



SELF-GUIDED TOURS:

Edmonton & Confederation



The Canadian flag was inaugurated on February 15, 1965

Fort Edmonton Park is located on Treaty 6 land and the traditional territory of the Métis Nation.

How to use this guide: This guide offers some tidbits of information about the history and evolution of Confederation, as a starting point for you to learn at your own pace. It also provides suggestions of buildings and exhibits to visit and questions to ask costumed staff.

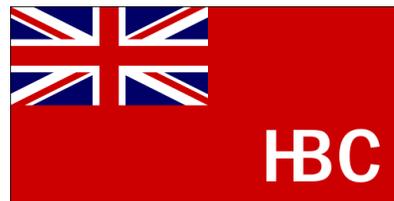
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1846 Fort- Rupert's Land

In 1846, the vast lands surrounding Hudson Bay and East of the Rockies belonged to the First Nations and the Métis. Only the Hudson's Bay Company claimed any territory for Britain, including its fur trading posts like Edmonton.

Keeping Up Colonial Appearances: The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) were tolerated guests in Indigenous lands, but to the Western world they presented themselves as "Caesars of the Wilderness." This included the Council of Rupert's Land, a body of Company men who supposedly possessed government powers in the territory. Since anyone over whom they had authority already worked for them, this Council was mostly for appearances. How are the HBC remembered in Canada today?

The Far-Off Act of Union: Some of the Fort's workers came from Lower Canada (now Quebec), where one of the 1838 rebellions and the fight for responsible government took place. These rebellions led to the union of Upper Canada and Lower Canada into one province, which would eventually lead to Confederation with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick in 1867. What has Confederation meant for French-Canadians, either in Quebec or elsewhere?



The Flag of the Hudson's Bay Company

ASK AN INTERPRETER why the 1821 merger of the HBC and the Northwest Company meant the "fur trade was forever lost to Canada." Share with the interpreters whether you think they should look forward to being part of Canada or not.

BE SURE TO VISIT [Rowand House](#) (#05) and the [Cree Camp](#) (#18), and compare the ways a Company Factor and a Cree Chief governed their people.

1885 Street- The North-West Territories

In 1867, the Dominion of Canada was created of four provinces by a process called Confederation. By 1870 it had purchased Rupert's Land from the HBC and retitled it the North-West Territories. The First Nations and Métis inhabitants, including many at Edmonton, struggled to retain their rights in this new nation.

Our Home on Native Land: Canada may have paid a pretty penny to the HBC, but it was not the HBC's right to sell the land. Petitions, resistances, and action by First Nations and Métis led to Canada signing Treaties and the policy of Métis Scrip. Scrip and treaties were Canada's attempts to acknowledge continuous Indigenous title. How are Indigenous land rights expressed today?

A National Policy for a new nation: Prime Minister John A. Macdonald saw the West as a market for Eastern goods, and the East as consumers of western wheat. He created the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP) and pushed for a national railway (the CPR) to tie the two ends of Canada together. What do you think of Macdonald's policies today?



The Flag of the Métis Nation

ASK AN INTERPRETER at the [NWMP Outpost](#) (#43) to show you his map of the North-West. Inquire about the symbol the Mounties have become. Discuss with the settlers about whether they feel more British or Canadian and share your own feelings of identity.

BE SURE TO VISIT the [Edmonton Bulletin Building](#) (#24) to ask about Frank Oliver and Richard Hardisty, Edmonton's first gov't representatives. Visit the [Métis Camp](#) (#47) and [Erasmus House](#) (#40) to hear Métis stories of protest and patriotism.

Did you know?

The anniversary of July 1, 1867 was originally called Dominion Day. Since 1983, July 1 has been officially known as Canada Day.



“Johnny Canuck”, Canada’s early 20th Century personification.

THE STORY OF CANADA CONTINUES!

Explore the entry of Newfoundland & Labrador, and the creation of Nunavut! Inquire about the new flag and the patriated Constitution! All this and much, much more...

*Thank you for visiting
Fort Edmonton Park!*

1905 Street- Alberta at Last

In 1905 Confederation welcomed two more provinces as Alberta and Saskatchewan were created out of the North-West Territories. Edmonton boomed to bursting with the pre-war rush for settlement.

A Province, but not yet a full Partner:

Confederation grew to nine provinces in 1905, but not all provinces were created equally. When Alberta and Saskatchewan gained provincial status they did not gain rights to Crown land and resources. Ottawa argued that unlike other provinces, Alberta had never owned the lands in the first place. This was not the first or the last change to Confederation. What other provincial-federal arguments do you know of?

A Citizen, but not yet a full Citizen: When Alberta entered Confederation, women, First Nations, Inuit, and Chinese persons living in Canada could not vote. White women in Alberta gained that right in 1916, but others would wait decades more for suffrage. Are there any groups in Canada today who are denied the vote or full citizenship?



The Flag of the Province of Alberta

ASK AN INTERPRETER about women’s suffrage and why women want to vote. Share your family’s immigration story with an interpreter, if you have one.

BE SURE TO VISIT Rutherford House (#54), the original turn of the century home of Alexander Rutherford, Alberta’s first Premier. Drop in to St. Anthony’s Chapel (#58) to find a map of Canada. Also visit the Town Hall (#63) to see where local power is being exercised within the Dominion.

1920 Street- Canada Comes of Age

From 1919 to 1929, Canada experienced a time of rapid changes. It fully moved into the modern age. The First World War proved Canada was ready to move out from Britain’s shadow and take more control of its destiny, but new struggles loomed.

Canada Takes Her Place: After Canada’s experience in the First World War, our nation insisted on signing the peace treaty as a country distinct from Great Britain and also later joined the League of Nations on its own. In addition, individual Canadians felt a greater sense of nationhood after their shared experiences in total war. There were still several steps needed before full independence from Great Britain was achieved. How many do you remember?

Overruled by Britain (for the Best Reason): The Famous Five fought for women to be considered persons in 1927. They were denied by the Canadian Supreme Court. The five appealed to the British Privy Council, who overturned Canada’s decision and granted women the status of persons in 1929. Canada resented the interference, but few today would defend what the Privy Council called “a relic of days more barbarous than ours.”



The Red Ensign Flag of Canada, in use in the 1920s

ASK AN INTERPRETER about their experience in the Great War, abroad or at home. What did it mean for them personally and for Canada as a nation? Share any stories you have of your family’s military service and what it means to you.

BE SURE TO VISIT the Capitol Theatre (#70) and take in *Northern Light: The Edmonton Journey* to get a new look at Edmonton’s experience in the Great War. Stop by Mellon Farm (#81) and ask them whom they plan to vote for in the next federal election and what is at stake.