

**Social Studies 8**  
**Chapter 9 - Moving Towards Confederation**  
**“National Convention”**

This chapter outlines the most difficult decision the people of Newfoundland and Labrador had to make about their political, economic and cultural future.

After World War II, Newfoundland had solved its money problems and had to decide how it wanted to be governed (continue Commission of Government, return to Responsible Government, or join Canada). The debate ended up dividing communities and families.

These questions are based on pages 222-231 in your text. You are to read those pages and answer all of the following questions.

**Establishment of the National Convention:**

1. Why was the National Convention set up? How did “Newfoundlanders and Labradorians” and Britain differ in the way they felt about it?
2. What does acclamation mean? What is a possible reason why eight members were elected to the National Convention by acclamation?
3. Even though there were no political parties in the National Convention, the members soon split into two groups. What were the groups and who were their leaders?

**Reverend Lester Burry:**

4. What was Lester Burry’s main reason for being in Labrador? What were his accomplishments there?
5. After Lester Burry was elected as the representative for Labrador to the National Convention, which side did he choose? How did he feel about Responsible Government.
6. In your opinion, was Lester Burry a good choice for Labrador’s representative, even though he was not a native Labradorian? Why or why not?

**London and Ottawa Delegations:**

7. What was Joseph Smallwood’s argument for sending a delegation to Ottawa? How did the majority of the Convention react to the idea? Why?
8. Who led the delegations to both Ottawa and London? Explain what each delegation found out.

**Joseph R. Smallwood:**

9. What sort of jobs did “Joey” have before entering into the National Convention? Why did he support joining Canada?

10. How did Joey use the radio broadcasts of the National Convention to his advantage?
11. How long did Joey serve as premier of Newfoundland and Labrador? What are three things he is remembered for?

**Peter Cashin:**

12. How was Peter Cashin's pre-political days different from those of Joey Smallwood?
13. After reading about Cashin's political career, what sort of person would you expect him to be? Why?

**Primary Source Feature:**

14. Read Dora Russell's article on page 230. What form of government did she support? List the main points of her argument.

**Deciding the Options:**

15. What problem did Joey Smallwood create by wanting Confederation with Canada to be placed on the referendum ballot? What did the National Convention finally decide in early 1948? What did this mean for the Confederation idea for the time being?