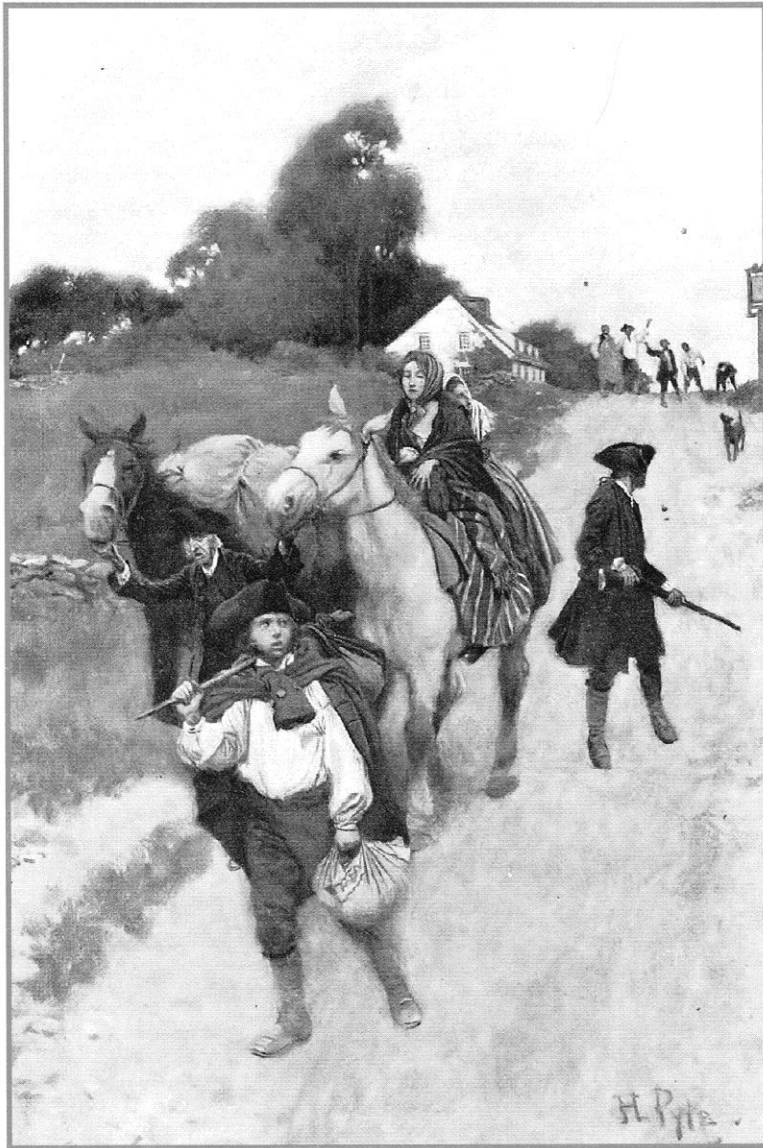


The King's Friends



Tory Refugees on Their Way to Canada. During and after the American Revolution, thousands of Loyalists travelled north by land and sea to settle in British North America.

*Tories with their brats and wives
Should fly to save their wretched lives.*

Beginning in 1776 and continuing for a decade, a steady stream of political **refugees**, called Tories, came to the British colonies of Quebec and Nova Scotia from the 13 American colonies. After the Treaty of Paris in 1783, these people came to be known as Loyalists.

Refugee — person who leaves home or country to seek safety elsewhere

The Tories fled from the Patriots because they did not agree with the Patriots' belief that British rule should be overthrown. They left the Thirteen Colonies in order to get to safer British territory. Since the colonies to the north had remained British and were close by, they settled there.

An Unusual Kind of Punishment

Some Tories were killed by the Patriots. Others endured a punishment called being "tarred and feathered." Prospective victims sometimes received a warning in the form of a ball of cold tar with a couple of feathers attached. After this warning, the potential victims could usually be seen on their way to British North America.

A victim who remained was often pulled out of his home by a crowd of men and taken to a bonfire. He was usually forced to watch the tar being melted over the fire, so that he could think about the pain he was going to experience. He was then stripped of his clothing, and the boiling tar was poured over him. The victim was then made to roll in a pile of feathers. Often he was made to sit with his legs on either side of a sharp rail, and his tormentors would carry him around the town so that everyone could see what happened to people who were loyal to their king. Removal of the tar was very painful. Often the person's blistered skin would peel off along with the cold tar.

Loyalists

Many of these Tories had been physically mistreated by the Patriots, their businesses destroyed, and their homes taken away from them. In the Treaty of Paris of 1783, which ended the American Revolution, the Americans promised to repay the people whose homes or other property had been destroyed. This promise was never kept.

The coming of the Loyalists changed British North America greatly. Their arrival resulted in the creation of two new colonies. The new colony of New Brunswick was formed from a part of the colony of Nova Scotia. Also, the colony of Quebec was split into Lower Canada (now the province of Quebec) and Upper Canada (now the province of Ontario). You will read about this later in the chapter.

There Were Many Kinds of Loyalists

The Patriots described a Loyalist as “someone whose head is in England, whose body is in America, and whose neck should be stretched.” This saying meant that the Loyalists should be hanged for their loyalty to Britain and the British government. But did all of the Loyalists leave the Thirteen Colonies because they were loyal to Britain? Read the examples below to find out about some of the other reasons why people left the Thirteen Colonies.



One of the Loyalists fled to Halifax when the rebels captured his home town of Boston. Nine days before he left, he had married a poor woman because he believed that she was rich. When he discovered that she was not, he abandoned her. In Halifax, he pretended to be a bachelor, and married a widow there. We can only wonder whether it was for her money.

A commonly held opinion has been that the Loyalists were mainly of British descent. It is now known that their nationalities varied. As well as the English, the Irish, and the Scots, there were Loyalists of German, Dutch, French, Iroquois, and African ancestry. These people hoped that Britain would protect their special customs and traditions.

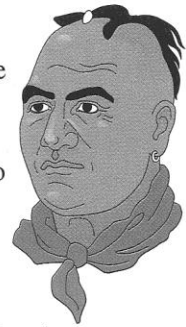


Some groups feared the democratic ideas of the Americans. They knew that if they stayed in the United States their children would be forced to become like everyone else (**homogeneous**). Many of the people came to America to keep their own culture and religion. They felt all this would be lost if they stayed in the United States, so they packed up and moved north to British territory, where they felt their way of life would be protected.

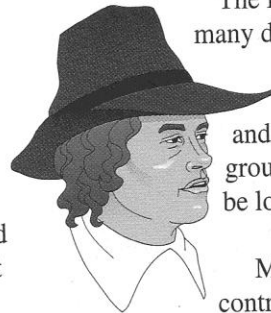


Some blacks came to British North America because they had no choice in the matter. They were slaves and went where their masters went. Many blacks came as free people, like the other Loyalists.*

Most of the Iroquois, such as Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant),** were Loyalists. They had fought alongside the British regiments. Many of the Iroquois believed that they had more to fear from American farmers, who wanted to move onto lands where the Iroquois lived, than from the British.

