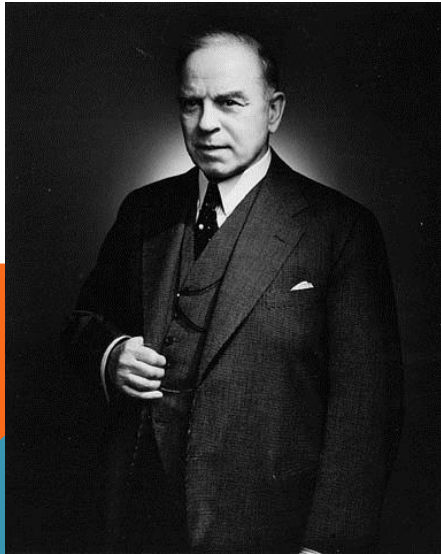


CHANGING POLITICS

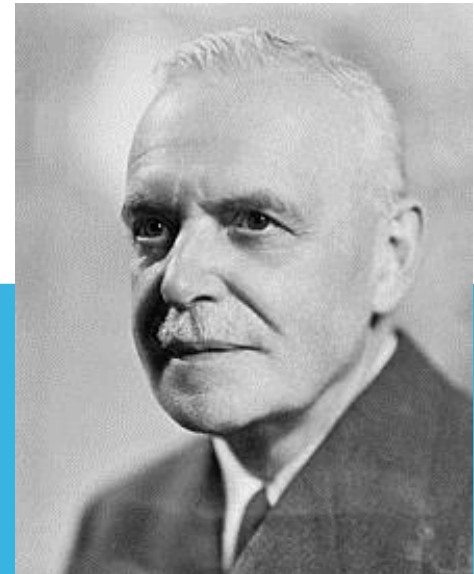
APRIL 23RD, 2014

FROM KING TO ST LAURENT

- Mackenzie King retired as Prime Minister in 1948. He was 73 years old and had been prime minister for twenty two years, which is the longest in Canadian history.
- He was succeeded by Louis St. Laurent. St. Laurent was a Quebec born lawyer who had almost retired when Mackenzie King asked him to take on the post of Minister of Justice. He was elected in to the Commons in 1942..
- Prior to St. Laurent, the media didn't play a big role in Canadian politics. But upon seeing St. Laurent with some children they dubbed him Uncle Louis, which the Liberal party emphasised during his campaigns. It made him seem like a kindly relative.



← Mackenzie King



Louis St. Laurent →

LOUIS ST. LAURENT AS PRIME MINISTER

- He expanded federal social welfare programs (eg old age pension)
- Brought in hospital insurance (a step towards universal healthcare)
- Created the Massey Commission to protect Canadian Culture
- Negotiated entry of Newfoundland into Canada.
- Made Supreme Court of Canada the highest court of appeal.
- Negotiated changes to the British North America Act to give Canada authority to amend portions of it.
- appointed first Canadian Governor General.
- initiated Trans-Canada Highway.
- supported NATO and the UN.
- sent troops to the UN in Korea and sent Lester Pearson to defuse the Suez Crisis.

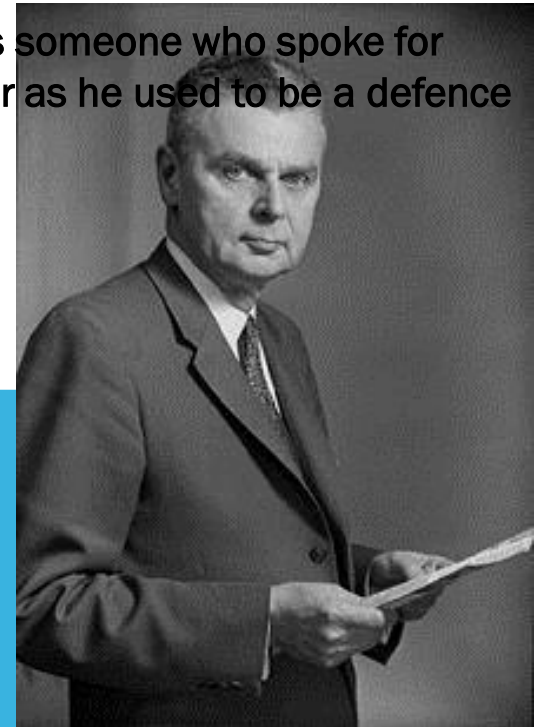


Louis St. Laurent with Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip.


POST ST. LAURENT

- Louis St. Laurent ran for office three times Once in 1949, once in 1953 and once in 1957.
- He won in 1949 and 1953, but in 1957 his government lost the majority and he decided to retire. He was 75.
- St. Laurent was replaced as prime minister by John Diefenbaker, a conservative.
- John Diefenbaker was the first non-French or English prime minister and also the first Westerner to take on the job. He was from Saskatchewan.
- Ordinary people liked him, because he viewed himself as someone who spoke for and listened to them. He was a skilled public speaker as he used to be a defence attorney.

John Diefenbaker →



NEWFOUNDLAND JOINS CONFEDERATION

- Prior to 1932, Newfoundland had been an independent, self governing dominion in the British Empire.
 - But they did not fair well in the Depression and the government went bankrupt. So democracy was temporarily suspended and control returned to Britain.
 - In 1948, Newfoundlanders were given the opportunity to vote in a referendum about their political future.
 - They were given three options: Joining Canada/Confederation, Self-Governing Dominion status, and government by commission, as it was before WW2.
 - In June 1948, they voted. Confederation got 41% of the vote, Dominion states for 44.6%, and government by commission got 14%.
 - With no clear majority they returned to vote again in July, removing the government by commission option. Confederation won with 52% of the vote.
 - On March 31, 1949 Newfoundland became part of Canada.
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QUEBEC NATIONALISM

- From 1936-39 and 1944-59, Maurice Duplessis was the premier of Quebec. He was a member of the Union Nationale party.
 - He was a Quebec Nationalist and believed that Quebec should be a distinct nation rather than just a Canadian province.
 - He introduced the Quebec flag with the fleur-de-lys.
 - Under Duplessis, the Roman Catholic church was a big defender of Quebec culture. It was also a big part of society. It ran their hospitals and schools. The emphasis in education was in traditional subjects of classical languages and philosophy, which led to a lack of scientists and business people.
 - Duplessis encouraged foreign investments through cheap labour (no unions allowed) and lower taxes. In return those companies were expected to donate generously to his party.
 - Some call his regime La Grande Noirceur, or the Great Darkness and it was chalk full of bribery and corruption.
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