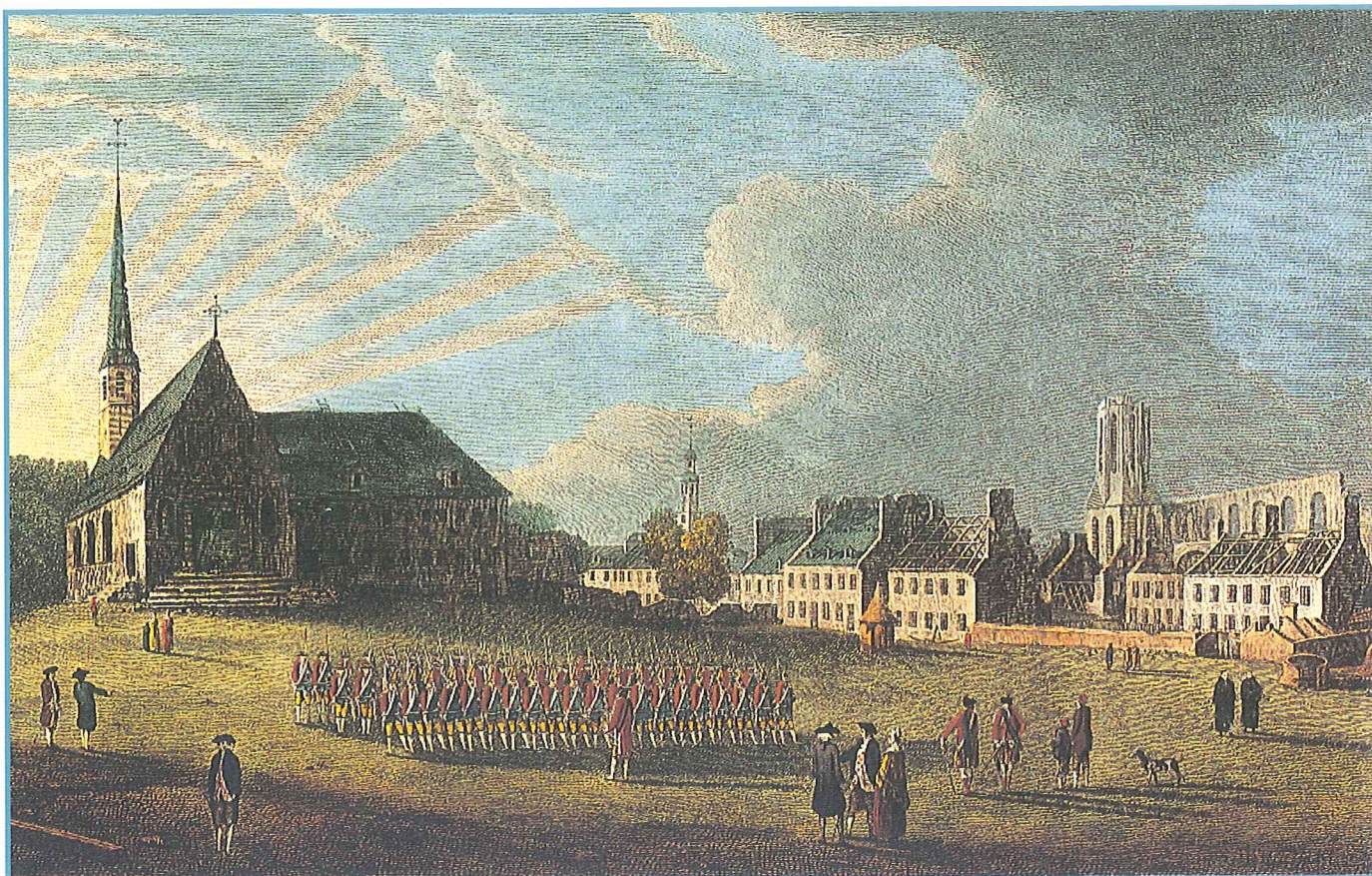


# British Military Rule

C-361, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa.



British Military Rule is established in Quebec.