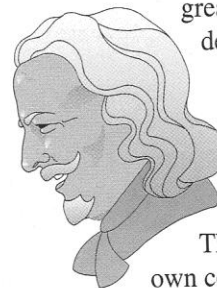
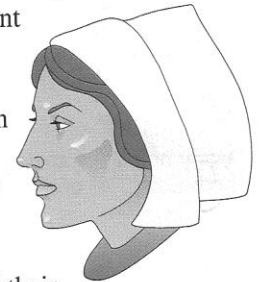


The Loyalists were people of many different religions. There were Presbyterians, Anglicans, Methodists, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Quakers, and Mennonites. Some of these religious groups were afraid that their religion would be lost. They wanted Britain’s protection.



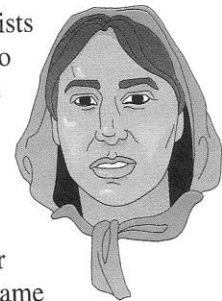
Most Loyalists came from colonies controlled by the British army. Loyalists who held British government jobs had no choice but to leave.

Some people became Loyalists on the basis of which recruiter, British or American, offered the best deal to settlers. Loyalists were offered free land in British North America. This greatly influenced their decision to go there.



Some Loyalists may have thought that it would not be long before their new home would be part of the United States anyway. Therefore, they were not leaving their own country forever.

Some people became Loyalists because they expected Britain to win the war. They wanted to be on the winning side. When Britain did not win, if their support of the Loyalist cause was known, they had to flee. Those who had not voiced their opinions as openly quickly became Patriots.

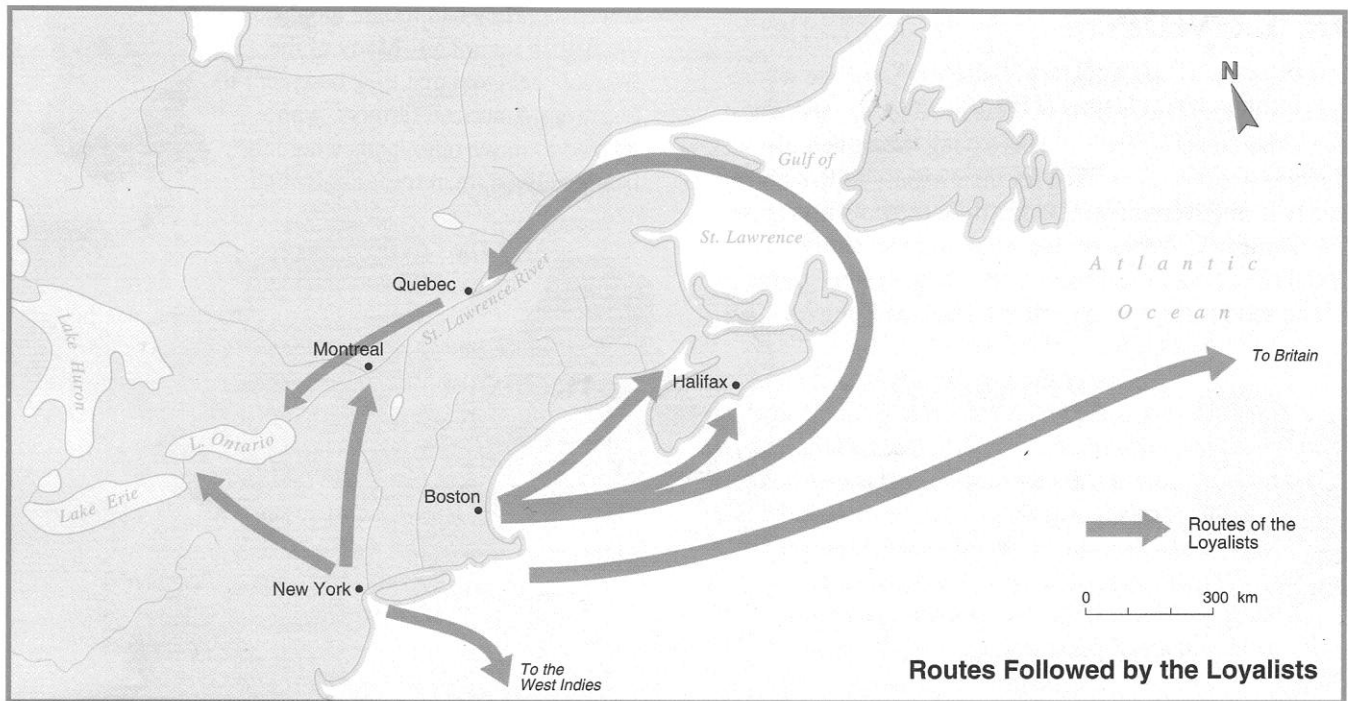


Homogeneous — similar; like everyone else

*The British offered the black slaves their freedom if they helped the British cause.

**See page 113.

Where the Loyalists Went



Many of the Loyalists who went to Quebec travelled by land. This map shows the major routes they used. Most of them arrived between 1776 and 1785. The Loyalists who went to Nova Scotia travelled by sea.

The Loyalists had been leaving the Thirteen Colonies since 1776. In the Treaty of Paris of 1783,* which ended the American Revolution, the American Congress agreed to ask the American states to pay the Loyalists back for any of their property that had been taken away or destroyed during the revolution. The American states refused to do this. In fact, after the revolution was over, there was still a great deal of anger against the Loyalists who remained in the United States. Some of them had their farms and businesses burned; others were beaten. The practice of tarring and feathering continued after the peace treaty as well.

By 1785, two years after the end of the revolution, as many as 100 000 Loyalists may have left the Thirteen Colonies. The Loyalists did not have many choices for places to go. Some went to Britain. Others went to the West Indies. Between 40 000 and 45 000 went to British North America.**

*Note that there are two treaties called the Treaty of Paris. The treaty of 1763 ended the Seven Years' War; the treaty of 1783 ended the American Revolution.

**Figures for the number of Loyalists who settled in present-day Canada are not exact. Some did not apply for aid and therefore did not make it into the official records. Also, some who came did not stay. Some returned to the United States. Others came to Nova Scotia and then moved on to other places.

British North America

The Treaty of Paris of 1763,* which ended the Seven Years' War between France and Britain, gave the colonies of Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Prince Edward Island to Britain.

Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island had very small populations. Nova Scotia had a population of about 20 000, most of whom were of British or German descent.

The province of Quebec was given to Britain, but it was definitely not British. Most of the people—about 98 000 of a population of 113 000—spoke French and had French traditions, but their government was British.

The Loyalists in British North America

Because of their loyalty to Britain, the Loyalists would be protected by the British government in British North America. Also, the British government would give each Loyalist family or individual a piece of land and some supplies to help them start a new life. About 34 000 Loyalists went to the British colony of Nova Scotia. About 7000 went to the British colony of Quebec.**

The British Colony of Nova Scotia

At the end of the American Revolution, in 1783, the only major port in the American colonies still held by the defeated British was New York. Many Loyalists went there so that the British could protect them from the victorious American Patriots. At New York the Loyalists awaited British ships that would take them to Nova Scotia.

