

## Social Studies 8

### Chapter 10- A Canadian Province: Modernization and Social Change

#### Part II – Social Change

With so many technological advances after Confederation with Canada, Newfoundlanders and Labradorians went through a number of social changes. This included where they lived, where they worked and what they expected for themselves and their families.

- a) **Resettlement** – This is the government-organized relocation of people from small, isolated communities to larger **growth centers** (areas where greater economic development was expected to occur).
- Because of technology, fishermen and their families no longer needed to live close to the fishing grounds and large fishing premises were no longer required.
  - The government believed it could better provide North American-type services to a more centralized population and save money by not having to provide these services to small, widely dispersed communities.
  - Inuit from Nutak and Hebron were relocated to communities like Hopedale, Makkovik and Nain, while Innu bands were encouraged to settle at Sheshatshiu and Davis Inlet. Both the Innu and Inuit groups struggled to adapt to the new lifestyles.
  - The Resettlement Program ran between 1954 and 1975, with 30,000 people being relocated and leaving over 300 communities abandoned.

#### Pros and Cons of Resettlement

Why Leave?	Why Stay?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved technology meant fishermen did not have to live close to the fishing grounds.</li><li>• Salt fish processing was on the decline which meant families no longer needed large fishing premises.</li><li>• Many wanted to live closer to modern conveniences like hospitals, highways and schools.</li><li>• Church and school officials believed it would be easier to hire new workers.</li><li>• People wanted well-paying jobs which the government said could be found in “growth centers”.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• People were in control of their own lives with freedom and independence.</li><li>• Strong attachments to family, friends and community.</li><li>• People owned their own property and houses.</li><li>• If people left, family heritage would be threatened by not being able to tend to family graves.</li><li>• Prospects better “at home” rather than in “growth centers”.</li><li>• People wanted to resist government’s efforts to control their lives.</li></ul>

- b) Technology and Lifestyle** – It is difficult for us to imagine how the flood of new technologies affected the lives of post-Confederation Newfoundland and Labrador because we have always lived with it or more modern forms of it.
- Many people owned or had access to a radio, but they were battery operated and used sparingly to conserve the batteries. By the 1970s, however, most radios ran on electricity and were inexpensive to operate.
  - Television first came to the province in 1955, creating a greater demand for consumer products and new fashions. People were also able to compare themselves more to the world and drove the desire to modernize.
  - Younger people began to become more exposed to pop culture, wanting to wear the same clothes, listen to the same music and watch the same TV shows and movies as young people in the rest of North America.
  - New and improved infrastructure like roads and ferry services made travel easier with 95,000 passenger vehicles in Newfoundland in 1971. Cars were easy transport while air travel meant people could travel to other places easier to experience new cultures.
- c) Labour Unions** – During the process of modernization, the workforce underwent many stresses and strains with many workers wanting to work in better conditions and get paid better wages to keep more in tune with Canadian counterparts. As a result, the labour movement in Newfoundland began to have a real impact on working conditions.
- The IWA Strike, for instance saw loggers fighting for better pay and living conditions in the lumber camps of central Newfoundland in 1959. During a protest, a police officer, Constable William Moss of the Newfoundland Constabulary, was killed and Premier Smallwood **decertified** the union – meaning it was outlawed in Newfoundland.
  - The Burgeo Strike – During the summer of 1971, plant workers in Burgeo went on strike for better wages at the Spencer Lake Plant. Spencer Lake was refusing to recognize the union which was called the Newfoundland Fish, Food and Allied Workers Union (NFFAWU). This gained a lot of media attention and support from the public as well as the fishermen (since they were a part of the same union). The provincial government finally took over the plant from Spencer Lake and the NFFAWU saw it as a victory since they were changing attitudes that placed their lives in the hands of the merchants.