



Royal Commission on Renewing and Strengthening Our Place in Canada

History of Newfoundland and Labrador Summary Chronology of Events

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The views expressed herein are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the Royal Commission on Renewing and Strengthening Our Place in Canada.

Pre-1949

c. 7000 B.C.

Stone Age Indians (Maritime Archaic Indians) moved into Labrador from the south shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence and by 3000 B.C. had moved to the Island of Newfoundland. Based on archaeological evidence, by 1200 B.C. they had disappeared from the Island, but had survived longer in Labrador.

c. 1800 B.C.

Palaeo-eskimos moved into Labrador having crossed to the high Arctic and Greenland from Siberia across the Bering Strait about 2500 B.C.

c. 800 B.C.

Palaeo-eskimos (Groswater Palaeo-eskimos) moved to the Island of Newfoundland.

c. 600 B.C.

Dorset Palaeo-eskimos arrived in Labrador and into Newfoundland about 1.A.D. remaining on the Island until about 800 A.D. when they either moved off the Island or became extinct. By c.1400 A.D. they had left northern Labrador.

c. 1000 A.D.

Viking settlement established at L'Anse aux Meadows; abandoned within a decade of its establishment.

c. 1000 A.D.

Historical and archeological evidence indicates that the Beothuks were already living in Newfoundland at the time that Viking explorers arrived. The Beothuks are considered the aboriginal people of the Island of Newfoundland and were Algonkian-speaking hunter-gatherers. They numbered less than a thousand people at the time of European contact in the 15th century.

c. 13th century

Thule Eskimos (Inuit) moved into Labrador from Greenland.

1497

English explorer, Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot) claimed Newfoundland for England, but the Island remained for over a century as a base for the international European fishery on the Grand Banks.

c. 16th century

Historical evidence suggests that the Mi'kmaq were living in Newfoundland by the 16th century.

Historical and archaeological suggests that the Innu were visiting coastal Labrador from the Quebec-Labrador interior by the 16th century.

1530-1600

Basques whalers from Spain and France established shore-based stations in southern Labrador at Red Bay for the hunting of whales.

1583

Sir Humphrey Gilbert claimed Newfoundland for the English crown. The Island continued to be used by Portuguese, French, Basque and English fishers on the Grand Banks.

1610

John Guy established the first sponsored colony in Newfoundland at Cupids by the London and Bristol Company of England.

1621

Lord Baltimore (Sir George Calvert) established a sponsored colony at Ferryland.

1634

The Western Charter stated that the first fishing captain of a vessel in Newfoundland would be the admiral for the season with responsibility for deciding disputes among themselves and protecting their ships. The fishing admiral for that year had the right to choose the best fishing port to use that year.

c. 1660s

English sponsored colonies abandoned in Newfoundland. Future population growth based on fishers from England and Ireland remaining to work in a resident fishery.

1662

France established a colony at Plaisance (Placentia). Plaisance served as a base for the French fishing fleet, kept an eye on English activity on the Avalon Peninsula and protected French shipping and fishing in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

1696-97

A French military force led by Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville from Plaisance captured St. John's and other English settlements on the Avalon Peninsula during the winter of 1696-1697.

1699

King William III Act acknowledged the ownership of existing property in Newfoundland and gave permission for settlements to exist in Newfoundland as long as residents did not interfere with the English migratory fishery.

1713

Under the Treaty of Utrecht, France gave up all claims to Newfoundland but retained fishing rights along the coast from Cape Bonavista north to Point Riche.

1729

Henry Osborn appointed as Newfoundland's first naval governor.

1752

Moravian missionaries arrived in Labrador to minister to the Inuit.

1763

Following the Seven Years' War, France maintained fishing rights in Newfoundland and in the territory of St. Pierre and Miquelon off the south coast of Newfoundland.

1766

Laurence Coughlan arrived in Newfoundland as a preacher for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Coughlan was responsible for the introduction of Methodism in Newfoundland.

