

**Note Organizer**  
**Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker**

**Social Policy**

The Bill of Rights

- Precursor to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
- Guaranteed fundamental rights and freedoms of all Canadians
  - Right to be free from discrimination “by reason of race, national origin, colour, religion, or sex”
- Had very little power in its current form as it wasn’t enshrined within the constitution, so had no requirement to be enforced

Aboriginal Rights

- Existing widespread discrimination against Indigenous peoples
- Extending the right to vote to Indigenous people while also allowing them to retain their status

New Immigration Policies

- Canada had mainly favoured immigrants from Britain, US, France, and other Northern European countries
- Little consistency within the enforcement of immigration policy as individual immigration officers often interpreted the regulations differently and often made arbitrary decisions based on an immigrant’s race
- Laying the groundwork for a more diverse and multicultural Canada

**Economic Policy**

Clash with the Bank of Canada

- The recession of 1957 lead Diefenbaker to ease the burden by increasing unemployment insurance, cutting taxes, and increasing spending. He faced backlash from the Bank of Canada however, when trying to lower interest rates
- Diefenbaker made the Canadian dollar value at US\$0.925 to lower the prices of Canadian goods and encourage international spending

**Foreign Relations**

Cuban Missile Crisis

- America-Cuba relations were degrading, but Canada refused to cut its ties with Cuba
- Canada refused to get into a state of nuclear readiness, to the disapproval of America and 80 percent of Canadians
- Represented Canada developing into a middle power and its independence from US foreign policy

Avro Arrow

04/16/19

- Canada pledged to develop a military defence jet called the Avro Arrow, but Diefenbaker cancelled the \$12.5M project, agreeing to buy American-made Bomarc defense nuclear missiles
- Diefenbaker refused to store warheads on Canadian soil, leading many to question why the military had missiles that could not be deployed

### Bomarc Missiles

## **Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson**

### **Social Policy**

#### The Flag Debate

Pearson's role; le

Made the flag we have today

Canadian nationalism, seen as one of his proudest achievements

- Established separation from Britain (no more Union Jack on the flag)

#### The Social Safety Net

Pearson's role:

He was the first one to implement these that help define what Canada and is known for today

1965 introduced Canada Pension Plan

- Very relevant today

1967 launched Royal Commission on the Status of Women

- Heavy contribution to feminism

1968 health care system

- Very relevant today

No capital punishment

New labour laws for min wage

#### Criminal Justice

- Temporarily banned capital punishment
- Lead to capital punishment being abolished in 1976
  - Capital punishment is widely regarded as the worst violation of human rights
  - Cases in the future, building upon the Charter would effectively outlaw the death penalty for any Canadian

#### Labour Relations

- Aforementioned Canada Pension Plan
- Minimum Wage, 8 hour work day, 40 hour work week
- Made it mandatory for employers to provide a minimum of 2 weeks' paid vacation

### **Economic Policy**

04/16/19

### The Auto Pact

Pearson's roles:

1965 signed agreement with US, lowered tariffs in the auto industry, allowed Canadians to buy cars at lower prices

- Most important international trade deal in history between US and Canada
- Economy boost, but also more US domination in economy

Problem: In 1964, Canada had a 600\$ million auto trade deficit with the US

- Canada was producing about 7% of Canada/US auto output but accounted for less than 1 % of us sales during this time
- Canada's auto industry was also very inefficient because of tariff walls, and other factors that resulted in no incentive to invest in Canada
  - Productivity is 60-65% percent of US levels and wages were 70%

### **Foreign Relations**

#### Suez Crisis

Pearson's roles:

- Pearson introduced the first large-scale peacekeeping mission to the UN, strengthening Canada's position as a middle power and a peacekeeping nation
  - Peacekeeping is something Canada is very well known for today
  - This earned him the nobel peace prize - the only nobel peace prize a Canadian has every received
- Attitudes towards using establishing peace as the goal to reach in a crisis rather than just a ceasefire. This attitude has lasted in modern society and inspired the creation of policies

#### The Vietnam War

Pearson's roles:

1965 urged US to stop bombing North Vietnam

- Against using nuclear weapons
- Impact Canada's use to use nuclear weapons

Pearson has better relations with John f Kennedy than dieffenbaker

- Opposed American intervention in the Vietnam War
- Called on American administration (Lyndon B. Johnson) to stop the bombing and create a settlement with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam
- Declined US requests to send Canadian combat troops into Vietnam
- Publicized and increased rift between Canada and the USA
- 

#### Expo 67

Pearson's roles:

1967 to celebrate Canada's 100th Birthday, he helped organize the Centennial Train that displayed Canada history and culture

- Culture and social impact
- Quebec nationalism

04/16/19

- Canadian pride and nationalism as an independent country -more tourism and awareness to other countries

### **Relationship with Quebec**

- Pearson wanted to minimize the strained relationship between Quebec and Ottawa
  - Due to nationalism and separatism
- 1963 appointed the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism
  - Extent of bilingualism in the federal gov
  - Role of public and private organizations to promote cultural relations
  - Provide more opportunities for Canadians to become bilingual in English and French
  - The general goal was the concept of “equal partnership” where francophones and anglophones can participate equally in the businesses/institutes that are relevant in their lives
  - <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/royal-commission-on-bilingualism-and-biculturalism>
- 1965, he added three Quebecers to his cabinet
- After his retirement in 1968, he still focused on Quebec
  - He put thought into his successor and the successor was Pierre Elliot Trudeau

### ***Main Takeaways from Pearson:***

- He strengthened Canada’s role as a middle power and a peacekeeper
- Pearson also developed canadian culture
  - First and only nobel peace prize
  - Safety thing from criminals’
  - Expo 67
  - Hold on death penalty
  - Canadian flag
- Adopted public healthcare system
- The Social Safety Net

### **References**