

Introduction to Canadian History



Canada's flag from 1868 - 1921

Why Did the Separate Colonies of British North America Join Together?

Canada was created for three reasons:

- a) To protect against the United States.
- b) Save the United Kingdom money.
- c) Economic growth and political stability for the British colonies in Canada.



People Making up Canada

- British (Protestant)
- French (Roman Catholic)
- Metis (Roman Catholic)
- Native Canadians(First Nations) (Indigenous religions and Roman Catholic)

The Four Original Colonies of 1867

1. Ontario (Upper Canada)
2. Quebec (Lower Canada)
3. New Brunswick
4. Nova Scotia

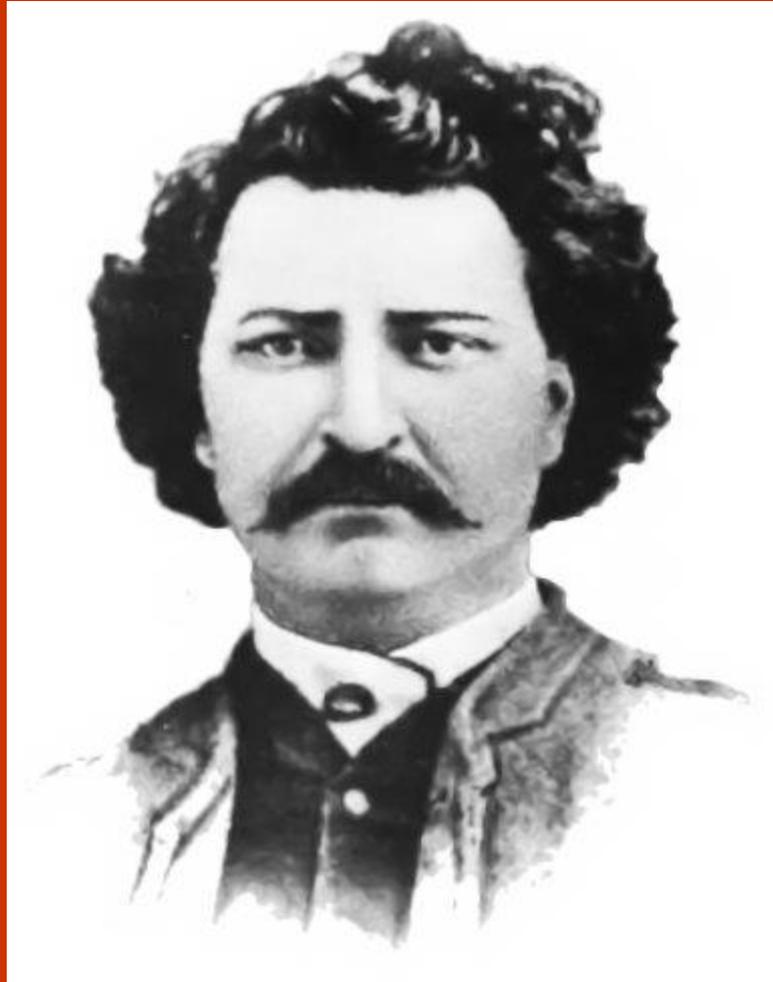
Additional Provinces & Territories to Join Canada

5. Manitoba (1870)
6. Northwest Territories (1870)
7. British Columbia (1873)
8. Prince Edward Island (1873)
9. Yukon Territories (1898)
10. Saskatchewan (1905)
11. Alberta (1905)