1771

Moravian missionaries established the community of Nain in northern Labrador.

1774

Under the Quebec Act, Quebec was given jurisdiction of Labrador.

1783

Under the Treaty of Versailles, France received revised fishing rights in Newfoundland from Cape John to Cape Ray, the "French Shore."

1784

England granted religious freedom to Roman Catholics in Newfoundland.

1788

The first smallpox vaccinations were given in North America at Trinity.

1791

The first Supreme Court in Newfoundland was established.

1806

Protestant and Catholic Irish residents established the Benevolent Irish Society at St. John's.

1807

The Royal Gazette was the first newspaper published in Newfoundland.

1809

Labrador was restored to Newfoundland, having been given to Quebec in 1774 under the Quebec Act.

1815

During the period of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars in Europe from 1793 to 1815, Newfoundland's population increased from 11,382 persons in 1797 to a total of 40,568 in 1815.

1822

William Cormack walked across Newfoundland in search of the Beothuk Indians.

1824

Newfoundland recognized as an official British colony by Imperial legislation.

1829

The last surviving member of the Beothuks, Shanawdithit, died at St. John's.

1832

Newfoundland received Representative Government consisting of an appointed Legislative Council and an elected House of Assembly.

1833

The House of Assembly met for the first time.

1834

The Newfoundland Law Society is formed.

1836

The legislature passed the first Education Act.

1840

J.B. Jukes completed the first geological survey of Newfoundland.

1842

The Newfoundland constitution was suspended and an amalgamated legislature established which remained in place until 1848 when the former constitution was restored.

1846

A fire destroyed much of St. John's. About 2,000 buildings were burnt and about 12,000 people, or 57 per cent of the town's total population, were left homeless.

1850

The construction of the Colonial Building completed and the building opened for the first time.

1855

Responsible Government established consisting of a bicameral legislature: an elected House of Assembly and an appointed Legislative Council.

1864

Newfoundland sent two observers, Ambrose Shea and Frederick Carter, to the Quebec Conference to discuss the Confederation of the British North American colonies. Four colonies formed Canada in 1867.

1865

Denominational proportional representation in the formation of an Executive Council and appointments to the civil service adopted following sectarian strife in 1861.

1866

Atlantic telegraph cable laid between Heart's Content and Cork, Ireland.

1869

The issue of Confederation with Canada defeated in a general election.

1871

The Newfoundland Constabulary established following the withdrawal of the British garrison earlier in the year.

c.1870s

Captain William Whiteley invented the cod trap.

1875

Betts Cove copper mines opened.

1878

First telephone system operated in St. John's.

Moose introduced into Newfoundland.

1880

Newfoundland legislature enacted legislation to construct a trans-island railway. Construction commenced in 1881 and ended in 1897.

1882

The poet Edwin J. Pratt was born at Western Bay, Conception Bay. Pratt became one of Canada's most accomplished poets of the 20th century.

1884

The dry dock opened at St. John's.

1885

Electricity introduced into St. John's.

Gale on the Labrador coast resulted in the loss of 80 schooners and 300 lives.

1886

Bait Act passed restricting the sale of bait to foreign fishers. Britain refused to sanction the Act because of Canadian opposition. In 1887 Britain assented to the legislation. Newfoundland suspended the Act in 1893 because of enforcement difficulties.

1887

The legislature passed the Ballot Act providing for voting by a secret ballot instead of the public oral method in use since 1832.

1888

Municipal government established in St. John's.

1891

Newfoundland's efforts by Colonial Secretary Robert Bond to negotiate a reciprocity agreement with the United States were denied by the British Government because of protestations from Canada.

Newfoundland Teachers' Association formed.

1892

Fire destroyed the eastern half of St. John's with property loss estimated at \$13,000,000.