The Loyalists who went to New York included those who had fought in Loyalist regiments for the British army during the revolution. At the end of the revolution the British

government gave them a choice between being sent back to their homes with three months' pay or being transported to Nova Scotia.

Actually, there was no real choice because the Loyalists were in danger of being persecuted if they returned home. Many of the former soldiers decided that they would be much better off to take their families to Nova Scotia, where they could start a new life.

Here is part of a letter written by the wife of a Loyalist soldier, on June 6, 1783:

Kind husband,

I am sorry to acquaint you that our farme is sold . . .

they said if I did not quitt posesion that they had aright to take anythink on the farme or in the house to pay the cost of a law sute and imprisen me—I have suffered most every thing but death it self in your long absens pray grant me spedy releaf or God only knows what will become of me and me frendles children. . . . They say my posesion was nothing youre husband has forfeited his estate by joining the British Enemy with a free and vollenary will and thereby was forfeited to the Stat and sold. All at present from you cind and loveing wife.

Phoebe Ward

For families like the Wards, Nova Scotia seemed like a good place to go. Even though it was a British colony, very few people lived there. The low population ensured that there would be plenty of land available for the Loyalists.

Some of the Loyalists were so thankful to arrive on British soil that they knelt and kissed the ground. One Loyalist, the Reverend Jonathan Beecher, wrote:

As soon as we had set up a kind of tent, we knelt down, my wife and I and my two boys, and kissed the dear ground and thanked God that the flag of England floated there. We resolved that we would work with the rest to become again prosperous and happy.

C-168, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa.



The Coming of the Loyalists, 1783. Many Loyalists faced great hardships when they had to start new farms or businesses in British North America.

Unfortunately, some Loyalists were soon disappointed in their new home. They called it “Nova Scarcity.” The winters were harsh, and food was scarce. In many areas the land was unproductive. They complained bitterly at how poorly the British government had rewarded them for their loyalty to Britain during the revolution.

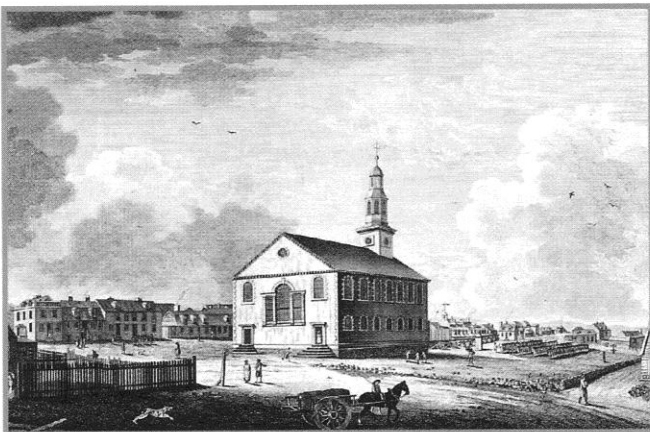
By 1785, about 34 000 Loyalists had made the journey to Nova Scotia. This was over one and one-half times as many people as the 20 000 already there. The Loyalists settled in three main areas—Halifax, Shelburne, and the St. John River Valley.

Areas Where the Loyalists Settled

Halifax

Halifax was founded in 1749. By the time the Loyalists began to arrive in 1783, Halifax was a well-established community, with schools, churches, and stores. It was the British military centre and capital of Nova Scotia. The British-appointed governor and many soldiers, as well as families, lived there. Only a small number of Loyalists settled in Halifax. In Halifax, the Loyalists had to fit into the community, rather than make their own new life, as they did in Shelburne and the St. John River Valley.

C-4293, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa.



The Church of St. Paul, and the Parade at Halifax in Nova Scotia.

Shelburne

About 10 000 Loyalists went to settle at Port Roseway. They renamed it Shelburne and made it, for a short time, one of the largest cities in all of North America. The Loyalists had high hopes for the new lives they would have in Shelburne. There was an excellent harbour and few people, which meant that they would be able to live their own lives and not have to fit into an established community, as the Loyalists who settled in Halifax had to do.

A thriving town developed, with stores, taverns, churches, three newspapers, and a shipbuilding industry. Benjamin Marston, a resident of Shelburne, describes how early in 1784 some 50 citizens of the city “danced, drank

tea, and played cards in a house where six months ago there was an almost impenetrable swamp.”

Unfortunately, though, the land around Shelburne was unsuitable for farming, and when the British government’s food rations began to run out, people began to leave. In a short time, it went from a boom town of 10 000 people to a few hundred people. Many of the new houses were either taken apart and shipped to Halifax, where they were set up again, or they were destroyed for firewood. Soon much of the city looked like a grassy ghost town with stone fireplaces scattered about.

The St. John River Valley

About 15 000 Loyalists settled in the St. John River Valley. This was the area that would later become the colony of New Brunswick. Before this could happen, problems between the Loyalist settlers and the British government needed to be solved.

This group of Loyalists began to ask for a separate colony almost immediately. They did not want to be part of the colony of Nova Scotia. They felt that Halifax, the capital, where most of the government officials were located, was too far away.

The government was not well prepared for the arrival of the Loyalists. The first night after landing, the Loyalists had to hack away bushes and trees in order to find room to set up their tents. Some were so dismayed by this situation that they simply sat down and cried.

The government did not provide enough tools and building materials to help the Loyalists build their new homes. As a result, some of the women and children died from cold weather or starvation during the first winter.

The distribution of land to the Loyalists was another major problem. The land had not been divided into lots when the first Loyalists arrived. Therefore, they could not be sure that they actually owned the land upon which they were building their homes. In fact, some of the first Loyalists had already built 1500 frame houses and 400 log huts near the harbour, when the government informed them that the area was needed as a refugee settlement area for new arrivals.

Later arrivals were unhappy because the lots that they were given were much smaller than the lots given to Loyalists who had arrived earlier. In fact, in Parrtown (later renamed St. John) the last town lots were one-sixteenth the size of the first lots.

Favouritism was also a problem. Loyalists who had held important positions in the Thirteen Colonies received more land than Loyalists who were not so important.

Thomas Peters (1738–1792)

Thomas Peters was a former slave. He served with the Black Pioneers, an all-black regiment, during the American Revolution. In 1783, Peters and other veterans of the Black Pioneers were transported to Nova Scotia, where they had been promised town lots of approximately eight hectares each, outside of the city of Shelburne.

Instead, the British government gave them only poor land outside of Shelburne. When they built on this land, their homes were burned down by people from Shelburne. They finally settled in an all-black community called Birchtown.

After six years of waiting for the land he had been promised, Peters went to Britain for help. There he met William Wilberforce, a famous anti-slavery crusader. Wilberforce organized the start of a new colony in Africa, called Sierra Leone. About 1200 black people, including Thomas Peters, sailed from Nova Scotia to Sierra Leone. There was to be equality between blacks and whites in this new colony.

