

The British North America Act

Canadian History

Name: _____

BNA Act created the Dominion of Canada in 1867.

(United Provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick)
It stated: (1) The powers of the provincial and federal governments (2) Outlined the way in which governments would be structured (3) Guaranteed protection of minority groups.

CONSTITUTIONAL ACT

AIM: To create a federal union of the colonies of BNA, associated with Great Britain.

***FEDERALISM**

(A) Canada's System of Government

- >Each province would have its own government along with a federal government
- >The central(federal) government would have more power than provincial governments

(B) Form of Central Government

- >System of government (Monarch represented by governor general, Parliament with House of Commons and Senate)-p.197

(C) A Strong Central Government

->Keeping in mind the American civil war, in which states fought against one another, the Fathers of Confederation elected a strong central government

- (A) Central government given authority over matters of general concern. (laws for peace, order and good government)
- (B) Given the authority to VETO any provincial laws within one year of their passage

CONSTITUTION

->Written and unwritten rules (Canada has one that is moving closer to a written constitution) p.198

(D) Shared Power in the Constitution Act, 1867

->Some powers are shared federally and provincially

ISSUES RAISED BY CONFEDERATION

- (A) Division of Powers created tension
- (B) Biculturalism
- (C) First People and other Minorities
(Assimilation/segregation)

Charlottetown Conference (NS, NB, PEI)

- Province of Canada decided to take this opportunity to discuss a larger union of colonies of BNA.
- Promise of railway to unite Canada and Atlantic colonies
- Ease transfer and trade of goods/services among colonies
- Decision to work toward a Confederation and Quebec Conference was held a month later

Quebec Conference

- Along with all other colonies, Newfoundland attended.
- Seventy-Two Resolutions:
 - (1) Strong Central Government
 - (2) Provinces have limited power
 - (3) Lower House (Parliament) and Upper House (Senate)
 - (4) MP elected based on Rep By Pop.
 - (5) Senate were appointed positions
 - (6) Federal government needed to uphold peace, order and good government

London Conference

- 16 Delegates from the Province of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick sailed to London to present the Seventy-Two Resolutions to British officials.
- Intercolonial railway guaranteed and subsidies increased
- Bill containing 72 Resolutions was passed through both houses quickly and Queen Victoria

proclaimed that Canada would become a nation on
July 1st

- Sir J.A. Macdonald was the 1st Prime Minister of
Canada.