

Chapter 9 Study Guide
Moving Towards Confederation
Chapter Summary

In chapter 9 entitled *Moving Towards Confederation* which is also the final chapter on the year, students will see how our province moved from its status as dominion of Britain governed by a Commission of Government to a province within the confederation of Canada. Students will learn about the tug of war between the confederates and anti-confederates and the reasoning behind their stance. They will learn about the subsequent referenda that finally determined our future. Finally together we look at the terms with which we entered into confederation and became Canada's tenth province.

Outcomes

By the end of the chapter students will be able to:

SCO 4.1 The student will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the process whereby Newfoundland and Labrador entered into Confederation with Canada. This includes:

- 4.1.1 Define the term referendum
- 4.1.2 Describe the role of the National Convention
- 4.1.2 Identify the position of key political figures on union with Canada
- 4.1.4. Analyse the strategy used by confederates and anti-confederates to promote their agenda
- 4.1.5. Evaluate arguments for and against in the Confederation debate.
- 4.1.6 Describe the two referenda processes whereby Newfoundland chose Confederation with Canada
- 4.1.7 Describe voting patterns across electoral district
- 4.1.8 Analyse the Terms of Union with Canada

Terms to Know

Acclamation
 National Convention
 Acclamation
 Referendum
 Commission of Government
 Terms of Union

Questions to Know

1. Why did Newfoundland lose Responsible Government?
2. What was Commission of Government?
3. Who called for the formation of the National Convention? (pgs. 224-225)
4. What was the role of the National Convention? (pg. 224)
5. What were the two sides that emerged during the convention?(pg. 225)
6. How long did the Convention meet for? (pgs. 225-226)
7. What were the two options that the Convention agreed upon?(pg. 231)
8. What were the options that appeared on the ballot during the referendum? (pg. 233)
9. Be able to analyse political cartoons following the steps on page 238.
10. How did confederation come to appear on the referendum ballot? (pgs. 232-233)
11. What was the result of the first referendum? Which option was dropped? (pg. 240)
12. What was the result of the second referendum? (pg. 240)
13. What are the Terms of Union? Be able to explain the key points (pg. 244)
14. When were the Terms of Union signed? (pg. 243)

People To Know

- Rev. Lester Burry (226)
- Joey Smallwood (228)
- Peter Cashin (228)
- Stella Maris Meaney (242)

Evaluation

- Other evaluations possible: to be announced

Chapter 9: Moving Towards Confederation

National Convention: were a group of people elected by Newfoundlanders to help decide how Newfoundland would be governed. It was put together by British Prime Minister Clement Atlee in 1945. People felt Newfoundland had recovered economically because of the war, and it was time for Commission of Government to end. To help in their decision they were to analyze Newfoundland's economic, social and political situation.

Commission of Government : was a non-elected group that governed Newfoundland when it's economy collapsed during the Great Depression. The Commission consisted of seven persons appointed by the British government. No elections took place, and no legislature was convened for 15 years (1934-1949).

Acclamation: when there is only one person who runs for election; the person then would be appointed into the position.

Referendum: when people vote to decide between two/three choices on who will represent them (i.e. form of government).

Responsible Government: refers to a time when Newfoundland had an elected assembly; self governing. There was a Governor from Britain but Newfoundlanders were able to vote and elect representatives.

Social Studies 8: Chapter 9- Confederation

Background:

-1933: government voted to have a panel of people who would rule NL until 1949, these people made up the Commission of Government

Why did we lose Responsible Government?

- WW1: we are in debt millions of dollars
- The Great Depression: high unemployment and poverty was spread worldwide
- political instability: 7 Prime Ministers between 1918 & 1934
- Riots: - Richard Squires
 - In Dec 1933, NL teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. Legislature voted to suspend responsible government.
 - Very little opposition from the people even though they had no say in the suspension of government
 - 1934: Commission of Government took over and stayed in power until 1949.
 - By mid 1940's NL had recovered & was in great shape with a:
 - strong economy
 - recovered from WW2
 - politically stable
 - Recovered from crisis that lead to Commission
 - 1945-1949: these years focused on what should happen now that NL was strong again
 - Britain set up National Convention whose role was to decide on the future for NL

National Convention:

-In 1933 a report (Amulree Report) said Commission would stay until NL back on its feet, by 1940's NL solid again...so

Dec 11, 1945- British MP Attlee announced there would be a general election where candidates would be chosen for a National Convention whose job would be to decide the future of NL's government

Purpose of the National Convention:

to examine and discuss NL's economic, social, political situation. From this examination they would make recommendations about possible forms of government. They would come up with options for the people to vote on.

Referendum in the fall of 1947:

-many NLers not happy, they felt Britain had betrayed them. When we were strong again many thought it would be an automatic return to democracy, that didn't happen.