Unfortunately, the colony only lasted a year. There were many difficulties from the beginning. Many colonists died on the voyage to Africa. Droughts, tornadoes, fever, and feuds among the colonists made the first year a disaster. However, even though the colony collapsed, there are still descendants of the Nova Scotia colonists in Sierra Leone today.*

The British Colony of New Brunswick

A New Colony Is Formed

In 1784, Nova Scotia was divided along the Missiquash River and the British colony of New Brunswick was created.

The Loyalists Want a New Colony

The Loyalists in the St. John River Valley had many reasons for wanting a new colony. They felt that they were too far from the government capital in Halifax. They felt that the distant government treated them unfairly. The Loyalists also believed that they were unlike the people who were already settled in the colony of Nova Scotia. Many of these people were formerly from the New England colonies and had remained neutral, favouring neither side during the revolution. They had not been forced to leave their homes.

The Loyalists thought that all they had suffered during and after the revolution made it difficult to live with people who had not suffered or taken part in the revolution. They thought a separate Loyalist colony where they could live with people like themselves would be better.

This idea was expressed by Edward Winslow, one of the Loyalist leaders:

A large proportion of the old inhabitants of this country are natives of New England, or descendants from New Englanders. They never experienced the violence of political bad feelings. They remained quiet during all the persecutions. They kept an affection for their former country. On our side are people who served in the military. They are angry from a series of misfortunes and are jealous to an extreme. Either of these kinds of people may form useful societies among themselves, but they can't be mixed.

A final reason had to do with the possibilities of the area. The St. John River was easy to navigate. The soil was fertile. Fish and timber were plentiful and the coastline had many good harbours. It looked like a place where new settlers could become prosperous.

The British Government Agrees



The British government recognized certain advantages in the formation of a Loyalist colony separate from the colony of Nova Scotia.

- If the colony of Nova Scotia were split, it would be less difficult to control because there would be a governor in each of the two colonies. The governor in Halifax would no longer have to worry about governing a place so far away.
- A new colony would provide government positions for wealthy and well-educated Loyalists who were demanding them.
- A strong Loyalist colony on the American border would provide protection against the American idea that colonists should rebel and govern themselves. The British government did not want the people in its remaining North American colonies to be influenced by this idea.

New Brunswick developed representative government soon after its formation as a colony. The first Legislature met in 1786, just two years after it became the separate colony of New Brunswick. Representative government means that the people of New Brunswick could “rule” by choosing others to act for, or represent, them in government.

*Note: there are thousands of descendants of the Black Loyalists living in Nova Scotia today.

The British Colony of Prince Edward Island



In 1763, by the Treaty of Paris, Île St. Jean (as Prince Edward Island was called then) became British property. The British renamed it St. John Island. It was called St. John Island until 1799, when it took the name of Prince Edward Island.

In 1767, the British divided the island into 67 townships of approximately 8000 hectares. The townships were given to British noblemen or officers. These people were absentee landlords, which meant they owned the land but did not choose to live on it. The owners chose to live in Britain instead of the colonies.

The landowning system on St. John Island was like an English version of New France's seigneurial system. All the land was owned by a favoured group of people. The difference between the landholding system in St. John Island and that in New France was that the St. John Island landholders did not bring in settlers as they had promised and many of them did not even pay their taxes.

In 1774, when the Thirteen Colonies had their First Continental Congress (a meeting to discuss their complaints about Britain), the people of St. John Island, as well as the people of Quebec and Nova Scotia, were invited to attend. They were not worried about gaining independence from Britain, but did want to gain some rights as colonies. But these colonies decided not to send any representatives to the meeting.

By 1784, there were still only about 1000 people living on St. John Island. Approximately 600 Loyalists decided to try to settle there. They found that they had to pay high rents and could not buy their land, since it was already owned by the absentee landlords.

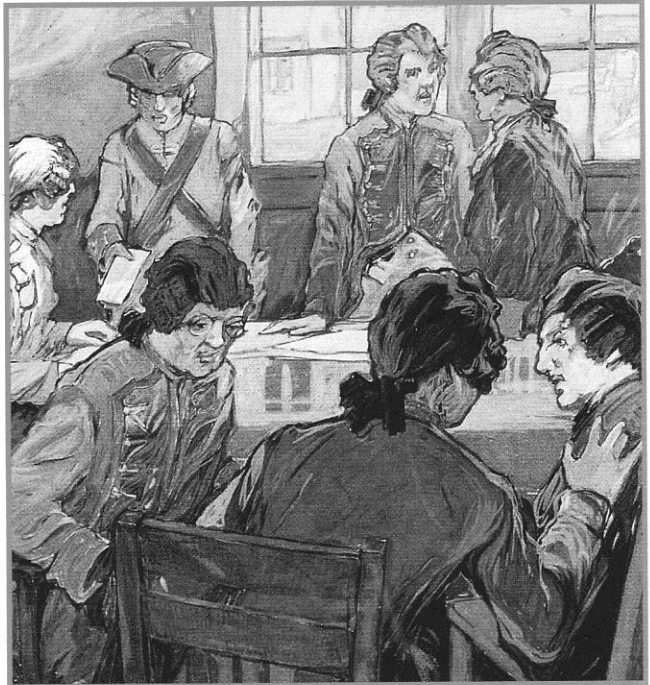
Eventually some of the Loyalist farmers decided that if the British landlords did not have to pay taxes, then they should not have to pay the high rents. The story is told that the first person in a neighbourhood to see a rent collector coming would blow on a large seashell to sound an alarm. Then the farmers would drive away the collector with clubs and pitchforks.

Some of the farmers were so discouraged by the fact that they could not own their own land that they left St. John Island. Others stayed on in the hope that one day the land would be theirs.

The British Colony of Cape Breton Island

Like New Brunswick, Cape Breton was made a separate colony from Nova Scotia in 1784. Up to this time the British government had not allowed people to settle there. There was coal on the island but the British government did not allow factories to be built because they would compete with the factories in Britain. However, in 1784 Cape Breton Island was opened to the Loyalists. About 3000 settled there. Most did not stay long. They did not like the fact that they could only rent, not buy, their land. As on St. John Island, most of the land on Cape Breton Island was owned by absentee landlords who lived in Britain. In 1820, Cape Breton was **re-annexed** to Nova Scotia.

