**French English Relations Review Sheet**

## (1957) Prime Minister Pearson Wins the Nobel Peace Prize – In 1956, Great Britain, France and Israel launched an attack on Egypt aimed at removing President Nasser after he had taken control of the Suez Canal. The United States had not been informed, and the Soviet Union threatened to use atomic weapons against the assailants. The "Suez Crisis" found its solution when the President of the United Nations General Assembly, the Canadian Lester Pearson, won support for sending a United Nations Emergency Force to the region to separate the warring parties. This gained him the Peace Prize for 1957.

**(1963) The Bilingual and Bicultural Commission** – After defeating **Conservative Prime Minister John Diefenbaker in the 1963 Election, Liberal Prime Minister Lester B Pearson** requested the Royal Commission on [Bilingualism](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/bilingualism/) and [Biculturalism](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/biculturalism/) (1963-69). It recommended sweeping changes to federal and provincial [language policy](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/language-policy/). The commission was **a response to the growing unrest among French Canadians in Québec, who called for the protection of their language and culture, and opportunities to participate fully in political and economic decision making**. The commission's findings led to changes in French education across the country, and the creation of the federal department of [multiculturalism](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/multiculturalism/) and the [Official Languages Act](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/official-languages-act-1969/).

**(1965) The Red Ensign is replaced by the Maple Leaf** - The Red Ensign (often "Canadian Red Ensign") was the recognized flag of Canada until 1965 when it was replaced by the maple leaf **design proposed by Liberal Prime Minister Lester B Pearson**. Based on the ensign flown by British merchant ships, the Canadian Red Ensign is a red flag with a Union Jack in the upper corner next to the staff and the Canadian coat of arms in the fly. Many English Canadians wanted to keep the old British symbol, while many French Canadians wanted something completely new. After much debate, the new Flag was adopted officially in 1965.

**(1967) Charles De Gaulle delivers his “Vive le Quebec Libre” Speech –** When visiting Montreal for the “Expo 67” World Fair, the President of France Charles De Gaulle delivers a speech in which he **compares Canada’s “oppression” of Quebec to the Nazi oppression in France** during WWII! He finishes his speech by saying **he looks forward to seeing a “free” and independent Quebec** “Vive le Quebec Libre”. Needless to say, PM Pearson was furious and gave his own speech stating the ALL CANADIANS ARE FREE **and reminding the French President of the thousands of CANADIAN lives that were sacrificed in WWII to free France from the Nazis.** However, the speech did inspire some Separatists as they felt they would get some international support if they became independent.

**(1969) The Official Languages Act** – This Act declared that **French and English would be the official languages of Canada.** As a result, all federal institutions must provide their services in English or French at the customer's choice. The Act (passed following the recommendation of the Royal Commission on [BILINGUALISM AND BICULTURALISM](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/royal-commission-on-bilingualism-and-biculturalism/) created the office of Commissioner of Official Languages to oversee its implementation. Politically, the Act has been supported by all federal parties, but the public's understanding and acceptance of it has been mixed. In June 1987 the Conservative government introduced an amended Official Languages Act to promote official language minority rights.

**(1970) The October Crisis** - The October Crisis began 5 October 1970 with the kidnapping of **James Cross, the British trade commissioner** in Montréal, by members of the [**Front de Libération du Québec**](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/front-de-liberation-du-quebec/) **(FLQ).** It rapidly devolved into the most serious terrorist act carried out on Canadian soil after another official, **Minister of Immigration and Minister of Labour** [**Pierre Laporte**](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/pierre-laporte/)**,** was kidnapped and killed. The crisis shook the career of recently elected **Liberal Premier Robert Bourassa**, who solicited federal help along with Montréal Mayor Jean Drapeau. This help would lead to the only invocation of the War Measures Act during peacetime in Canadian history **Liberal Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau**.