Dr. Wilfred Grenfell arrived in Newfoundland to provide medical and missionary work to fishers in Labrador. He would remain to do so for nearly 50 years.

1894

Newfoundland's two commercial banks went bankrupt and were replaced beginning in 1895 with branches of major Canadian banks, effectively making Newfoundland's fiscal policies subject to Canadian monetary policies.

1895

Iron ore mines opened at Bell Island.

Talks between Canada and Newfoundland on Confederation failed.

1898

Controversial railway contract signed between Canadian railway contractor Robert Reid and the Newfoundland government.

Greenland sealing disaster had 48 crew members stranded on the ice where they died of exposure.

1900

Robert Bond became Prime Minister and served until 1909. He is regarded as one of Newfoundland's most accomplished politicians.

Cabot Tower opened at St. John's serving as a 24-hour signal station and weather observatory. It was constructed to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

1901

Newfoundland's population was approximately 220,000 (4,000 of them in Labrador) living in 1,200 communities.

The Newfoundland Quarterly magazine established and was in existence in 2003.

Guglielmo Marconi sent the first wireless radio signal, from Signal Hill in St. John's to Cornwall, England.

The Ode to Newfoundland was written by Governor Sir Cavendish Boyle and adopted as the national anthem of Newfoundland.

1902

Prime Minister Robert Bond reached a reciprocity agreement with the United States but the agreement was cancelled in 1905 because of opposition in the American Senate.

1904

France agreed to give up its fishing rights on the French Shore in return for overseas territorial concessions from Britain in Africa.

1908

William Ford Coaker formed the Fishermen's Protective Union.

1909

The pulp and paper mill opened at Grand Falls.

The Board of Trade established at St. John's.

1910

Hague Tribunal resolved several fishing disputes between Newfoundland and the United States dating back to fishing rights granted the Americans under the Treaty of Paris of 1783 and the Anglo-American Convention of 1818. One of its rulings defined the Newfoundland marine territorial limit of three marine miles.

1914

Newfoundland sealing disaster resulted in the loss of 78 men who died from exposure or drowning after having failed to get back to their ship from the ice.

Bowring Park opened at St. John's.

Newfoundland declared war in support of Great Britain and formed the Patriotic Association to manage its contributions to the British war effort.

1916

On July 1 the Newfoundland Regiment of 790 members (officers and men) experienced 710 casualties at Beaumont Hamel on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme. Two hundred and seventy-two were killed and another 438 were wounded from the Regiment on this day.

1917

Daylight Savings Time instituted.

1918

The passenger vessel Florizel owned by Bowring Brothers was lost off Cappahayden with 94 people drowned out of a total of 138 aboard the vessel.

Great War Veterans' Association established.

Spanish Influenza in late 1918 and 1919 ravaged western Europe and North America. In St. John's there were 62 deaths from the disease and 407 deaths in Labrador where it was especially devastating in Inuit communities in northern Labrador.

1919

John Alcock and Arthur Brown made the first successful flight across the Atlantic Ocean from St. John's to County Galway, Ireland.

1920

Minister of Marine and Fisheries William Coaker issued regulations governing the export of fish. Opposition to the "Coaker Regulations" from prominent St. John's merchants led to the government repealing the legislation the following year.

1921

Rotary Club established at St. John's.

Child Welfare Association formed at St. John's.

1923

The Newfoundland government acquired the railway and coastal boat services and the St. John's dry dock from the Reid Newfoundland Company.

1924

Field Marshall Lord Haig visited Newfoundland to officiate at the opening of the National War Memorial in St. John's.

Newfoundland Outport Nursing and Industrial Association established.

1925

The legislature passed legislation giving the vote to women.

Memorial University College opened.

Newfoundland Methodists joined the United Church of Canada.

Pulp and paper mill opened at Corner Brook.

Newfoundland Hotel opened at St. John's.

1926

Following a meeting of an Imperial Conference in 1926, the Balfour Report declared that certain British Dominions, including Newfoundland, were equal autonomous communities within the British Empire.