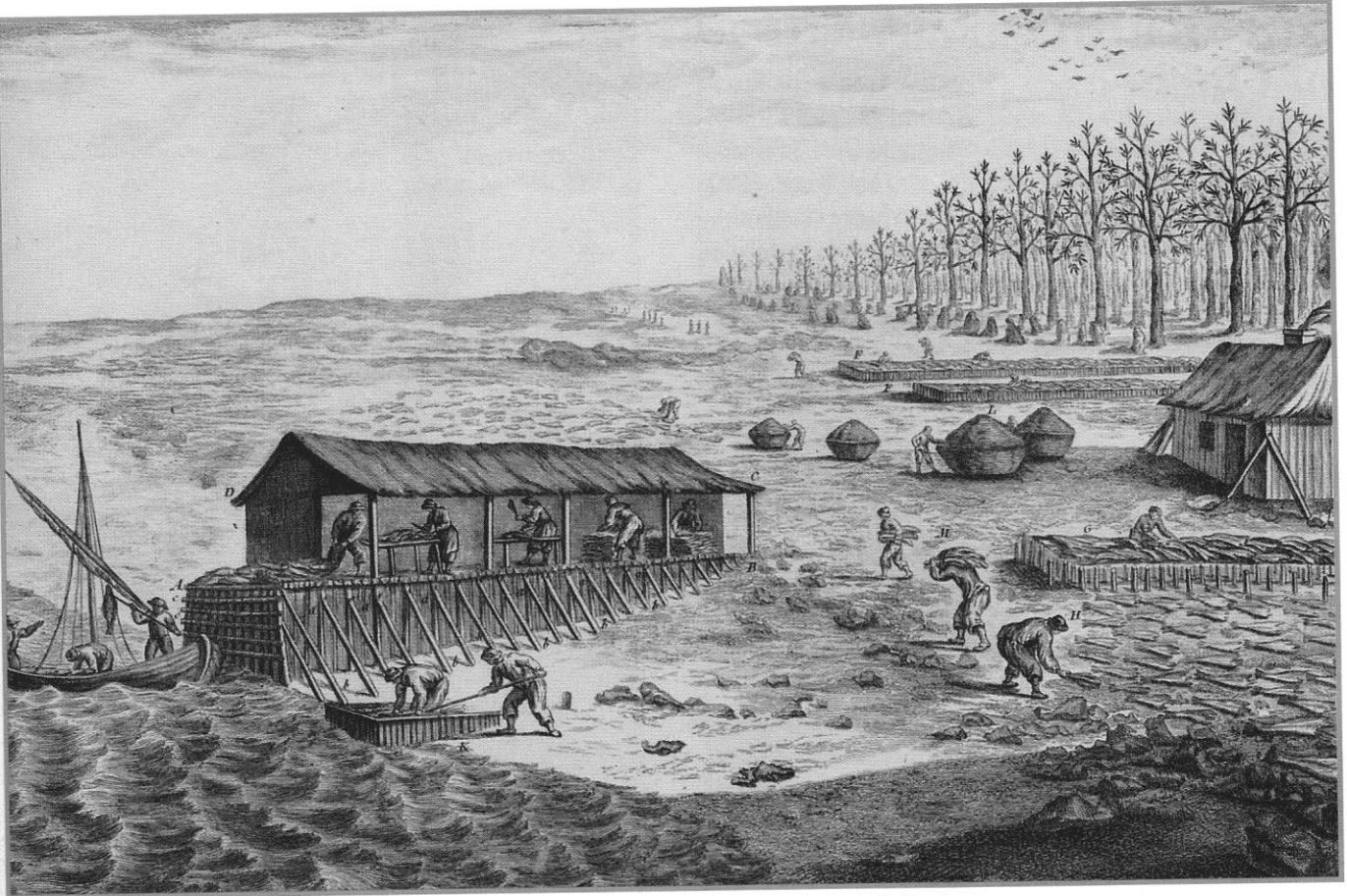
C-13954, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa.



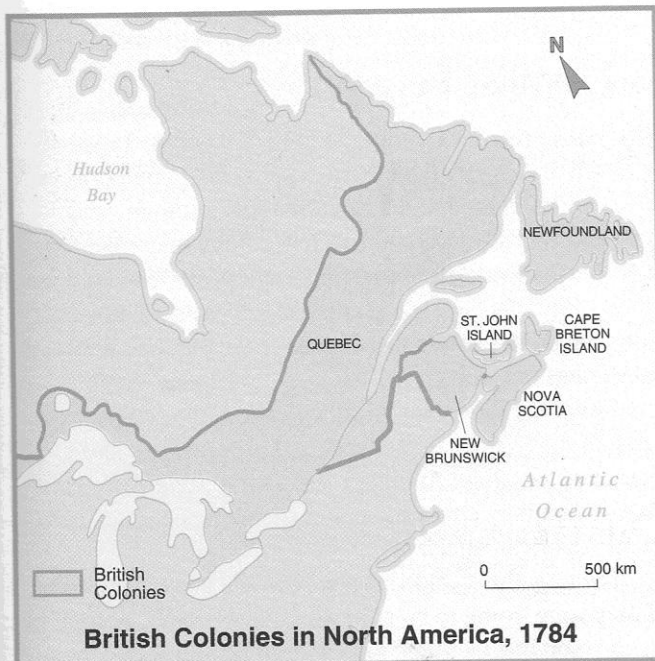
Cape Breton Council, by Charles Walter Simpson. The Cape Breton council had to deal with the large numbers of Loyalist refugees moving into the area.

The British Colony of Newfoundland

The British still showed no interest in having Newfoundland grow in population. All of the attention of the British government was still directed toward the fishing industry there. As a result, settlement was not encouraged. The government did not transport any Loyalists to Newfoundland.



By the 1760s, semi-permanent fishing stations were settled in many of Newfoundland's harbours.



Britain gained Quebec in 1763, then lost the Thirteen Colonies during the American Revolution. The result was a very different British North America by 1784.

For Your Notebook

1. In which three areas did the Loyalists settle in Nova Scotia? Briefly summarize the Loyalist experience in each of these places.
2. Why did the Loyalists in the St. John River Valley want the British government to create a new colony for them?
3. Why did the British government agree that a new colony should be created in the St. John River Valley?
4. Explain the landholding system on St. John Island (later called Prince Edward Island) at the time of the arrival of the Loyalists.

Exploring Further

1. Benedict Arnold is an interesting person from these times. He began as a Patriot, married a Loyalist, and then offered to spy for the British. He escaped from the Patriots on a British ship, but left his British contact behind to be hanged as a spy. After the war he was hated by both Patriots and Loyalists (for abandoning his contact). Read more details about Benedict Arnold. Decide whether you think he was a Patriot, a Loyalist, or an **opportunist**. Justify your answer.

Opportunist—a person who takes advantage of a situation for his or her own benefit

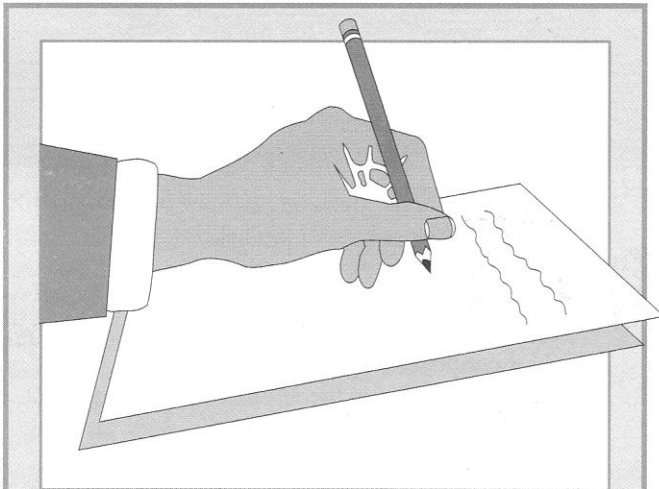
The British Colony of Quebec



The Loyalists had been coming to Quebec since 1776. By 1783, of the 7000 who had come, 6000 were crowded into temporary refugee camps on the seigneurie of Sorel, waiting for the government to decide what to do with them.

