

LIFE IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA: 1850–1864

HOW WAS LIFE CHANGING FOR PEOPLE IN BRITISH NORTH AMERICA?

LEARNING GOALS

As you work through this chapter, you will

- explain how British North America in the mid-1800s was made up of diverse territories and colonies
- analyze the opportunities and challenges for the people who lived in these regions
- evaluate which issues were most significant for the people in these regions
- create and analyze flow maps to understand trade between different regions

The mid-1800s were a time of great change throughout the different regions of British North America. New technologies changed how goods were produced and distributed. Inventions like steamships and railways moved goods and people more efficiently, and factories pumped out new products. Populations boomed. Cities grew as people moved away from the countryside and immigrated from other countries. This meant that more resources were needed to feed the people and to supply the new industries.

These changes affected people's daily lives and the places where they lived. Aboriginal peoples, the original inhabitants of North America, continued to be displaced by settlers and government policies.

This painting, entitled *View of Quebec* by Benjamin Beaufoy, was painted around 1850. It presents a view of Québec City in the middle of the 1800s, as seen from the south shore of the St. Lawrence River. The painting shows people from different social classes and First Nations people. The painting also shows a variety of ships and boats, including steamships, sailboats, and rafts. What is the artist trying to show about life in Québec City at this time?

As you read this chapter, you will explore the changes occurring in British North America and how these changes affected people of different classes and cultures. You will also examine how the different regions of British North America were affected in unique ways.

