

The Events of Confederation

THE CHARLOTTETOWN CONFERENCE

The Charlottetown Conference

- Maritime colonies held it in Charlottetown, PEI in September, 1864
 - Discussed a union of the Maritimes
- British Columbia and Newfoundland absent
- Canadas present

Canadas Persuade the Maritimes

- Canadas met with representatives from P.E.I., New Brunswick and Nova Scotia
 - Convince them to abandon original plan
 - Got them to consider a union with the Canadas
 - Conference agreed to join the colonies together and to meet again in the future

THE QUEBEC CONFERENCE

The Quebec Conference

- The colonies of British North America met in Quebec in October 1864
 - Included Newfoundland but not British Columbia
 - Had agreed to the joining of the colonies
 - met for three weeks
 - Generated a list details on how the country would work called the Quebec Resolutions

The Quebec Resolutions

- A federal constitution
 - Federal: relating to a system that has a central government as well as provincial governments
 - A government for the whole country and one for each province
- Each level of government would be responsible for different things
- A balance of representation by population and equal representation
- A balance between elected and appointed representatives

OPPOSITION TO THE QUEBEC RESOLUTIONS

Antoine-Aime Dorion

- Leader of Canada East's Rouge party
- opposed Confederation
- Believed resolutions would destroy French culture in Quebec
- Wanted a referendum on Confederation
 - referendum: a vote by the people

Joseph Howe

- journalist and politician from Halifax
- premier from 1860 to 1863
- opposed Confederation

- thought the people were not being consulted
 - Nova Scotia would be overwhelmed by the larger provinces of Ontario and Quebec
- thought Halifax was too far away from the Canadas

THE LONDON CONFERENCE

The London Conference

- held in London England in December 1866
- attended by Canada West, Canada East, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia
- discussed the future of the colonies with British officials

Self-Governing Dominion

- agreement was reached between Canada and Britain
 - Canada would become a “self-governing dominion”

CONFEDERATION

Confederation

- July 1, 1867
- The Dominion of Canada included Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia
- Ottawa was chosen as capital
- Parliament was located in Ottawa

THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT, 1867

Features of Canada’s New Government

- A federal system
- Bilingual features
- A balance of representation by population and equal representation
- A balance between appointed and elected representatives

A Federal System

- A parliament for the whole country
- A legislature for each province

Bilingual Features

- French and English would be the languages in parliament
- Also in the Quebec legislature

Balance of Representation

- Parliament had two houses
- Representation by population in the House of Commons
- Equal representation in the Senate (each province had same number of seats)

Balance of Representatives

- House of Commons would be elected by the voters

- The Senate would be appointed by the Prime Minister