The British government was urging Governor Haldimand to encourage the Loyalists to go back home. They complained too much and cost the government too much money.

However, Governor Haldimand realized that it was highly unlikely that they would return to the United States. There was too much hatred against them there. Also, their farms, homes, businesses, and any other possessions left behind had all been taken over by the Patriots. They really did not have any good reasons to return. The Loyalists had given up everything and expected the British government to make up for their losses.



A Petition

A petition is a document containing a request directed to the government. It contains statements describing what the petitioners want changed and has space for the petitioners to sign their names. People might sign a petition requesting anything from the construction of a road to the lowering of taxes. People who want others to sign their petitions often go door-to-door or stand in markets or other places where many people will see them.



An Exercise in Problem Solving

1. Divide into groups of four. Imagine you are a member of a Loyalist family of two parents and four children leaving from one of the Thirteen Colonies for Quebec. Your father's life is in danger and you have only a few hours to prepare for your journey. You have two horses and a small cart. List the possessions you would take with you.
2. Imagine that your family is travelling toward the colony of Quebec. You decide to write a petition to Governor Haldimand, to be delivered when you arrive.

In the petition you describe the following:

- what you will need (land, food, clothing, seed, farm and household tools)
- the hardships you expect in your new home
- the help you expect Governor Haldimand to give you.

A Loyalist Petition



Governor Haldimand did not want the Loyalists mixing with the French-speaking population. Even though the Loyalists had left their own country so that they could live in a colony under the king's rule, they still had been exposed to the American ideas of liberty, equality, and representative government. He did not want them passing these ideas to the French-speaking inhabitants of Quebec.

Governor Haldimand decided to give the Loyalists land on the frontier to the west, as far away from the French as possible. Another reason for putting them there was so that they could serve as a first defence in the case of an American attack.

The Loyalists decided that they would need many things if they were going to be pioneers in a new land. A copy of the petition that they sent to Governor Haldimand is shown on the next page.

An Example of a Loyalist Petition

To His Excellency General Haldimand,
Governor-General and Commander in Chief:

The Loyalists, going to form a settlement at
Cataraqui, ask:

- That boards, nails, and shingles be given to each Loyalist family so that they may build houses and other buildings; that eight squares of window glass also be given each family.
- That arms, ammunition, and one axe be given to each male, aged fourteen or more.
- That the following things be given to each family:
 - one plow shear and coulter
 - leather for horse collars
 - two spades
 - three iron wedges
 - fifteen iron harrow teeth
 - three hoes
 - 2.5 cm and 1.25 cm auger
 - three chisels
 - one gouge
 - three **gimlets**
 - one hand saw and files
 - one nail hammer
 - one drawing knife
 - one frow for splitting shingles
 - two scythes and one sickle
 - one broad axe
- That one grindstone be given for every three families.
- That one year's clothing be given to each family.
- That two years' provisions be given to each family, enough according to their number and age.
- That two horses, two cows, and six sheep be delivered at Cataraqui for each family.
- That seeds of different kinds such as wheat, Indian corn, peas, oats, potatoes, and flax be given to each family.
- That one blacksmith be established in each township.

(Adapted from the Loyalist Petition to Governor Haldimand, written at Sorel.)

Government Help

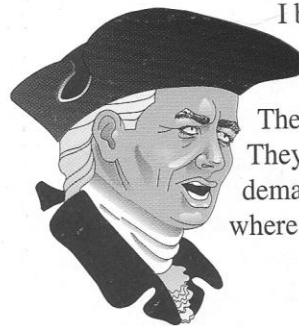
Provisions and Tools

The Loyalists were not given all of the things they had requested. However, they were given enough supplies to last for three years. Each family was given one tent. One musket was given to every five men (with one kilogram of powder and two kilograms of lead balls). There were lots of army muskets available, but Governor Haldimand thought that if the men could not spend their time hunting, then they would spend it clearing the land and planting crops. Each man was given an axe, a spade, and a hoe for this purpose. Small groups of families were given an ox, a plough, and building tools to share. Clothes were provided for three years' wear. Flour, beef, pork, salt, and butter were given to each family.

The following seed supply was given to the members of the community: 2 kg of onion seed, 5 kg of Norfolk turnip, 4 kg early Dutch turnip, 5 kg large Dutch cabbage, 6 kg celery seed, 8 kg orange carrot, 2 kg short top radish, 1 kg parsley seed, 36 dm³ of marrowfat peas.

It is interesting to note that the wheat seed had to be purchased from Americans in Vermont and the Mohawk Valley. Some of the wheat must have come from farms once owned by the Loyalists who had left those areas.

Land Grants (imaginary quote)



I brought my family all the way up north to find this alien land system—the seigneurial system. The people here don't own the land. They rent it! That's not for me! I demand the British Freehold System, where we own our own land.



To accommodate the Loyalists, the British system of owning land was introduced. It was decided that land would be given out according to the Loyalists' army rank and the number of people in their families. Army officers could draw more land than others, but they were not allowed to choose the land they liked best.

The land was divided into lots of about 80 hectares. Each lot was given a number. The numbers were written on pieces of paper and placed in a hat. Each man picked one of the lot numbers out of the hat and then hurried off to inspect his land.

Because there were no roads, the most valuable land was located along the waterways. Land that proved to be too poor for farming could be left and another lot, farther inland, could be drawn.

Building a New Life

The Loyalists had many hardships to endure. Although some merchants and **artisans** were able to continue their occupations, many people with no farming experience were forced to become farmers.

They lived in tents at first until a small shanty or hut could be built in preparation for winter. Then they began to clear the land to plant crops. Trees were cut down using handaxes. Those trees that were too big for the pioneers' small handaxes were circled with a cut 1.5 metres above the ground. This would kill the tree by the next year. The stumps were often left to rot in the ground. Later, when oxen became available, they were used to pull the stumps out.

The Loyalists were so busy building houses, clearing land, and planting crops, that they had little time to worry about other things.

An Eyewitness Account

James Dittrick, a boy whose family was Loyalist, described one hardship that he experienced:

We none of us had any shoes or stockings, winter or summer, as those we brought with us were soon worn out. At length my father tanned some leather, and I recollect the first pair of shoes he made which fell to my lot, greased and putting them too near the fire, on returning to my grief found that my shoes were all shrivelled up, so that I could never wear them. I[t] was twelve months before I obtained another pair, so many daily occurrences of life having to be attended to.

The Hungry Year

The year 1788 has become known as the “Hungry Year.” The winter of 1787–88 was extremely cold. It was followed by a summer drought. The lack of rain caused the crops to wither and die. To make matters worse, this was the year when the British government ended its assistance to the Loyalists. The government thought that they could now manage on their own.

