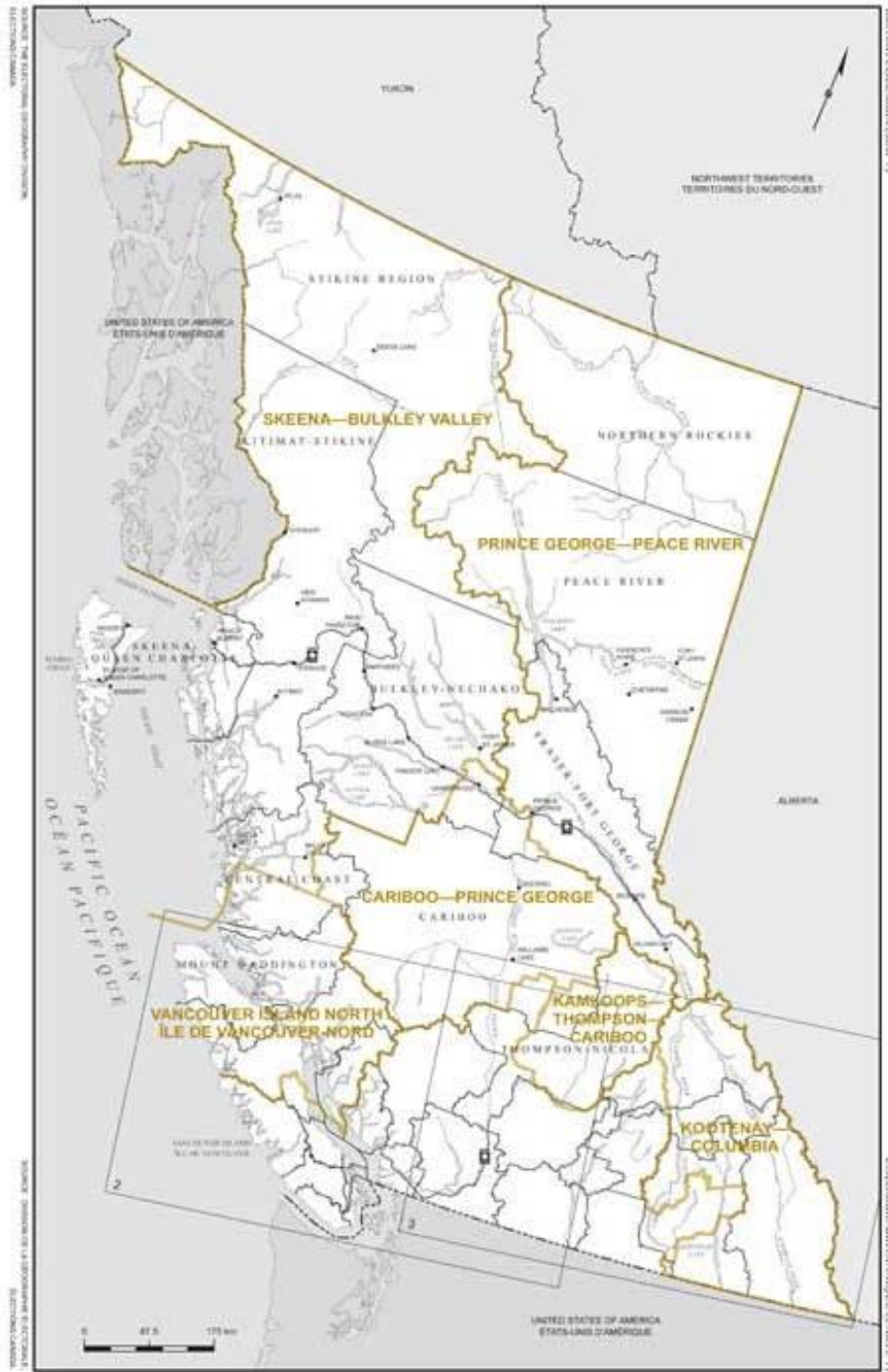


The Need for Reform





- ◉ In Canada today, we have a **representative government** (a government made up of people who are elected by voters)
- ◉ Our government must act responsibly (must please the majority of the people who elected them).