-1946- (all male) representatives elected to the National Convention, some (8) were there by acclamation (no one ran against them so they automatically got in) 2 women did not win enough votes. First Meeting- Sept 11, 1946

-National Convention split into committees to examine NL politically, socially, economically so no area was overlooked.

-There were divisions amongst the pro-confederates (for) and the anti-confederates (against). Cashin was an anti-confederate. Smallwood & Bradley were pro-confederation.

-One group went to Ottawa to discuss confederation with Canada. They came back with a list of terms if NL decided to join Canada.

-One group went to Britain where they were not really welcomed. Britain was not interested in having NL dependent on them.
 -when the Ottawa delegation returned to NL many at the convention were very angry that "terms" had been discussed. Many at the convention were strongly in support of responsible government which was the closest to independence.

1st referendum vote inside the convention was between:

1. Commission of Government
2. Responsible Government
- No Confederation option because it was voted down at the convention

232-234 SMALLWOOD- will not give up on Confederation

-Smallwood petitioned the public and the British government to allow the Confederation option to be added to the ballot. 50,000 names were on the petition.
 -Britain had already decided to allow Confederation on the ballot. This made many at the National Convention very angry, what was the point in all the voting & debating if Britain had decided beforehand that confederation would be a choice for the public.

June 3, 1948 (first ballot - 3 options)

1. Commission of Government
2. Responsible Government
3. Confederation with Canada

*Winner had to have $\frac{1}{2}$ of the votes (clear winner)

If there was no clear winner then the option with the least amount of votes would be dropped from a second vote.

Vote Results: Commission of Government 14%
 Responsible Government 45%
 Responsible Government 41%

Commission of Government was dropped for second vote. So, all those politicians who had supported that option had to pick a new one. Ches Crosbie tried to get people to consider joining the USA despite that option never having been on the ballot.

July 22, 1948 (second ballot- 2 options)

1. Responsible Government 48%
2. Confederation with Canada 52%

- very close vote- lots of controversy. Anti-confederates believed the votes were tampered with or miscounted. Lots of debate & arguing whether or not the vote should be considered accurate, Britain eventually did accept the vote and on March 31, 1949 Newfoundland officially joined Canada.

-a list of conditions (Terms of Union) were made between NL and Canada. They controlled how NL would enter Canada and what level of government had the control of different areas. There is serious debate today whether or not Canada has fulfilled it's obligations to Newfoundland as outlined in the Terms of Union.

Social Studies 8: Chapter 9- Confederation

Background:

-1933: government voted to have a panel of people who would rule NL until 1949, these people made up the Commission of Government

Why did we lose Responsible Government?

- WW1: we are in debt millions of dollars
 - The Great Depression: high unemployment and poverty was spread worldwide
 - political instability: 7 Prime Ministers between 1918 & 1934
 - Riots: 1925- Richard Squires
-
- In Dec 1933, NL teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. Legislature voted to suspend responsible government.
 - Very little opposition from the people even though they had no say in the suspension of government
 - 1934: Commission of Government took over and stayed in power until 1949.
 - By mid 1940's NL had recovered & was in great shape with a:
 - strong economy
 - recovered from WW2
 - politically stable
 - Recovered from crisis that lead to Commission
 - 1945-1949: these years focused on what should happen now that NL was strong again
 - Britain set up National Convention whose role was to decide on the future for NL

The National Convention: Socials 8

Read pages 223-226 and answer the following questions

1. What was the purpose of the national Convention?

2. Who determined where the Convention would take place?

3. What was the task of the National Convention?

4. How many delegates were elected to the National Convention? Was there gender equality?

5. How long did the Convention last? (when did it first meet? Last meet?)

6. What were the two sides that emerged in the National Convention?

Joseph R. Smallwood
Father of Confederation

Instructions: Read page 228 and answer the following questions in the space provided.

A) Where and when was Joseph R. Smallwood born?

B) What were some of the activities Smallwood was involved in before entering politics?

C) What side of the confederation debate was Smallwood on and why?

D) What was Joey's role in Newfoundland after confederation?

E) When did he pass away?

F) Homework: Why do think Smallwood is referred to as the Father of Confederation?

Peter Cashin
Smallwood's Rival

Instructions: Read page 229 and answer the following questions in the space provided.

A) Where and when was Peter Cashin born and when did he die?

B) Give some highlights of Cashin's early political career.

C) What happened in 1932?

D) What was Peter's role in Newfoundland at the National Convention?

E) What side of the confederation debate was he on? Why?

F) What was his role in politics after Confederation?

Reverend Lester Burry: Socials 8

Read page 226 and answer the following questions

1. Where and when was Lester Burry born?
2. How did Wilfred Grenfell influence Lester Burry's life?
3. How was he introduced to Labrador?
4. What was Lester's role at the National Convention?
5. What is one key point that stands out in the speech Burry gave to the national Convention?
6. When did he die?