MAKING B.C

APRIL 29TH, 2014

POPULATION CHANGES - ILLNESS

- 1855 Census on Vancouver Island: Non First Nations Pop: 774. First Nations Pop: 30,000.
- 1862: A miner from San Francisco brought smallpox to Victoria. It spread quickly and caused an epidemic in First Nations populations.
- Many First Nations had come to Victoria for work in the gold rush, but were sent home. When they left they brought smallpox with them.
- On Haida Gwaii it eliminated 70% of the population.

POPULATION CHANGES - IMMIGRATION

- Because of the gold rushes 35,000 people came from all over to try and get rich quick.
- By the mid 1860s: the gold ran out and the populations of the colonies dwindled to less than 10,000 people.
- Fewer people meant less tax money, and both the governments of Vancouver Island and British Columbia were in debt.
- The only solution was to unite the two, and so on August 6, 1866 the colony of British Columbia was created.

FOR CONFEDERATION

- Those who were for Confederation were called confederationists.
- They wanted the Dominion of Canada to take on BC's debt.
- They wanted a road built from Lake Superior to New Westminster.
- They wanted responsible government.
- These were turned down in legislature.

ANTI-CONFEDERATION

- Some people preferred the idea of joining the US.
 The US was closer and fairing well economically.
 They were called annexationists.
- Some wanted to remain independent. These were anti-confederationists. They didn't trust Canadians.
- Nobody bothered to ask what the First Nations people thought.

CONFEDERATION

- In 1868 there was a balance between those who were for and against Confederation.
- 1869: Governor Seymour died and Anthony Musgrave who was tasked with getting British Columbia to join Confederation.
- There was a petition from annexationists to get people to join the USA, but only 125 of 3000 Victoria citizens signed it.
- Musgrave asked the anti-confederationists what they wanted in order to join Canada. It was approved. On July 20, 1871 BC joined Canada.

INDUSTRY IN VANCOUVER

- By 1865: Vancouver had changed. Captain Edward Stamp built Hastings Mill. Sewell Moody built a saw mill. The surrounding area was called Moodyville. They specialized in BC Toothpicks.
- Both places were dry until Gassy Jack Deighton arrived in Burrard Inlet in 1867 with a barrel of whisky. He opened a saloon which became popular quickly. Other stores opened around it. It was officially called Granville.

THE RAILWAY ARRIVES

- 1881: Port Moody was named terminus of the CPR.
- 1884: William Van Horne arrived to look at the location but found it unsuitable. He travelled down the inlet and found his perfect location. He called it Vancouver.
- 1886: The CPR had been completed and Vancouver was incorporated.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- With the CPR trade changed in BC from North-South, to trading with the other Canadian provinces.
- There was an increase in exports. And an immigration boom. Larger population meant a larger workforce, which means a prosperous economy.
- Goods could now travel easily to the west and to Asian markets.