**(1976 ) Rene Levesque** - For the [**Parti Québécois**](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/parti-quebecois/) **government that came into power in 1976 under the leadership of René** [**Lévesque**](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/rene-levesque/), a new language law was a high priority. After publishing a White Paper on the subject (1977), it introduced Bill 1, strongly supported by nationalist and union groups (whose francophone members would benefit from greater access to jobs) among other stakeholders, and just as sharply opposed by management circles and the province's anglophone population. The bill was withdrawn because of pressure from the Liberal opposition and reappeared as Bill 101.

**(1977) Bill 101** - Introduced by Camille [Laurin](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/bill-22/), Bill 101, Charte de la langue française (1977), **made French the official language of government and of the courts in the province of Québec**, as well as making it the normal and habitual language of the workplace, of instruction, of communications, of commerce and of business. Education in French became compulsory for immigrants, even those from other Canadian provinces, unless a "reciprocal agreement" existed between Québec and that province (the so-called Québec clause).

**(1982) Patriation of the Constitution** - The **Constitution Act, 1982** was **proposed by Liberal Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.** The act was introduced as part of Canada's process of [patriating](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patriation) the constitution, introducing several amendments[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_Act,_1982" \l "cite_note-1) to the British North America Act 1867, and changing the latter's name in Canada to the [Constitution Act, 1867](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_Act,_1867). Queen [Elizabeth II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_II), as [Queen of Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monarchy_of_Canada), brought the act into effect with a proclamation she signed in [Ottawa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottawa) on April 17, 1982. The [Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Charter_of_Rights_and_Freedoms) forms the first thirty-five sections of the Constitution Act, 1982. As of 2014, the [government of Quebec](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Quebec) has never formally approved of the enactment of the act, though formal consent was never necessary.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_Act,_1982#cite_note-2) Nonetheless, it has remained a persistent political issue in Quebec. The [Meech Lake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meech_Lake_Accord) and [Charlottetown](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charlottetown_Accord) Accords were designed to secure approval from Quebec, but both efforts failed to do so.

**(1987) The Meech Lake Accord** - In 1987 the Progressive [Conservative](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/conservative-party/) government **of Prime Minister** [**Brian Mulroney**](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/brian-mulroney/) attempted to win Québec's consent to the revised Canadian [Constitution](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/constitution/) — following the Québec government's rejection of it in 1981. The result was the Meech Lake Accord. This was an agreement between the [federal](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/federal-government/) and [provincial](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/provincial-government/) governments to amend the Constitution by strengthening provincial powers that would, among other things, give Quebec 3 Supreme Court Judges and declare [Québec](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/quebec/) a "distinct society." The provinces had until 1990 to approve the Accord or else the offer would expire. Political support for the Accord later unravelled, and it was never put into effect.

**(1992) The Charlottetown Accord** - Following the failure of the [Meech Lake Accord](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/meech-lake-accord/) in 1990, Mulroney's Conservative government tried a second time to solve the political dilemma created in 1982 when Canada [patriated](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/patriation-of-the-constitution/) and amended its Constitution without the consent of the government of Quebec. The Charlottetown Accord of 1992 was a failed, joint attempt by the government of **Conservative Prime Minister** [**Brian Mulroney**](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/brian-mulroney/) and all 10 provincial premiers to amend the Canadian [Constitution](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/constitution/), specifically to obtain [Quebec's](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/quebec/) consent to the [Constitution Act of 1982](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/constitution-act-1982/). The Accord would have also decentralized many federal powers to the provinces, but it was ultimately rejected by Canadian voters in a referendum.

**(1995) Second Quebec Separatism Referendum** - The rest of Canada was tired of constitutional matters. However, the alienation of Québec, attributable in part to the poisoned atmosphere following the debate over distinct society, brought the separatist [PARTI QUÉBÉCOIS](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/parti-quebecois/) (PQ) back into power. Premier [Jacques PARIZEAU](http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/article/jacques-parizeau/) promptly promised that a referendum on Québec separation would be held on October 30, 1995. The question posed in the referendum read as follows: "Do you agree that Québec should become sovereign, after having made a formal offer to Canada for a new economic and political partnership, within the scope of the Bill respecting the future of Québec and of the agreement signed on 12 June 1995?" Ultimately, after an emotional and somewhat controversial campaign, the "No" side achieved victory by a narrow majority of 50.58%.