.jpg
- Création : 13 janvier 1774
- The Canadians live more in the countryside (rural life)
- 1775 The Canadians resist against the armies of the 13 colonies of North America. They had the help of the British army and could face the "American" army (the Independence of the United States was declared the 4<sup>th</sup> July of 1776)



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*Le Roy to Vauv.*

Whereas <sup>1</sup> said Majesty by <sup>2</sup> said Royal  
proclamation bearing date the seventh day  
of October in the third year of <sup>3</sup> said Majesty  
thought fit to declare the provisions written  
and been made in respect to certain countries  
Territories and Islands in America to be  
to <sup>4</sup> said Majesty by the definitive Treaty of  
peace concluded at Paris on the tenth day  
of February one thousand seven hundred  
and sixty three <sup>5</sup> And whereas by the  
arrangements made by the said Royal  
proclamation a very large tract <sup>6</sup> within  
the said <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup> <sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup> <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup> <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup> <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup> <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup> <sup>31</sup> <sup>32</sup> <sup>33</sup> <sup>34</sup> <sup>35</sup> <sup>36</sup> <sup>37</sup> <sup>38</sup> <sup>39</sup> <sup>40</sup> <sup>41</sup> <sup>42</sup> <sup>43</sup> <sup>44</sup> <sup>45</sup> <sup>46</sup> <sup>47</sup> <sup>48</sup> <sup>49</sup> <sup>50</sup> <sup>51</sup> <sup>52</sup> <sup>53</sup> <sup>54</sup> <sup>55</sup> <sup>56</sup> <sup>57</sup> <sup>58</sup> <sup>59</sup> <sup>60</sup> <sup>61</sup> <sup>62</sup> <sup>63</sup> <sup>64</sup> <sup>65</sup> <sup>66</sup> <sup>67</sup> <sup>68</sup> <sup>69</sup> <sup>70</sup> <sup>71</sup> <sup>72</sup> <sup>73</sup> <sup>74</sup> <sup>75</sup> <sup>76</sup> <sup>77</sup> 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# The consequences of the Independence of the United States

- Britain recognized the United States in 1883
- Many Loyalists fled the American Republic and moved to Canada. It provoked the division of Nova Scotia and the creation of the government of New Brunswick
- These Loyalists influenced the creation of the Constitutional Act of 1791

## **Constitutional Act of 1791 (act of the British Parliament)**

- The Province of Québec was divided into Upper Canada and Lower Canada in order to build a Confederation later on.
- 70.000 inhabitants for Upper Canada (Anglophone part) / 250.000 inhabitants for Lower Canada (Francophone)
- Both regions have their own House of Parliament
- The tories include British governors, merchants while the French Canadians are in the party called « Canadians »

## Period of rebellions (1800-1840)

- *Napoléon* effect on the French Canadians. In 1805, some inhabitants from Saint-Constant sent a petition to Napoléon. They would like Napoléon to liberate them from the British domination. No answer from Napoléon
- 1812 the Americans do not appreciate the control of their ships by the British army which looks for the déserteurs. War against Canada. Canada won and this war helped to highlight the question of the Union of Canada. The British government did not want to grant more autonomy to Canada. Miscontent and the French Canadians transformed their party into the Patriots. Louis-Joseph Papineau was one of the leaders of this protest



2022-08-18 / <https://www.royalcanadianmontreal.com/en/stockholm-university/stockholm-university-1876-jpg>

## **Papineau and the « Ninety-Two Resolutions » in 1834**

- Control of revenues by the legislature
- Responsibility of the executive
- Election of the council
- The demands were rejected
- The Patriots declared indirectly the Independence of the six counties (especially with the economic crisis). The Patriots tried to have a little army which was defeated by the government (1838). Rebellions of 1837-1838



# The report of Lord Durham

- To address the consequences of the rebellions of 1837-1838, the British government sent Lord Durham to investigate the situation in Canada.
- In June 1838, Lord Durham appointed a special committee that analyzed what happened. The committee realized that the Catholic church in Lower Canada remained loyal to the government during the rebellions and gave the Church many responsibilities in the organization of social life (education, charity...). This decision reinforced the predominance of the Catholic church until the Quiet Revolution of 1960.

# The report of Lord Durham

- Lord Durham proposed to exile the leaders of the Patriots and to amnesty the people who were involved in the riots.
- He has been dismissed and came back to London in November 1838. He presented his report in 1838 where he pointed out the fact that the rebellions revealed a conflict between the English and French Canadians.
- Durham proposed a politics of assimilation to avoid the extension of the conflict. Act of Union in 1840 with a unique assembly.

# The situation in 1840

- Lower Canada (650.000 inhabitants)
- Upper Canada (450.000 inhabitants)
- English is the only official language and the debts of both colonies are merged.
- The idea of the report of Lord Durham was to transform the French Canadians into a minority.
- 1848 « responsible government » with Baldwin (Upper Canada) and Lafontaine (Lower Canada) reformists from both Canada

# Demographic growth of the Upper Canada

- The Anglophone Canada demanded a fair representation as the English-speaking population was prevailing.
- The Charlottetown Conference in September 1864 elaborated an agreement between the delegates from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.
- The Confederation Act of 1867 is a result of this demand. Federal organization with the maritime provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick
- Proportional representation. The Unification of Canada was important for the British authorities.

# Conclusions

- The history of the province of Québec is linked to the clash of two empires
- It would be unfair to reduce the history of Québec to the confrontation between Paris and London
- Rivalities between the Anglophone/French parts. The British acquired the territory of Québec but was worried about the American Revolution
- The political development of institutions is the result of the will of reducing the influence of the French Canadians.



# Conclusions

- Spirit of freedom in the *Nouvelle France* where the French Canadians became different from the French (language, culture, way of life...).  
The word « Canadiens français » was used after 1840 until 1960 when they called themselves « Québécois ».
- Isolation of « Nouvelle France » from France (for the kingdom of France, the colony costs a lot). The idea is to contain the expansion of the British Empire. The « Nouvelle Angleterre » has a demographic boom and a strong support from England.

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