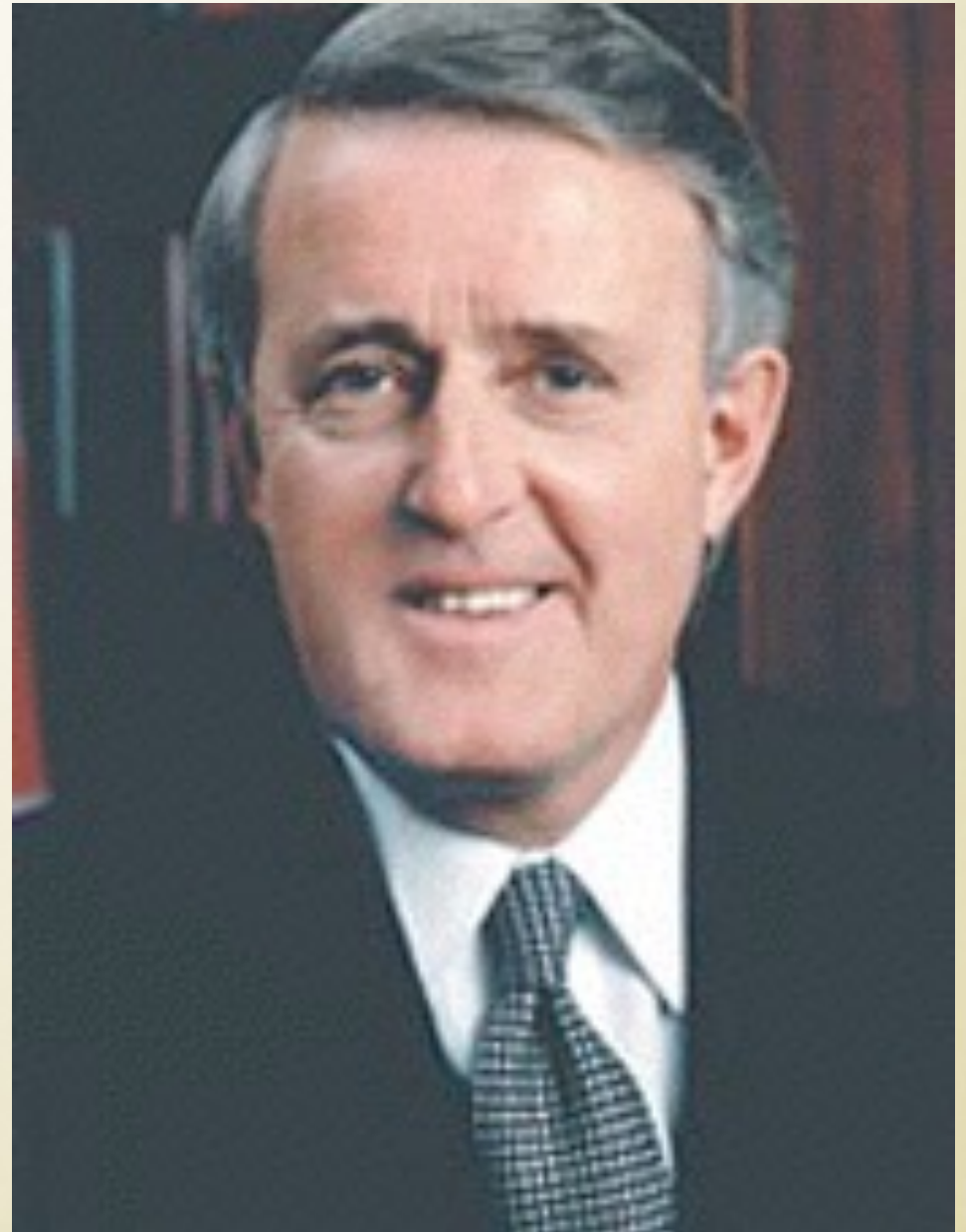


# INCLUSION IN CANADA

ENGLISH/FRENCH  
MULTICULTURALISM  
INCLUSION  
ABORIGINAL ISSUES

# MULRONEY TIME

- 1984 Brian Mulroney sought election and promised to repair the damage of the 1982 Constitution
- capitalized on Liberal patronage appointments
- Wanted Quebec's votes





# THE ROAD TO MEECH

- René Levesque retires and Bourassa takes office
- Mulroney wants Quebec to sign the Constitution
- Provinces have demands Alberta and Newfoundland want control of their resources ( Oil & Fish)
- Western Provinces wanted greater powers - Reform Party created 1987



# MEECH LAKE

- 1987 Mulroney proposes new amendments to the Constitution
- Quebec to be recognized as a “Distinct Society”
- All provinces would have the right to veto Constitutional changes - Quebec loved that one
- Pierre Trudeau suggested that Distinct Society status would further alienate Quebec

## **MEECH LAKE COMMUNIQUE OF APRIL 30, 1987**

At their meeting today at Meech Lake, the Prime Minister and the ten Premiers agreed to ask officials to transform into a constitutional text the agreement in principle found in the attached document.

