



Community Member #1: I think maybe the Thirteen Colonies were the beginning of the United States of America.

Britain: You are correct. The war they had won was called The American Revolution. As you may know, the root word of “revolution” is “revolt.” The Thirteen Colonies had revolted against my control.

Community Member #2: So as a result of the Seven Years’ War, you lost a lot of the land that you controlled.

Britain (disappointed): Yes I did. On July 4, 1776, the United States of America declared its independence from me.

Community Member #2: If that’s how the United States was born, what about Canada?

Community Member #1: Yes, what about Canada? It is now almost a hundred years since the United States was born, yet Canada was born only yesterday.

Britain: This is true. After the American Revolution, the lands and colonies that were not part of the newly formed United States became British North America. In other words, I still owned a great expanse of land, and the settlers of these lands were content to be under my control. But several of the colonies began to talk about joining together as one united British colony.

Community Member #1: Why?



Britain: They hoped that Confederation would provide a solution to some of their problems, especially their language and cultural differences.

Ontario: Our English-speaking and French-speaking leaders believed that, if we were one large colony, our people would work together.

Nova Scotia: We also believed it would be easier to sell our goods to each other.

Quebec: I wanted us to be united so a large military could be built to keep the Americans from taking over our land. There is “strength in numbers.” Oui?

Host: And so, the stage was set. There were enough reasons and enough support to move forward with the idea of Confederation. But, of course, there were wrinkles to be ironed out.

Prince Edward Island: I hosted the first conference – The Charlottetown Conference of September 1864. Many colonies attended with me were: the Province of Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and me. At that meeting, we agreed there should be a second gathering.

Quebec: A month later, I hosted the second conference in Quebec City. There, a draft agreement was drawn up to be considered by each of the colonial governments. Because of the conference location, this draft was called “the Quebec Resolutions.”