James Dittrick describes the Hungry Year:

The most trying period of our lives, was the year 1788 called the year of scarcity

All the crops failed . . . for several days we were without food, except that the various roots we procured and boiled down to nourish us. We noticed what roots the pigs eat; and by that means avoided anything that had any poisonous qualities . . .

. . . Our poor dog was killed to allay the pangs of hunger, the very idea brought on sickness to some, but others devoured the flesh quite ravenous.

Artisan — worker very skilled in his or her craft

A few of the settlers starved to death. Most survived until 1789, when emergency supplies arrived. It has been estimated that half of the Loyalist population would have died if these supplies had not arrived when they did.

Fortunately, the harvest of 1789 was an excellent one. The Loyalists continued to live in their new homes. Many eventually became very prosperous farmers, but they never forgot the Hungry Year.



C-10717, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa (detail).

Sir Guy Carleton (1724–1808)

Sir Guy Carleton, later named Lord Dorchester, was commander-in-chief of the British forces at the end of the American Revolution. He worked long and hard on behalf of the Loyalists. He was responsible for the evacuation of the Loyalists from New York. All of the Loyalists were supposed to have gone by September 3, 1783, but Carleton stalled until November. By stalling for time, he allowed all the Loyalists who wished to escape New York time to reach safety.

Carleton had been governor of Quebec before Haldimand. He had been responsible for convincing the British government to proclaim the Quebec Act of 1774. (You read about it on page 84.) He became governor of Quebec again in 1786. In 1791, when the Constitutional Act divided Quebec into Upper and Lower Canada, Carleton became the first governor general of Canada. You will read about the Constitutional Act later in this chapter.

For Your Notebook

1. Ask your parents or other adults if they have ever signed a petition. What did it request? Did the petition get results?
2. Compare the actual petition sent by the Loyalists to the petition that you wrote to Governor Haldimand in the exercise on page 110. Did you forget anything important? Did the Loyalists ask for anything that you do not consider important?



An Exercise in Problem Solving

- (a) Refer to pages 80 and 84. Describe and/or make a chart illustrating the type of government in existence in Quebec when the Loyalists arrived.
- (b) Read the two stories on pages 114 to 117. Under the headings language, religion, and land ownership, describe the Quebec that the Loyalists would have preferred. In groups, draw on chart paper a government diagram showing the way in which the Loyalists would have liked to have seen the government organized. Present your government diagram to the rest of the class.
- (d) Write a letter from a Loyalist to Lord Dorchester describing how Quebec should be changed. A brief biography of Lord Dorchester (formerly called Sir Guy Carleton) is found on page 112. Read the biography of Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant) so as to consider a Native person's point of view as well.

Native People

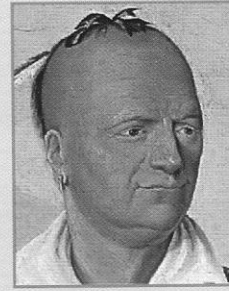
The Six Nations lived in what is now New York State. During the American Revolution most of the Iroquoian people were loyal to Britain and fought on their side.

When the revolution was over, Britain invited the Iroquoian people to move to British North America. Many of them did. Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant), a war leader of the Iroquois Six Nations Confederacy during the American Revolution, led his people to the Grand River area (now called the Six Nations Reserve). In the years that followed, several other Native groups moved to British North America as well.

After the American Revolution, American settlers moved westward by the thousands into the lands set aside for Native peoples by the Proclamation of 1763.

Exploring Further

1. Find instances today of Native land claims. What are the issues involved? How are they the same as or different from those faced by Thayendanegea (Joseph Brant)?
2. Find information about Molly Brant, Joseph Brant's sister (see biography above right). Prepare a report about this important Native leader.



Thayendanegea (1742–1807)

Thayendanegea, which meant “Two Sticks of Wood Bound Together for Strength” became a man of two worlds—the world of the Mohawks and the world of the Europeans. He attended school and could read and write English, Latin, and Greek—at a time when schooling was available for only a favoured few. While at school he became a devout Christian and received his Christian name—Joseph Brant.

Thayendanegea became war leader of the Iroquois Six Nations Confederacy during the American Revolution. Under his leadership most of the Six Nations remained loyal to the British government. He and his men fought many battles against the Patriots.

After the war Thayendanegea led his people to British North America. There, most settled on a reserve that extended to a width of 10 kilometres on either side of the Grand River in what is now southwestern Ontario.

He spent many years fighting for the right of his people to treat the land around the Grand River as their own. In 1784 Governor Haldimand of Quebec signed a formal deed on behalf of King George III of Britain that gave the land to the Mohawks with the words “which they and their posterity are to enjoy forever.” In 1793 Lieutenant Governor Simcoe of Upper Canada issued a new deed that stated that the land belonged to the Native people only so long as they remained on it. If they left it, the ownership would go back to the British government. They could not sell or transfer it. When the British government was appealed to, they agreed with Simcoe. This issue was not resolved in Thayendanegea's lifetime.

Thayendanegea was an exceptional leader during difficult times. He was a strong Loyalist during the American Revolution. However, after the revolution he was not afraid to stand up for his people against what he saw as injustices of the British government. He served as a bridge for his people between the old ways and the new, while at the same time working to maintain their distinct culture.

The Constitutional Act, 1791

Introduction

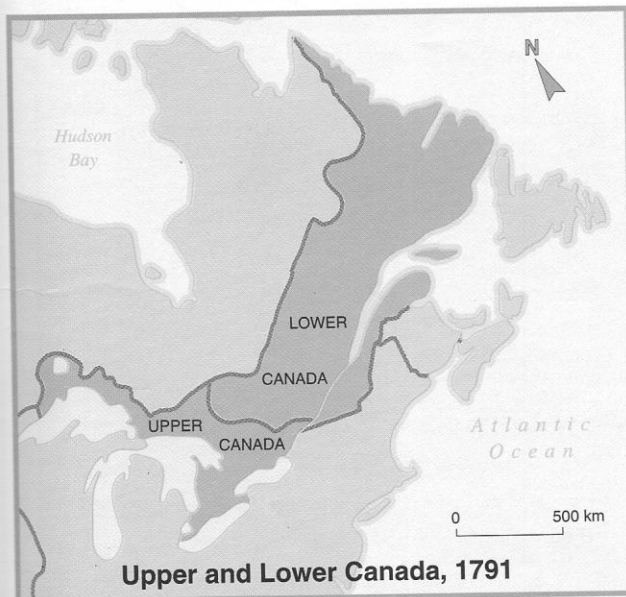


The Constitutional Act of 1791 gave the people of Upper and Lower Canada their own Legislative Assemblies, thereby giving them representative government. Because the British government did not repeal the Quebec Act, its terms continued in existence.