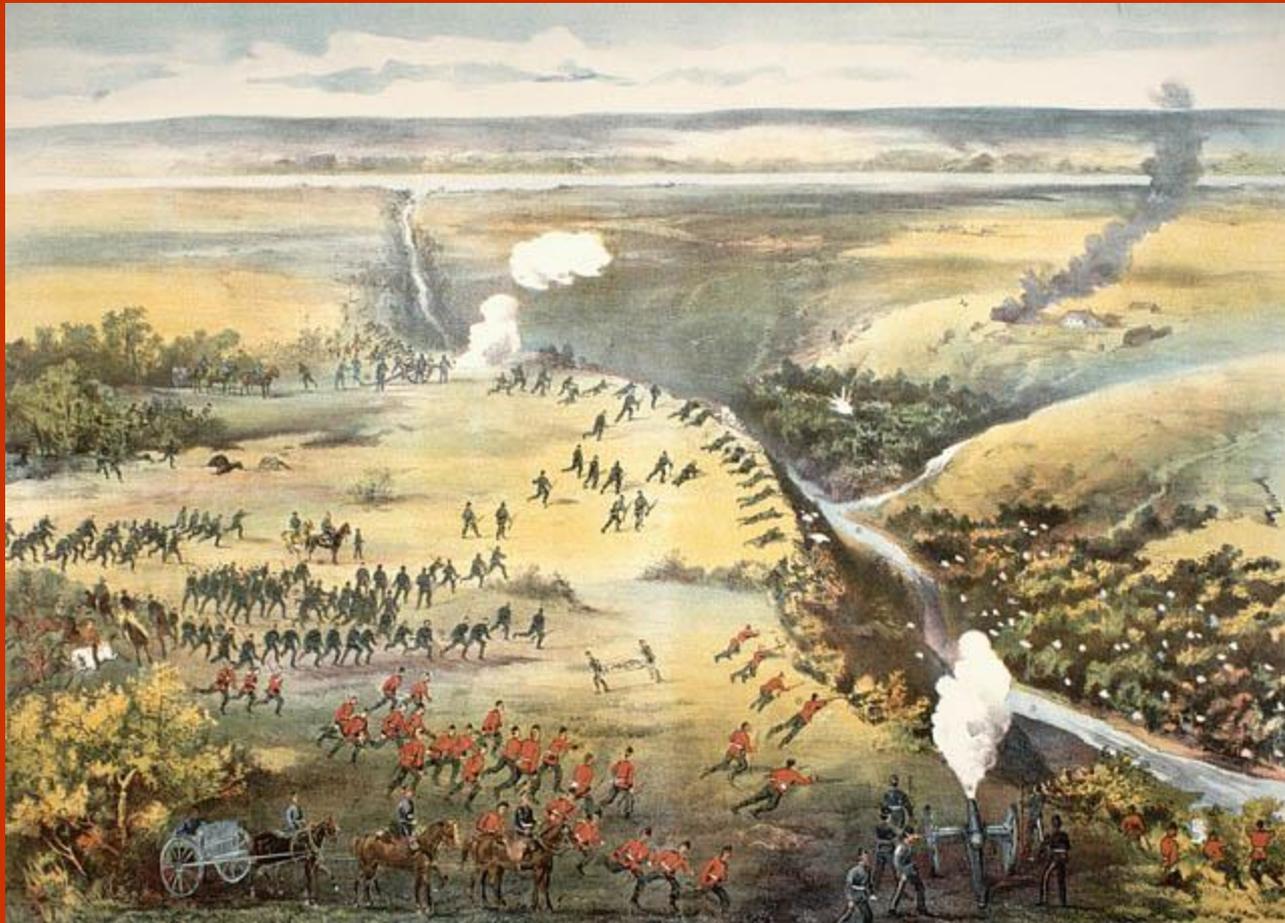
Louis Riel and Manitoba

- Louis Riel fought for *Metis* (half French /half Native person) rights in Western Canada. They felt too many British people were settling their land in the west.
- The fight was known as the Red River Rebellion 1869-1870.
- The province of Manitoba was created out of the Northwest Territories and both joined Canada in 1870.

Louis Riel



Battle of Fish Creek



Northwest Rebellion

- Louis Riel fought against the government of Canada. Natives and Metis felt British people were taking their land and buffalo supply.
- The rebellion was crushed by the Canadian government.
- Riel was hanged November 16, 1885 in Regina (now part of Saskatchewan).
- In the aftermath the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta were created out of the Northwest Territories and joined Canada in 1905.

The Trial of Louis Riel

- French Canadians were outraged that the jury was made up entirely of English Protestants and no French.
- Riel's lawyers wanted him labelled insane to lessen the sentence but he refused.
- The jury took 30 minutes to declare him guilty but asked for mercy.

Significance of the Riel Trial

1. First major dispute between English Canada and French Canada since confederation. Hard feelings still exist between the two cultures today because of the trial.
2. Regionalism: The first example of a split between the different regions in Canada. For example: Ontario, Quebec and the West.

Imperialism vs. Nationalism

WW1

- Most imperialists were English Canadians who felt it was Canada's job to help defend the British empire.
- Most nationalists were French Canadians who felt Canada should not have to send troops to help Great Britain fight a war in a far away country.
- Canada decided to only send a volunteer army to South Africa to fight the Boers. This angered both the French and English Canadians.
- This was the second major rift between French and English Canadians that had long term significance.

WW1(1914-1918)

- Canada supports Great Britain in war.
- 65,000 killed.
- Signs Treaty of Versailles as an independent nation.

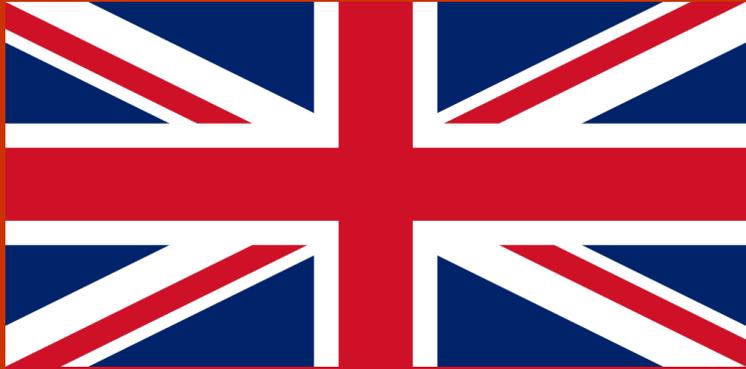
After World War One (1914-1917)

- 1) Canada earned a seat at the Paris Peace conference (instead of being represented by Britain)
- 2) Canada signed Treaty of Versailles
- These events recognized Canada as a independent country (instead of a colony of Britain—even though Canadians did not have a constitution)

Canada's Constitutional History

Constitutional Document	Significance
Statue of Westminster, 1931	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Ended Canada's colonial status-Canadian government could now change laws previously passed as acts of British parliament that applied to Canada

Flag 1957



Flag 1965



O' Canada--1980

O' Canada

Our home and native land!

True patriot love in all thy **sons** command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,

The True North strong and free!

From far and wide,

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

Canada's Constitutional History

Constitutional Document	Significance
Constitution Act, 1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Separated the Constitution from Britain's government-Included an amending formula so Canadian government could amend Constitution-Committed the federal government to equalization payments to provincial and territorial governments to ensure all Canadians have the same level of services