First Ministers also agreed to hold a constitutional conference within weeks to approve a formal text intended to allow Quebec to resume its place as a full participant in Canada's constitutional development.

### **QUEBEC'S DISTINCT SOCIETY**

- (1) The Constitution of Canada shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with
  - a) the recognition that the existence of French-speaking Canada, centred in but not limited to Quebec, and English-speaking Canada, concentrated outside Quebec but also present in Quebec, constitutes a fundamental characteristic of Canada; and
  - b) the recognition that Quebec constitutes within Canada a distinct society.
- (2) Parliament and the provincial legislatures, in the exercise of their respective powers, are committed to preserving the fundamental characteristic of Canada referred to in paragraph (1)(a).
- (3) The role of the legislature and Government of Quebec to preserve and promote the distinct identity of Quebec referred to in paragraph (1)(b) is affirmed.

# REJECTION

- First Nations groups also wanted to be recognized as having distinct status
- Newfoundland and Manitoba withheld support and



Elijah Harper



Clyde Wells

# CHARLOTTETOWN ACCORD

- Mulroney tries again... 1992
- Drafts another attempt which addresses the needs of more interest groups
- Quebec to control 25% of House of Commons regardless of population
- Support of Aboriginal self-government
- Senate reform -- Equal representation from all parts of country
- BC -- 68% voted no, nationally 55% voted no



# 1995 REFERENDUM

- 1995 Premier Jacques Parizeau called for referendum on Full Quebec sovereignty
- Yes group remembered the humiliation of Meech Lake
- 49.4% said yes
- 50.6% said no..... Yikes!!!
- Chretien developed guidelines for future votes on sovereignty and stressed the cost for separation would be high



# MULTICULTURALISM

- Until 1960's Canada had a restrictive immigration policy
- Remember the treatment of the Chinese, Japanese, Indians and the Jews.
- By the early 1960's most restrictions had been removed from Canada's immigration policy making it "Colour-blind"



[http://www.toronto.ca/toronto\\_facts/diversity.htm](http://www.toronto.ca/toronto_facts/diversity.htm)



# PROMOTING MULTICULTURALISM

- Trudeau promoted ethnic groups to celebrate and express their cultures
- 1976 Immigration policy changed and allowed entry of immigrants whose relatives already reside in Canada
- Other immigrants fled persecution
  - Vietnamese (1968)
  - Czechoslovakians (1969)
  - Asians from Uganda (1979)



Idi Amin

## 2 OPINIONS

- Allowed all peoples to feel welcome in Canada
- Strengthened national unity
- Recognized our population was not

- No common identity
- Immigrants retained culture
- Mosaic not melting pot
- Didn't assimilate into common culture

# ABORIGINAL NATIONS

- By late 1960's First Nations were seeking help to address poverty, health issues, housing and education
- Trudeau / Chretien proposed changes to the Indian Act
- The proposed "White Paper" called for the end of government patronage
- First Nations would no longer have special rights on reserves - Tax breaks
- National Indian Brotherhood saw the proposal as an attack on their culture - Assimilation
- NIB issued "Red Paper" which called for self-government
- "White Paper" is removed



# RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

- Residential school policy ended in 1969
- Bands developed their own “band schools”
- Residential school program still effects the aboriginal community today



# ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

- Aboriginal groups were concerned with the effect of industry on their traditional activities of hunting, fishing and trapping.
- Halted the production of pipelines through the Mackenzie Valley pending environmental impact assessments.
- The Cree First Nation halted the expansion of the James Bay Hydro Project

# PATH TO SELF-GOVERNMENT

- 1980 Assembly of First Nations was formed to represent aboriginals to the federal government
- Aboriginal rights were entrenched in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Bill C-31 gave the bands more power over their affairs
- Bands sought a transfer of power from the federal government to themselves
- Two types of land claims
- Specific claims - Deals with treaty lands where the terms have not been met
- Comprehensive claims - Deals with lands never surrendered to the



# OKA CONFRONTATION

- The expansion of a golf course into disputed Mohawk territory sparked an armed conflict
- 1 police officer was killed and the Canadian Armed Forces were brought in to remove the threat
- Negotiations ended the conflict



# LAND CLAIMS IN BC

- Most of BC's First Nations had not signed treaties
- Some argue that the land ceased to belong to the First Nations a long time ago
- in 1912 the Nisga'a made a Land Claim against the government
- Their claim was settled in 1999



# NUNAVUT

- 1999 The Inuit First Nation received political control over 1.6 million sq km's
- Achieved self-government
- Changed the face of Canada





# TRC

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission 2008-2015
- comprehensive response to the legacy of Aboriginal Residential Schools
- Justice Sinclair: “cultural genocide”
- call to action on child welfare, education, language and culture, health, justice
- specific recommendations to “reconcile” or address the existing issues with government action, legislation, spending, and prioritization of programs