Aims: to recognize the bicultural nature of Quebec by dividing it into two colonies: Upper Canada and Lower Canada

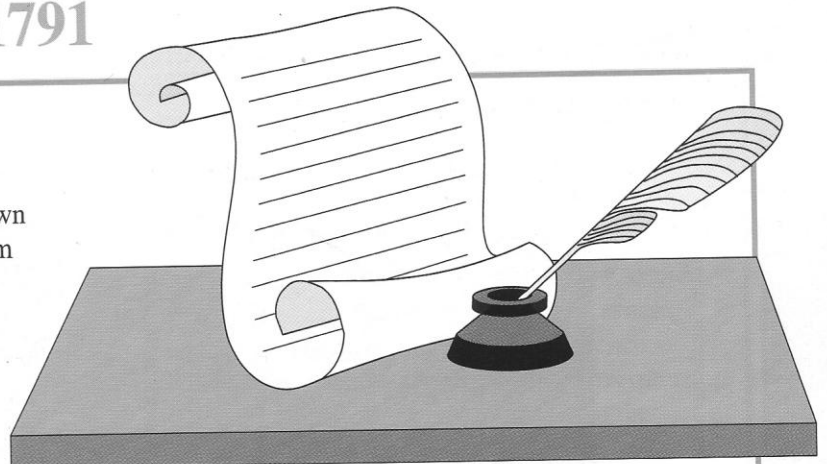
- to provide a government satisfying both British and French
- to give the people an elected Legislative Assembly, but limiting the assembly's power.

By giving the people elected assemblies with limited power, the British government attempted to ensure that the situation in the Thirteen Colonies, where the legislative assemblies had too much power and a revolution occurred, did not happen in British North America.



Quebec was divided into two colonies: Upper Canada ("up" the St. Lawrence River), which is part of the present-day province of Ontario, and Lower Canada ("down" the St. Lawrence River), which is part of the present-day province of Quebec.

Bicultural — having two cultures (British and French) existing side by side in the same country or province



Key Terms

Language: Upper Canada to be English-speaking and Lower Canada mainly French-speaking

Religion: one-seventh of all public lands in Upper Canada to be set aside for Protestant schools and churches. In Lower Canada the system established under the Quebec Act was to be continued (protection for the Roman Catholic Church).

Government — Who Makes the Laws (Legislative)

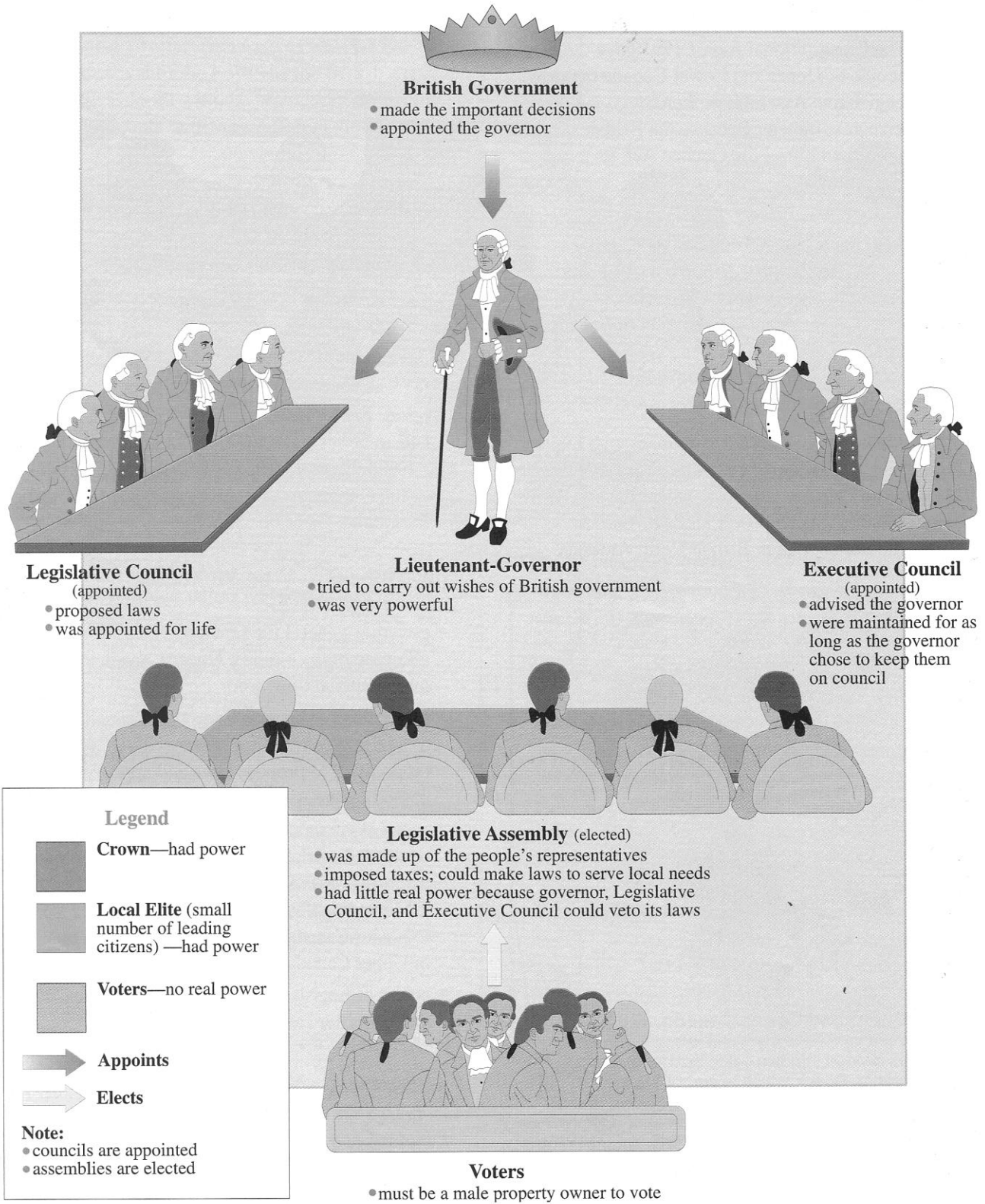
- governor general for Lower Canada would control affairs in both colonies; Upper Canada to have its own lieutenant-governor
- each colony to have an Executive Council (appointed) to advise governor, and a Legislative Council (appointed) to propose laws and approve those laws passed by the Assembly
- each colony to have representative government, with (elected) Legislative Assembly, and power to impose taxes, make laws, and serve local needs. Only male landowners allowed to vote. Women with property in Lower Canada could vote until the 1830s. Women in Upper Canada could not vote.
- power of Legislative Assembly very limited, councils and governor can block laws.

Government — Who Enforces the Laws (Executive)

- Upper Canada to have English civil law and criminal law; Lower Canada same system as Quebec Act (English criminal and Canadian [based on French] civil law)

Refer to the government diagram on page 120.

Government Structure of Upper Canada Under the Constitutional Act, 1791*



*Lower Canada had the same government structure but they had an entirely separate government. Refer to the complete government diagram on page 128. Note: The colony of Lower Canada had a representative government after the passage of the Constitutional Act in 1791.