Governments of the Past

- ◉ During the 1800's, our government was run by a Governor following the intentions of Britain.
- ◉ The Governor was appointed so they had little in common with the colonists.
- ◉ Constitutional Act of 1791 created the government in Upper and Lower Canada



Constitutional Act of 1791

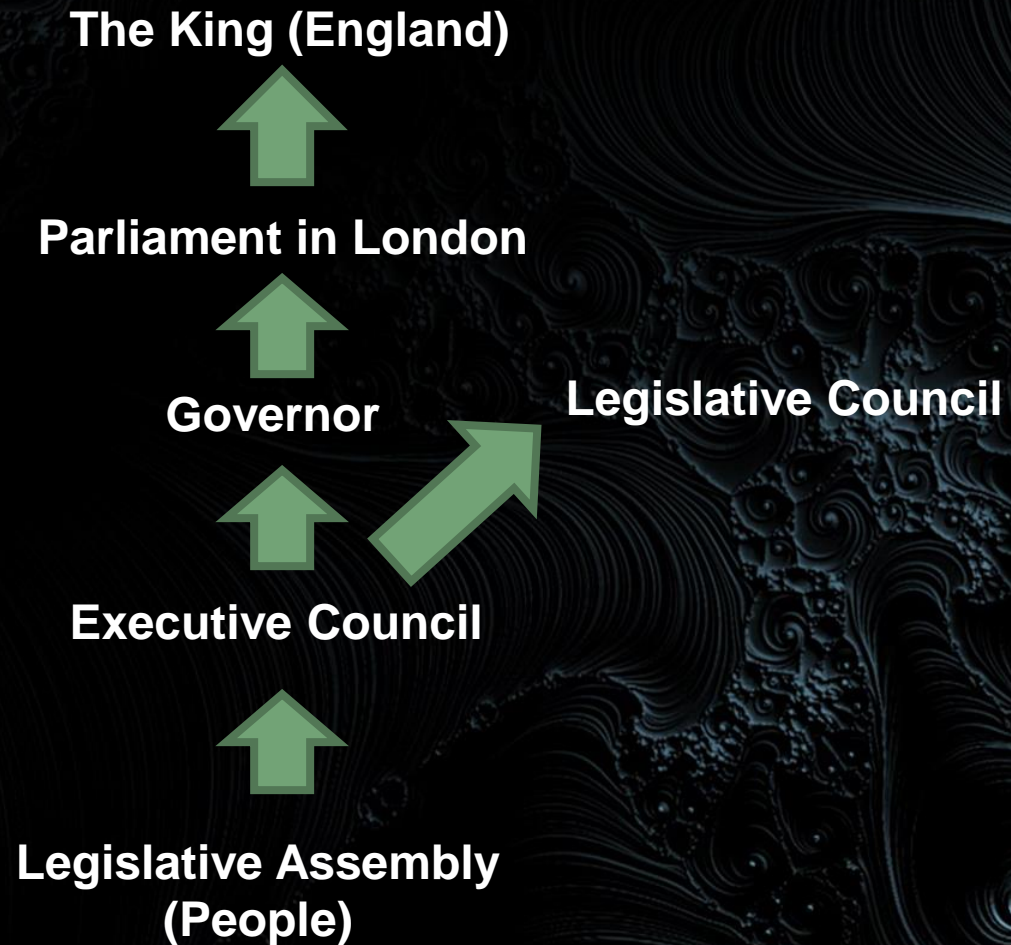


- The government consisted of the Legislative Assembly, the Governor, and two councils.
- The Legislative Assembly was made up of elected people (democratic).
- The Governor and his appointed council had more power. They could veto laws passed by the Legislative Assembly.

Government Structure 1791



Government Structure 1849



Government Structure Today

Governor General (Representative of the Queen)



Senate

Cabinet



**House of Commons
(People)**

Grievances in Upper Canada

- Colonists complained about problems with land and roads.
- Overpriced land because of land speculators/absentee landlords and too many crown and clergy reserves caused colonist grief.
- Many blamed the Family Compact (upper class who controlled Upper Canada)

- ◉ When colonists were surveyed about what life was like in Upper Canada there was major discontent with the government and its policy.
- ◉ Robert Gourelay created a petition of change.