In North America, the war between Britain and France ended when the British captured Montreal in September 1760. However, the Seven Years' War continued in Europe and other parts of the world until 1763. Until the war was over and a peace treaty signed, the *Canadiens* continued to hope that New France would be returned to France.

Between 1760 and 1763, the British army in New France set up a temporary government. This is known as the period of British Military Rule. British military governors were appointed at Quebec, Montreal, and Trois Rivières. Supreme authority was in the hands of the British commander-in-chief, General Amherst, in New York. Some of the French officials returned to France, but most of the colonists stayed. The British Military Rule was not a harsh **occupation**. The British military rulers did not wish to cause any further disruption in the colony of New France and did not make any great changes to life in the colony during this three-year period.

**Canadiens**—French-speaking people born in New France (Quebec). The name shows that the *Canadiens* were distinct from the French in Europe.

**Occupation**—the control of an area by a foreign military force

## Life of the *Canadiens*

This period of British Military Rule—from 1760 to 1763—was a time of uncertainty for the *Canadiens*. Until a peace treaty was signed, there was uncertainty in New France about how daily life and government might become different under British rule.

The *Canadien* soldiers in the militia were allowed to return to their homes, and they were promised that their property would not be taken away. However, many found that their property had been destroyed. Many farms along the St. Lawrence River east of Quebec had been burned by British soldiers during the summer of 1759. Much of the Lower Town of Quebec, which the British had been able to reach with cannon shots all through the summer of 1759, had been destroyed. This meant that many homes and businesses had been destroyed.

The *Canadiens* were uneasy, remembering the deportation of the French Acadians during British occupation in 1755. They had questions about whether or not they would be asked to swear an oath of loyalty



(allegiance) to Britain or face deportation. They also had questions about maintaining their French language and culture, and Roman Catholic religion.

The Jesuits were forced to return to France. Since they had run the schools, the educational system of the *Canadiens* was seriously weakened. However, because the orders of nuns were allowed to stay, the hospitals that they ran continued to operate. In fact, there are stories about the French nuns knitting stockings to help keep the British soldiers warm during the winter of 1759–60.

Many of the business people of New France were actually from France. When they returned to France, their place in business was often taken over by British merchants, many of these coming from the Thirteen Colonies.

Some aspects of life in New France changed very little under British Military Rule. The French language and Roman Catholic religion were maintained. The role of the Catholic priests in meeting the needs of the people also continued. French **civil law** and the French language were used in the courts. The seigneurial system continued.

The British wanted to co-operate with the French during this time of uncertainty, so daily life in New France changed little between 1760 and 1763. However, during the time of British Military Rule, New France lost its main political, business, and religious leaders who returned to France.

## The Treaty of Paris (Peace Treaty 1763)

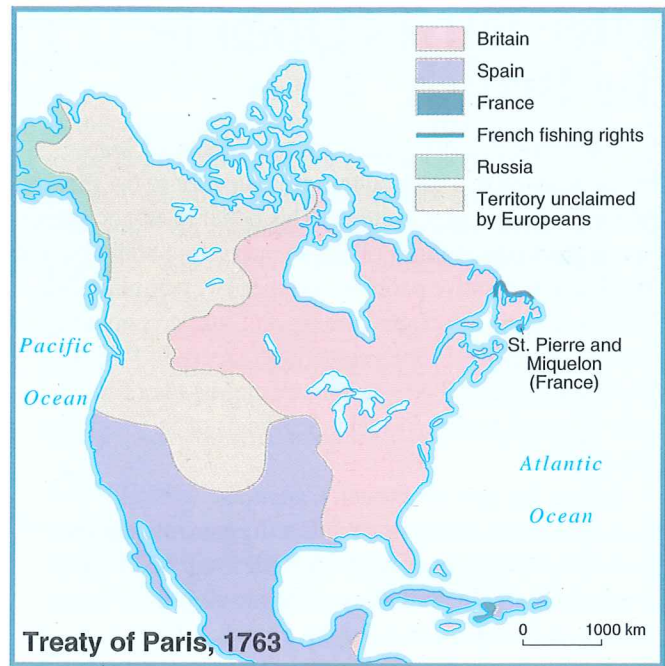
In 1763, the war in Europe between Britain and France ended and The Treaty of Paris was signed. By the terms of this treaty, France surrendered all of its possessions in New France and Acadia to Britain. The French kept two tiny islands, St. Pierre and Miquelon, off the coast of Newfoundland.

### Effects of the Treaty of Paris

- Economic stability was restored as the British troops paid for goods with coin money.\*
- The military courts used French civil law.
- The French were assured they would not be deported.
- The Roman Catholic religion was retained.
- The seigneurial system was retained.

**Civil law** — having to do with private rights of citizens, especially property disputes; as opposed to criminal law, which has to do with public wrongs

\*There was considerable economic chaos in New France after the Seven Years' War. The British introduced a variety of economic changes, which added to the economic uncertainty in New France.



## An Exercise in Problem Solving

1. Return to the five groups of the role play activity you just did on pages 75 to 77 (Native people, seigneurs, French clergy, habitants, and British merchants).
2. Analyse the facts presented in the Treaty of Paris. How do they affect your role play group?
3. List these facts on large notepaper (wall chart).
4. Reorder or regroup the facts you listed, placing those items that are similar together. Record them on a graphic organizer or chart.
5. Analyse the facts again.
6. Hypothesize what you think may happen to your particular group as a result of the Treaty of Paris.
7. Share your hypothesis with the rest of the class.



# Alternatives Open to the British

The British colonial policy was ethnocentric.\* Many British believed that their culture was superior to the French and the Native peoples' cultures. This belief in ethnocentrism was central to the British policies in interacting with both the French and the Native peoples. Another key part in British policy was their belief in claiming and ruling conquered lands.\*\* When the French signed the Treaty of Paris in 1763 they surrendered to Britain all claims over French lands in North America except the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon.

Britain felt that the French *Canadiens* were still too much of a threat to North America. Approximately one-third of the continent of North America still had French people living there, with French militia and their Native allies. Britain still considered the French a threat to their colonies to the south—the Thirteen Colonies. The British also had to consider the large number of Native peoples living in North America. The British had to make a decision as to what they would do with these people.

After the Seven Years' War was over and the Treaty of Paris was signed, the British had to make some major decisions as to what they should do with the large numbers of French and Native peoples living on the lands that were now part of the British Empire. The British basically had five alternatives:

1. **Deportation:** force the *Canadiens* to leave Quebec, just as the British did with the Acadians from 1755 to 1762.
2. **Maintain the status-quo:** allow the French to keep their system of doing things—French laws, customs, language, and religion; maintain existing reserves for the Native people.
3. **Isolation:** create separate territories, which are sometimes called reserves: one for the British, one for the French, and one for the Native peoples. Each territory would have its own system of government, language, and religion. People living in these reserves were to be protected by the government.
4. **Assimilation (when a culture is absorbed into another):** make the French and/or the Native peoples into British subjects by enforcing British laws, customs, language, and religion. British immigration was encouraged to create a majority. This alternative is also called Anglicization.
5. **Biculturalism (having two cultures):** allow British and French ways of doing things. The term biculturalism is a modern one. The British did not seriously consider biculturalism in 1763.

## For Your Notebook

1. Use a mind map, web, paragraph, or outline notes to summarize each of the alternatives. Design an icon for each alternative.
2. Apply one or more of the textbook icons (power, co-operation, decision-making, or conflict) to each of the alternatives. There is no single correct icon to apply to each alternative. Be prepared to defend your choice.

## Exploring Further

1. Divide your class into five groups. Your teacher will give you one of the five alternatives to work on.
  - (a) Consider what Canada would have been like today if that alternative had been followed exclusively.
  - (b) Design a mobile to illustrate the alternative you have been assigned. Your teacher will be asking you to add illustrated examples to your mobile as you progress through this textbook.

C-357, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa



A view of the Church of Notre Dame de la Victoire. During the siege of Quebec in 1759, many buildings were destroyed by cannonballs and fire.

\*See page 24 for a further explanation of ethnocentrism.

\*\*Note: British claim over conquered lands was not unique to Britain. It was standard European policy to claim and rule conquered lands.



# The Proclamation of 1763\*

## Introduction

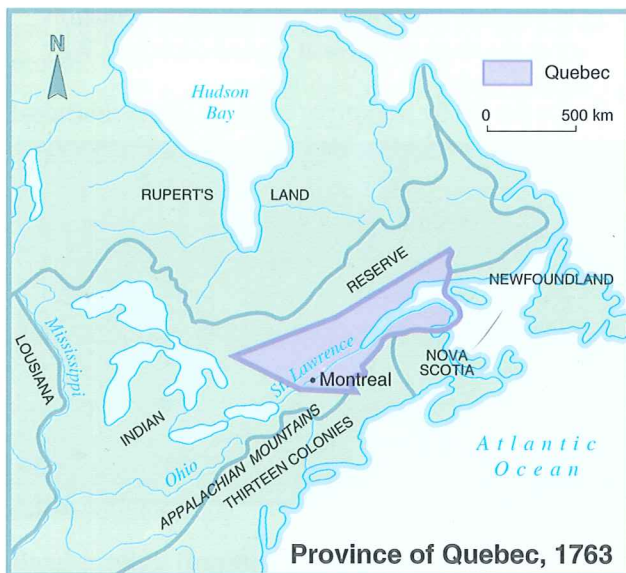
In 1763, the British government issued a royal proclamation outlining what was to be done in Quebec. This is known as the Proclamation of 1763.

## Aims: to make Quebec British (Assimilation)

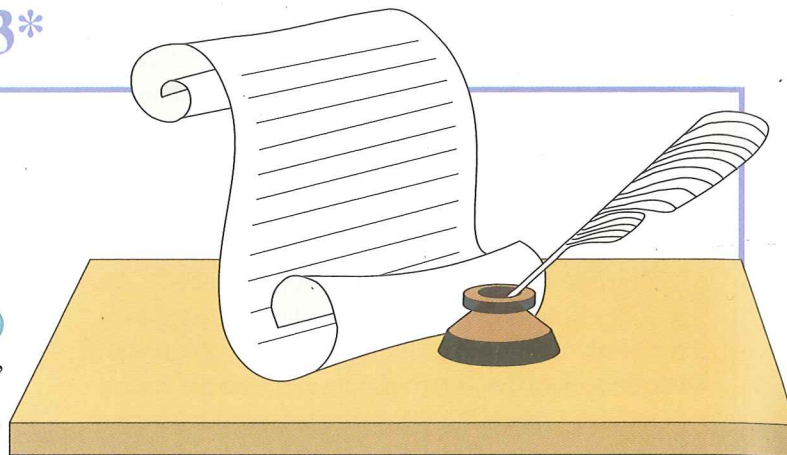
- to ensure that British institutions and laws, customs, language, and religion were enforced in Quebec
- to attract British settlers to Quebec
- to limit the size of Quebec, cutting the Montreal fur traders out of the western fur trade
- to reassure the Native peoples that their interests in the fur trade and their hunting grounds in the Ohio Valley would be protected

Part of the population in Quebec consisted of long-time British subjects, who were still loyal to Britain. Britain believed they should give these people what they wanted over the next decade or so to create a strong, loyal base. They believed that in time the French could be assimilated or absorbed into the British way of doing things.

The British government realized that the Native peoples were unhappy because of the many people from the Thirteen Colonies who were moving west across the Appalachian Mountains into their territory.\*\* If the boundaries of Quebec were limited, the Native peoples would be happy since traders, trappers, and settlers were forbidden to enter their territory unless they had a special government licence.



The Proclamation of 1763 reduced the size of Quebec.



## Key Terms

**Settlement Patterns:** Settlement in the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys was forbidden. Trappers, traders, and settlers had to have special government licences to enter lands set aside for the Native peoples.

**Language:** The French language was allowed to continue.

**Religion:** The Roman Catholic religion was allowed to continue but the Church had no official status; the Protestant religion was to be introduced and promoted.

**Government:** Quebec was to be ruled by an appointed British governor and an appointed Executive Council (to be drawn from the English-speaking military and merchant elites) and an elected Legislative Assembly (as soon as the population was large enough to warrant it).

- British laws and court system were created to replace French laws (except for French civil laws, which were allowed to continue for settling property disputes).
- Roman Catholics were to be barred from legal positions and were not allowed to be elected to the Legislative Assembly.

## Exploring Further

1. In your role play groups established on page 75, predict how your "characters" (seigneurs; French clergy, Native people, habitants, and British merchants) would have felt about the Proclamation of 1763. Record your predictions on large chart paper and display on the wall.

\*The Proclamation of 1763 is sometimes referred to as the Royal Proclamation of 1763.

\*\*Also the Native peoples had lost their traditional trading partners, the French.



## After the Proclamation of 1763

As a result of the Proclamation of 1763, civil rule replaced military rule in Quebec. The British found that the Proclamation did not result in assimilation (absorbing one culture into another) of the French the way they had hoped.

The Anglo-Americans from the Thirteen Colonies did not come north to live in Quebec (instead they moved westward). The French greatly outnumbered the British in Quebec. For every 100 Europeans in Quebec, 97 were French and three were British. Thus there was no British culture into which the French could be assimilated. The priests and the seigneurs tried hard to maintain the French culture. The Native peoples had been promised a western reserve where colonists from the Thirteen Colonies could not go. The colonists were moving west into Native lands even though the Proclamation of 1763 forbade settlement in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys.

## British Governors in Quebec

### Governor James Murray

C-26065, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa (detail).



The first appointed British governor general to Quebec was James Murray. He had been one of General Wolfe's officers and was the military governor of Quebec during the period of British Military Rule (from 1760 to 1763). It was Governor Murray's job to enforce the conditions of the Proclamation of 1763. However, Britain and the

creators of the Proclamation were a long distance away from the colony. Thus the officials in Quebec had a certain amount of freedom in interpreting and enforcing the Proclamation of 1763.

Murray grew to like and respect the *Canadiens*—especially the clergy and the seigneurs. The many **concessions** that Murray made towards the French provoked the hostility of the British merchants. They wanted to control

**Concession**—giving in

\*Note the Proclamation of 1763 did not allow for an elected assembly, which made the British merchants quite angry.

\*\*Had Murray done so, he would have given the British minority political control over a huge French majority.

the colony through an elected assembly so they could vote on and pass whatever laws benefited them the most.\*

The conditions of the Proclamation of 1763 were difficult for Governor Murray to enforce. The British merchants revived the fur trade but their attitudes and opinions contrasted sharply with those of the habitants of New France. The British wanted the Proclamation of 1763 enforced so that they could have political power and make profits from the fur trade. Governor Murray interpreted the Proclamation in favour of the *Canadiens* and allowed French to be spoken in the smaller courts. Some of Murray's concessions were quite important:

- In an effort to maintain harmony with some 60 000 *Canadiens*, Murray did not call the assembly although the Proclamation of 1763 made provision for this.\*\*
- He believed that co-operation with the Catholic Church could strengthen the loyalty of the population. When the Roman Catholic Church chose Briand as bishop, the British Government confirmed him as Superintendent of the Roman Catholic Church in New France.

The British merchants wanted the Proclamation of 1763 enforced. Through their many influential contacts in the British Parliament and their many letters of complaint, they pressured the British government to recall Murray. Sir Guy Carleton was sent out to be the colony's new governor.

### Governor Guy Carleton

Sir Guy Carleton became the governor of Quebec in 1768. He saw that British control of Quebec was dependent on the support of the large population of *Canadiens*. Loyalty and support were important because at this time, the people in the Thirteen Colonies to the south were starting to have disagreements with the officials in Britain. He wanted to make sure that the *Canadiens* would be loyal to Britain. To ensure this support, Carleton made friends with the leaders of the *Canadiens*, the seigneurs and the clergy. He thought that if the leaders accepted British rule, the rest would also agree. Carleton encouraged the British government to allow the French people to keep their system of laws and their Catholic religion. Therefore Carleton rejected the policy of assimilation in favour of an acceptance of allowing the two cultures to exist side by side.

Although they did not use the term biculturalism, this policy of allowing two cultures—French and British—to exist side-by-side is a forerunner of the biculturalism we have in Canada today. These ideas were officially recognized and supported by the British government when they passed the Quebec Act of 1774.



# The Quebec Act, 1774

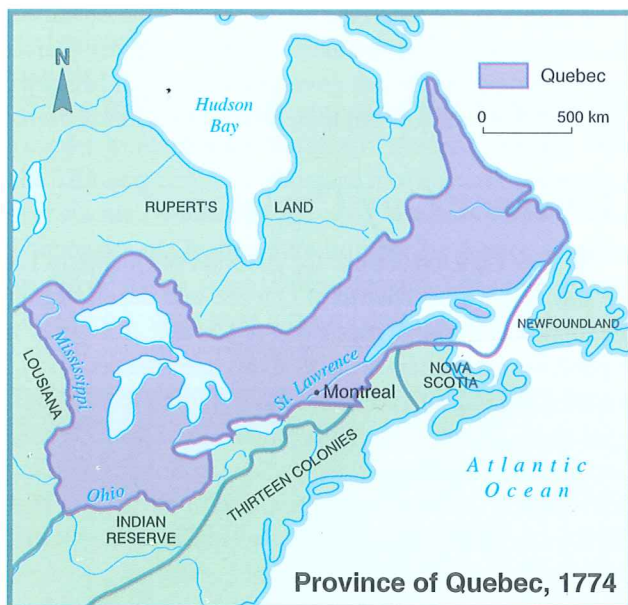
## Introduction

The Quebec Act was passed by the British government in an attempt to keep the loyalty of the *Canadiens*.

## Aim: to allow the French and British ways of doing things (Biculturalism)

The British hoped the Quebec Act would combine the French and British ways of doing things while maintaining the French character of the colony.

This was an example of biculturalism—where two cultures (British and French) exist side by side in the same country. The British government decided that the best way to gain the loyalty of the *Canadiens* was to allow them to maintain the French character of Quebec and preserve the French culture. Quebec was to become both British and French.

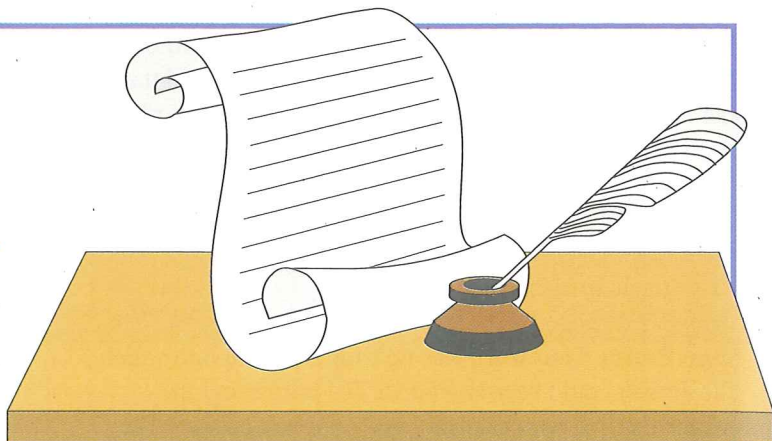


The boundaries of Quebec were enlarged to include the rich fur trading areas between the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

