

WAS CONFEDERATION THE BEST OPTION FOR THE COLONIES?



LEARNING GOALS

As you worked through this chapter, you had opportunities to

- understand the significance of Confederation
- identify the reasons for and challenges to Confederation
- analyze perspectives on the process of unifying British North America
- closely read primary source texts

In this chapter, you learned what Confederation is and why some people thought it was the best option for the colonies at the time. There were many reasons why Confederation seemed like a good idea. Britain wanted to be rid of the financial burden of defending British North America. The colonies needed a way to defend against the threat of annexation and invasion from the United States. A desire to protect resources was another factor. But satisfying the needs and wants of all the colonies was difficult. Not all people in British North America were consulted before the birth of the Dominion of Canada.

Summarize Your Learning

Now that you have completed Chapter 2, you are ready to answer the Chapter Big Question: Was Confederation the best option for the colonies? Summarize what you have learned by completing one of the following tasks:

- Write a brief speech in role as one of the Confederation leaders, explaining why you are for or against a union of the colonies. Include key facts and persuasive words to convince others to support your opinion.
- List three groups that were not represented in the Confederation process. Write a letter to the Fathers of Confederation proposing how Confederation could have been a more inclusive process.

- EVALUATE AND DRAW CONCLUSIONS** Which colony do you think gained the most and which gained the least by joining Confederation in 1867? Give your reasons for both.
- CAUSE AND CONSEQUENCE** What events were happening in the United States at this time that had unintended consequences leading to Confederation in British North America?
- INTERPRET AND ANALYZE** What role did the need for land and other natural resources play in Confederation? How did those needs lead the colonies to unite? Display your ideas on an illustrated and annotated map.
- HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Which event do you think was most significant in arriving at Confederation? Conduct a debate on this question. Prepare three reasons to support your point of view using evidence from the chapter.
- HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE** Choose any one of the groups not included in the process of Confederation. What do you think may have been the group's point of view about Confederation? Write in role a social media post that group members may have shared with their friends, giving their opinion on the matter.
- FORMULATE QUESTIONS** When you consider the voices that were not heard during the Confederation debates, what questions are raised for you? Choose a person or group that you would interview back then if you had the chance. What questions would you ask them?
- COMMUNICATE** What changes did the Great Coalition feel were needed at this time to improve the country? Design a pro-Confederation poster that calls for these changes.
- CONTINUITY AND CHANGE** How are the celebrations of July 1 the same today as they were in 1867? How are they different? What would account for some of the differences? Use evidence in this chapter to support your explanation.

UNIT 1 CHALLENGE CHECK-IN

Record your responses to these questions in your log book.

- Review the Focus On: Historical Significance feature on pages 54 to 55. Using the criteria provided, identify the significant ideas, events, and people leading to Confederation. Be sure to explain your choices.
- Create a graphic organizer, such as a table, in which you identify the reaction of each group in different regions in British North America to the idea of Confederation. Then reflect on the effects of Confederation on each group, identifying which groups you think benefited the least and the most. Provide evidence to explain your thinking.
- Review the description of the Unit 1 Challenge on pages 18 to 19 and the notes that you made in your log book for Chapter 1. What connections can you make between the issues in Chapters 1 and 2? How has your understanding of the issues changed? Update your log book with any additional information.