- The government was not interested in their complaints and Gourelay was arrested and kicked out of the colony.
- The arrest created more opposition to the Family Compact.



- ◉ William Lyon Mackenzie took over Gourley's fight for change in Upper Canada.
- ◉ Mackenzie started a radical newspaper called the Colonial Advocate.
- ◉ His paper criticized the government and the Family Compact.



Family Compact reacted by smashing his printing press.



- Mackenzie sued and in 1828 he was elected to the Legislative Assembly.
- The ball was now rolling towards the Rebellion.



Lower Canada

- Lower Canada also had major political problems.
- The majority of the people living in the colony were French, but the ruling class was English.
- The Chateau Clique controlled the government and business.
- It also had support from the church and wealthy French Canadian landowners.

- Many of the French Canadians believed the seigneurs had sold out to the English.
- Problems increased in 1822 when there was an attempt to unite Upper and Lower Canada making English the official language.



Economic Challenges

- Increases in population limited available land and the soil in Lower Canada became very depleted.
- Wheat had to be imported from Upper Canada. This put the colony's economy in a deficit.
- The colony turned to forestry. Although forestry employed many people it did not solve the economic issues.

Nationalism

- The French people had mistrust for the English.
- The French wanted to protect their religion and their language.



- They believed the English had plans to increase English immigration to Lower Canada to weaken the French.
- This mistrust increased in 1832 when an immigrant ship came to Lower Canada from Britain with Cholera.



- The lack of democracy, high taxes, and little opportunity to have their opinions heard made matters worse.
- People wanted change.



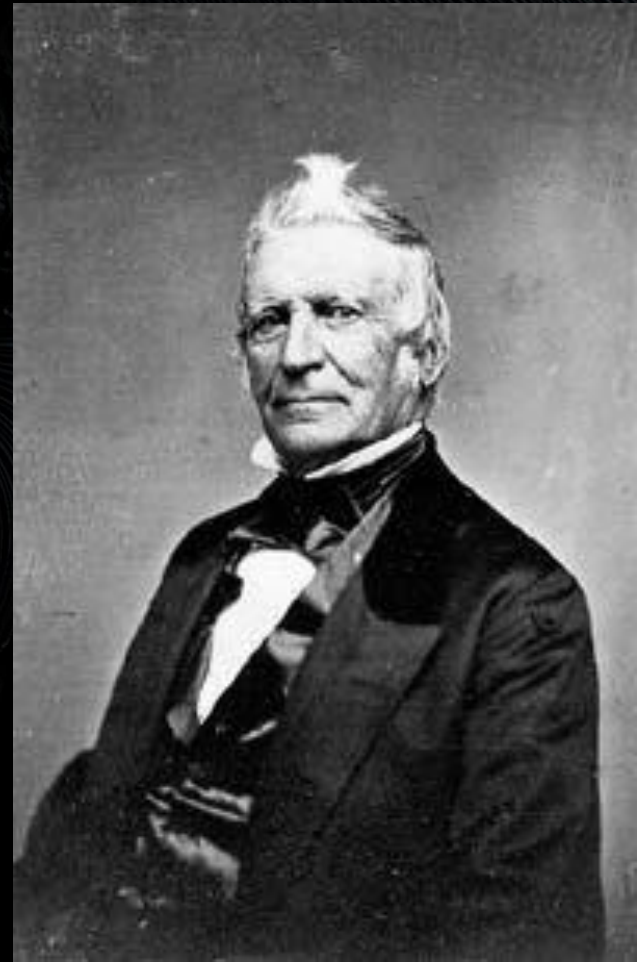
Three Issues for Reform

- The three main issues for reform were: discrimination against the French, representation in government, and taxes.
- Reformers wanted to have control of the government's budget and democracy.
- In 1807, James Craig was appointed governor of Lower Canada.
- Craig was openly anti-French and British soldiers shot protesters

- The French reformers under Louis – Joseph Papineau submitted a document called “Ninety Two Resolutions.” It was a demand for change.



Papineau



- Three years later the British government responded with “Ten Resolutions”. They were basically a rejection of Papineau’s demands.
- The stage was set for an open rebellion.

