

# UNIT 4

## CONFEDERATION

### Canada Wants Independence

In the 1800s, more and more people settled in different parts of Canada. Canada was owned by Britain and was called British North America.

Canadian leaders talked about bringing the areas of British North America together. They talked about becoming independent from Britain. They talked about having their own government.

The leaders wanted one government for all of Canada. But each area in Canada had different concerns. Because of this, they decided that each area would also have a smaller government of its own. The government of Canada would be the **federal** government. The smaller governments in each area would be **provincial** governments. The ideas about governing Canada were written down. Canadian leaders hoped the ideas would become law.

### The British Government Agrees

The British government listened to Canadian leaders. In 1867, the British government made the ideas into law for Canada. The law was called the **British North America Act**, or the BNA Act.

### The First Provinces of Canada

On July 1, 1867, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick became the first provinces of Canada. We call this historic event **Confederation**. Confederation happens when different areas come together, or unite.

### Canada Governs Itself

In 1867, Sir John A. Macdonald became Canada's first prime minister. The prime minister is the person who leads the federal government. Macdonald's picture is on our \$10 bill.



### Other Provinces Join Confederation

Later, other provinces joined Canada. Manitoba joined three years after Confederation in 1870. British Columbia joined in 1871. Prince Edward Island joined in 1873. Saskatchewan and Alberta joined in 1905. Newfoundland and Labrador joined last in 1949.

## Understand What You Read

### A Answer the Questions

1. When did Canada become independent?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. List the first provinces that were part of Canada.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Who was Canada's first prime minister?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which country owned Canada before Confederation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does the word **confederation** mean?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What was the BNA Act?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Which province was the last to join Confederation?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### B Fill in the Blanks

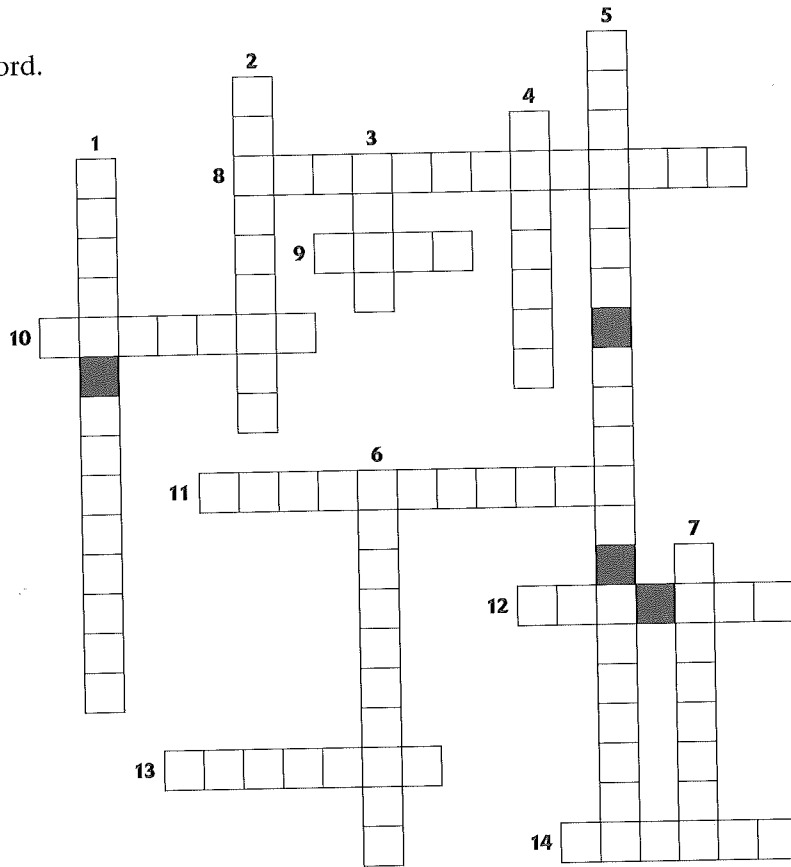
Write the year each province joined Confederation. Shade the first four provinces of Canada on the map.



- Ontario \_\_\_\_\_
- Quebec \_\_\_\_\_
- Nova Scotia \_\_\_\_\_
- New Brunswick \_\_\_\_\_
- Manitoba \_\_\_\_\_
- British Columbia \_\_\_\_\_
- Prince Edward Island \_\_\_\_\_
- Saskatchewan \_\_\_\_\_
- Alberta \_\_\_\_\_
- Newfoundland and Labrador \_\_\_\_\_

**C Crossword**

Complete the crossword.



**DOWN ↓**

1. The leader of Canada's federal government
2. The last name of Canada's first prime minister
3. In 1867, \_\_\_ provinces joined Canada.
4. Before 1867, \_\_\_ owned Canada.
5. The name of British-owned areas of Canada
6. The \_\_\_ government governs a province.
7. \_\_\_ joined Canada in 1870.

**ACROSS →**

8. \_\_\_ means to unite.
9. Canada became independent in the month of \_\_\_.
10. The \_\_\_ government governs all of Canada.
11. A self-governing country
12. The law that listed the first rules of Canada's government
13. One of the first provinces of Canada
14. The name of British North America after it became independent

**Word List**

four • Canada • Confederation • July • prime minister  
 Macdonald • Ontario • BNA Act • independent • Manitoba  
 Britain • federal • British North America • provincial