1927

British Privy Council confirmed Newfoundland's legal ownership of Labrador against a claim from Canada on behalf of the province of Quebec.

1928

Copper, lead and zinc mine at Buchans commenced production.

Newfoundland Coat of Arms adopted.

1929

The first woman, Lady Helena Squires, elected to the House of Assembly.

On November 18, 1929 a tidal wave struck the Burin Peninsula area. The tragedy resulted in 27 deaths, property loss amounting to over \$1,000,000, and a total of 40 communities and 10,000 people affected.

1931

Viking carrying American film producer Varick Frissell and crew exploded while at the ice off Horse Islands. Twenty-four men were killed.

A British law, the Statute of Westminster, granted the British Dominions, including Newfoundland, full legal freedom in all areas of constitutional jurisdiction that they wished to have.

Newfoundland legislature approved a national flag the Red Ensign for the Dominion of Newfoundland. In 1934 the Commission of Government reinstated the Union Jack as Newfoundland's national flag.

1932

The last election held under the Responsible Government System was on June 11. The United Newfoundland Party under its leader Frederick Alderdice won 24 of the 27 seats.

1933

Unable to fulfill its financial obligations on its national debt that was primarily held in Britain and Canada, the Newfoundland Government agreed to the appointment by Britain of a Royal Commission to "examine the future of Newfoundland and in particular on the financial situation and the prospects therein." Chaired by Lord Amulree, the Royal Commission recommended that the Newfoundland Constitution be suspended and that Newfoundland be administered by a British-appointed commission until it was self-supporting again.

1934

Commission of Government established.

1935

Cottage hospital system established.

Newfoundland Fisheries Board established with Raymond Gushue appointed as chair.

1937

The Newfoundland Federation of Labour held its founding meeting at Grand Falls.

1939

Construction of Gander airport completed and airport opened.

Because of its constitutional status, Newfoundland became automatically a participant once Britain declared war on September 3, 1939. Newfoundland supplied two artillery regiments to British units and an Overseas Forestry Unit which worked in Scotland. Newfoundland's true importance to the Allied war effort lay in its strategic location as a defence base in the North Atlantic for North America with both Canada and the United States establishing major bases in Newfoundland and Labrador.

1941

American troop ship Edmund B. Alexander arrived in St. John's under the Leased Bases Agreement of 1941 under which the United States received permission to establish military bases in Newfoundland for a tenure of 99 years.

Argentia naval station and an army base opened at Argentia. Other major American military bases were established at St. John's and Stephenville.

A Canadian military plane carrying Dr. Frederick Banting, the discoverer of insulin, crashed near Musgrave Harbour killing Banting.

1942

American naval ships Truxton and Pollux lost off St. Lawrence with 189 officers and men lost.

The Newfoundland ferry boat, Caribou, carrying 238 passengers (including military personnel) and crew from North Sydney to Port aux Basques, was attacked and sunk by German submarine U-69. One hundred and one people survived the attack; 31 of the ship's crew of 36 were lost.

Fire in the Knights of Columbus hostel on December 12 killed 100 people and another 107 people more were injured.

1944

Newfoundland Government reached an agreement with Canada to lease Goose Bay airport to Canada for 99 years.

1945

Newfoundland Associated Fish Exporters Limited (NAFEL) established.

1946

National Convention of 45 delegates elected on June 21. The Convention met on September 11, 1946 and dissolved on January 30, 1948.

1948

The first referendum held on June 3 had three options on the ballot: Responsible Government, Commission of Government, and Confederation with Canada. The Commission of Government option received the lowest number of votes and was dropped from the ballot for a second referendum held on July 22. On this occasion, a majority of voters favoured Confederation with Canada.

Terms of Union signed on December 11, 1948.

Post-1949

1949

The first government of the Province sworn in with Joseph R. