

- Not long before the War of 1812, two earth-shattering \_\_\_\_\_ had been fought by people demanding that their voices be heard by their governments; that they should have a voice in the way their countries were run. The first occurred in 1776: The American Revolution. The second occurred in 1789: The French Revolution.
- It was in this atmosphere of revolution and demands for more accountable government, that the Constitutional Act of 1791 was passed in BNA. The result of this Act was to limit the voice of government to a small number of ruling elite in each of the colonies. After the War, the calls for a more inclusive and \_\_\_\_\_ government reached BNA.
- Though divisions existed between Upper and Lower Canada (language, traditions, religion, etc.) each shared similar \_\_\_\_\_ goals. For most people in both Canadas, what they wanted was for their lives to be made easier, for example, by the construction of roads that would make moving between farms, markets and towns much easier.
- Unfortunately, governance of the provinces was controlled by a small ruling elite that were more interested in large scale building projects such as canals and railways. These would improve transportation for few people in limited areas, unlike roads. However, they did serve the \_\_\_\_\_ interests of the elite and so they were the main focus of construction.
- In this way, the ruling elite used their political power to enhance their \_\_\_\_\_ power.
- As a result of the Constitution Act of 1791, the office of Lieutenant Governor and his Executive and Legislative Councils held most of the power and were the basis of the ruling \_\_\_\_\_ in each province.
- In Upper Canada, the province was ruled by the Family Compact. In Lower Canada it was the Chateau Clique who held power. Both were dominated by English speaking members, although a few \_\_\_\_\_ leaders were added over the years in Lower Canada.
- Another element of power in the colonies was the \_\_\_\_\_ Church which had received large tracts of land that supported both the operation of the Church, but also the clergy members themselves. Most of the elites in both provinces were prominent members of the Anglican Church.
- The elites of the Legislative Council managed government decisions and operations. The elites of the Executive Council passed laws for the province. The Legislative Assembly whose members were elected by white, male \_\_\_\_\_ owners would propose laws and approve taxes.
- Far too often, the laws proposed by the Legislative Assembly would be struck down by the Executive Council. This \_\_\_\_\_ the people who felt that their needs were being ignored by the elites that dominated the higher ranks of government.
- In order to help their voices be heard, they used the one piece of power they at their disposal; approving \_\_\_\_\_. Taxes were needed to fund the construction of canals and railways, which the Legislative Assembly would deny, angering the Elites, increasing the growing conflict and animosity between the two groups.
- The majority of those elected to the Legislative Assembly by the people were \_\_\_\_\_, who voiced the discontent the people had with provincial governance. They argued for Responsible Government, a government that would serve the needs of the people, not simply the needs of an elite few, a government that was accountable to the people who could elect to support a government or choose to elect a new one.
- Throughout the 1820s and 1830s the demands of the reformers grew in intensity, while the elites continued to \_\_\_\_\_ them.

- \_\_\_\_\_ were an effective means of spreading the reform message. William Lyon Mackenzie used his newspaper, the Colonial Advocate to expose economic and social injustices of the Constitutional Act and of the Family Compact in Upper Canada.
- Similarly, reform leaders in \_\_\_\_\_ Canada such as Louis-Joseph Papineau and his Parti Patriote spread their views through the Le Canadien newspaper.
- The reform movements in both provinces were focused on increasing the \_\_\_\_\_ and economic rights of the people.
- In Lower Canada, there was an added element of fighting for the distinctiveness of Canadiens within BNA, and against \_\_\_\_\_ into a broader British culture.
- Here they argued that Canadiens should be determine their own \_\_\_\_\_ and no longer be ruled by an English-speaking minority.
- Efforts were made in both Upper and Lower Canada to work within the \_\_\_\_\_ to see their concerns addressed.
- In Lower Canada, the assembly passed The Ninety-Two Resolutions in 1834, seeking the appointed governing councils to be more responsive to the elected \_\_\_\_\_. The Resolutions were sent to the British government in London, who ignored their concerns in their response issued in 1837.
- In Upper Canada, the assembly passed the Seventh Report on Grievances, seeking many of the same \_\_\_\_\_ that the assembly of Lower Canada had sought. It two met with no success.
- By 1837 many in both provinces were tired of seeking to work within a system that continued to ignore their concerns. This discontent resulted in a series of protest rallies and violence on the streets of \_\_\_\_\_. Violence broke out on November 16th, when government forces tried to arrest reform leaders. By November 25th several Lower Canadian towns had been looted and burned by government forces.
- On December 7, violence broke out between proponents of reform and government forces outside of \_\_\_\_\_, when protestors led by Mackenzie King marched on the city. They were met by the local militia and were forced to retreat.
- By 8 December 1837, both uprisings had been suppressed by government forces. Hundreds of protestors were imprisoned, while in Lower Canada 12 patriotes were hanged for \_\_\_\_\_. In Upper Canada, a further 20 reformers were hanged for treason.
- Reform leaders Papineau and Mackenzie sought \_\_\_\_\_ in America but would later be pardoned.
- Sensing it was losing control of Upper and Lower Canada, the British government sent a new Governor General, Lord \_\_\_\_\_. It was his task to recommend solutions to the problems Britain faced in its Canadian colonies.
- Known as a \_\_\_\_\_, Lord Durham interviewed reformers and others about the problems that led to the rebellions. After five months, he returned to Britain and made his recommendations.
- Lord Durham placed the blame for the rebellion in Upper Canada on the Family Compact which he described as “a petty, corrupt, insolent [conservative] clique,” and called for a government that would be more responsive to the wishes of the \_\_\_\_\_. This pleased reformers in both Canadas.
- As to the rebellion in Lower Canada, Lord Durham blamed the divisions that existed between the French and English and so recommended that Upper and Lower Canada be united into a singular province with the goal of assimilating the French \_\_\_\_\_.
- The response was for Canadiens to promote a strong \_\_\_\_\_ identity that would protect their traditional ways of life, language and culture.

- As a response to these short-lived rebellions, Britain issued the \_\_\_\_\_ in 1841. This unified the two provinces into a single administrative province. Governance would be done through an elected assembly, with 42 members representing Canada East (Lower Canada) and 42 members representing Canada West (Upper Canada).
- This was intended as a means to assimilate or eliminate French cultural domination of Canadian \_\_\_\_\_ and to allay the fears those in Canada West had of being dominated by the more heavily populated and French / Catholic Canada East.
- The official language of the administrative bodies would be \_\_\_\_\_.
- The results were not as intended. The members of Canada East voted as a block in order to keep from being dominated by Canada West, while Canada West members all had different agendas and were rarely able to vote together on anything. This brought the work of the assembly to a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The desire for responsible government was still alive and it was believed that the Act of Union could make it happen. Robert Baldwin of Canada West and Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine of Canada East formed a \_\_\_\_\_ that would see their parties work together.
- Despite the work of Canada's \_\_\_\_\_ working to maintain the Family Compact's and Chateau Clique's hold on power, the coalition was able to overcome the odds.
- Up until 1840, British colonies had received preferential trade deals with Britain. By this time though Britain no longer felt that it needed economic or material support from the colonies and so began doing away with these preferential trade deals in favour of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The lack of a need to control the economies of the colonies led many to believe that they no longer needed much political control either, which led to a more \_\_\_\_\_ view in Britain towards granting responsible government.
- In 1848 Lord Elgin became the Governor General of Canada. He called upon Baldwin and Lafontaine to form an \_\_\_\_\_ Council from the members of the Legislative Assembly, whose support would be necessary for the functioning of the Executive Council.
- While the path towards responsible government in both Upper and Lower Canada had gone the route of \_\_\_\_\_, in Nova Scotia, responsible government was achieved in 1848, prior to it being granted in Canada.
- Newspaper owner \_\_\_\_\_ had used his newspaper to not only promote reform, but also to condemn the rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada.
- With leadership from \_\_\_\_\_, Nova Scotia received the first responsible government in BNA.
- \_\_\_\_\_ proudly noted that his colony had achieved its goal without "a blow struck or a pane of glass broken."

### Formative Assessment:

1. Thinking in terms of continuity and change, why were newspapers such an important force in spreading the reform message? How would such a message for change be promoted today?
2. Thinking in terms of ethical dimensions, what do you think drives people to choose violence to bring about change? Do you think violence is ever justified? Why or why not?
3. What role were indigenous peoples to play in this new responsible government?