

## **1. Social Groups in Lower Canada and the Formation of Political Parties**

### **Canadien Bourgeoisie [Middleclass] – Parti Canadien**

- Over time a Canadien middle class emerged made up of members of professions: lawyers, notaries, doctors
- As francophones they were often elected as members of the legislative assembly by the Canadien population
- They made up the majority of the elected members of the legislative Assembly
- As majority controlled the legislative assembly
- Over time they formed the Parti Canadien

### **British Business Class – British Party**

- Made up of the British business class that controlled: timber trade, trade with the mother country, transportation and banking
- They made up a minority of members of the legislative assembly
- The Governor often appointed them to the executive and legislative councils in order to counter act the influence of the francophone dominated legislative assembly
- Over time they formed the British Party

## **2. Struggles in the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada**

### **Speaker of the Legislative Assembly 1792**

- Canadien members wanted a francophone speaker
- British members were opposed to a francophone speaker
- Canadiens held a majority therefore they voted for a francophone speaker

### **Language to be used in the Assembly 1793**

- British members wanted the use of English in all assembly documents
- Canadiens wanted the Assembly to operate in French and use French in documents
- The British government made English the language of the assembly but allowed the use of French in debates and the translation of documents into French

### **Canal financing early 1800's**

- Canal construction as expensive and need government funding
- British party wanted to fund canals to Upper Canada: it would allow the British business class to profit from trade
- The Parti Canadien would only agree to finance canals in Lower Canada: this would benefit the Canadien population

### **Customs Duties [taxes on imports]**

- Imports were taxed as source of revenue (\$) for the government
- The ports where imported goods arrived were in Lower Canada therefore the taxes were collected by Lower Canada
- The Parti Canadien was opposed to sharing the revenues with Upper Canada

### **Government Subsidies / Governor's Budget**

- The governor needed subsidies ( government \$) to cover his government expenses
- The Parti Canadien would only provide the subsidies if they could approve the governor's spending [budget]
- The governor refused to have his spending approved by the Assembly
- The governor and the assembly struggled over the budget each year

## **3. Ideas that influenced the struggles in Lower Canada: Canadien Nationalism**

- Nation: a group of people living in a territory with a shared language, history, culture and set of beliefs.
- Nationalism: the belief in promoting the interests of the group for which one feels a sense of belonging.
- **Canadien nationalism:**
  - a sense of belonging to a culture based on the use of the French language, the Catholic faith, and the use of French civil law.
  - The belief in promoting and protecting the Canadien culture