

CANADIAN HISTORY CHAPTER 3

AFTER JOHN CABOT—FRENCH AND ENGLISH PEOPLE ARRIVE IN CANADA

Many English people were living south of New France. They were British people . That area was a British colony controlled by the Queen. Soon, English people decided to expand and settle in the North, toward Canada, so they could have access to the fur trade and the rich ocean waters full of fish. This will be an important event for the future of Canada.

THE WAR TO CONTROL NORTH AMERICA: FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN

In the 1700s France and Great Britain battled to control the Atlantic region of North America. This area was divided into two big regions: one was controlled by British (Queen), the other one was controlled by France .

In 1759 the British defeated the French in Quebec City. The French empire in North America was finished. After this was, the British renamed the area “Quebec” (before it was “New France”); French people living there kept their culture, language, and traditions until today. This is way Canada has 2 official languages and cultures, English and French.

There was a problem with religion. Most of British people were protestant, while French people were catholic. The French were worried that we could not protect their religion, so the British

Parliament passed the QUEBEC ACT in 1774. This document is one of the most important documents in Canada (together with the Constitution). It gave Catholic people the freedom to continue their religion in public (this practice was not allowed in England). This shows how Canada was already a very open and free country at that time.

Another important fact happened in 1776. The 13 British colonies south of Quebec became independent from England and formed the United States. Many people (about 40.000) in that area decided to stay loyal to the Queen of England so they decided to run North, toward Canada. This group of people was called ‘LOYALISTS’. They lived in Nova Scotia and Quebec.

Here started the CANADIAN DEMOCRACY. The first democratic institutions were born in 1758 in Halifax. The first legislative assemblies (now Parliament) were born at that time. Canada was called Kanata, but the official name was still British North America. In 1700 it was OFFICIALLY RENAMED TO CANADA.