## Key Terms

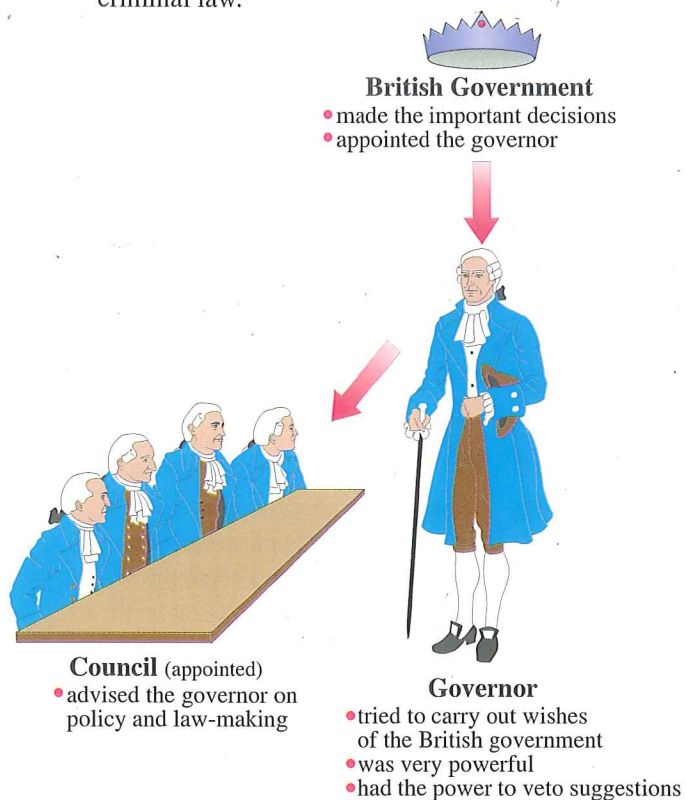
**Language:** The French language was allowed to continue.

**Religion:** The Roman Catholic Church was allowed to continue and to collect tithes (church taxes).



## Government:

- Quebec was to be ruled by an appointed British governor and an appointed council.
- An elected assembly (although promised earlier) was not introduced at this time.
- Roman Catholics could hold government positions.
- French civil law was to continue along with English criminal law.



**Land Holding System:** The seigneurial system was allowed to remain. The governor could also grant land according to the British freehold system.

# Review

## Summarizing the Chapter

- The European rulers' desire for power and wealth caused conflict in Europe and in North America.
- European wars between France and Britain resulted in British–French hostilities in North America.
- Treaties ending British–French wars often resulted in North American land possessions being given up or returned to the other country.
- British–French conflict in North America centred on control of fur trade lands and control of strategically located lands (Atlantic Coast and St. Lawrence River Valley).
- The British and French built many forts to control the fur trade and control important locations. Louisbourg was a famous French fort. Halifax was a famous British fort.
- Acadia became British as a result of the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713. In 1755, the French Acadians were still refusing to take an oath of allegiance to Britain, so they were deported.
- The British–French conflict in North America reached its climax in 1758 when the British captured Louisbourg and other French forts in the Ohio Valley. This made it possible to attack Quebec.
- The British captured Quebec at the Plains of Abraham in 1759 and Montreal in the spring of 1760, thus defeating the French in North America.
- The British army ran the government of New France between 1760 and 1763. This was known as the period of British Military Rule.
- The Treaty of Paris, 1763 officially ended the British–French war in Europe.
- The Proclamation of 1763 aimed to make Quebec British. This is an example of the theory of assimilation.
- The Quebec Act of 1774 aimed to make Quebec both British and French. This is an example of the theory of biculturalism.

## Checking Predictions

1. At the beginning of this chapter you made some predictions based on the Overview and what you already knew. Now use what you learned from reading the chapter to fill in the third column of the chart that you began earlier.
2. Refer to the “Questions to Talk About” on page 41. Discuss the questions based on the type of government in Quebec as a result of the Quebec Act. How did the system of government change from royal government (as you studied in Chapter 3) to the government established by the British in the Quebec Act?

## Working with Information

1. Here are some main ideas from this chapter. Use one of the following approaches to make a permanent set of notes: mind map, web, paragraph, or outline. Show the relationships among these main ideas.
  - areas of British–French conflict in North America
  - War in America: a Three-Pronged Attack
  - the Proclamation of 1763
  - alternatives open to the British in dealing with the French and Native peoples
  - Native land claims and the Proclamation of 1763
  - Quebec Act, 1774
2. Review all the different examples of decision-making and conflict found in this chapter. Work with a partner to draw a mind map that organizes all of these examples on one sheet of paper. Show how the conflict between the French and the British and the methods of decision-making affected the colony of Quebec. A sample mind map is shown on page 16. Share your mind map with others in the class.
3. Prepare visual definitions for biculturalism, assimilation, and isolation.
4. Do research to find out why the Proclamation of 1763 is considered the basis for Native land claims (aboriginal rights).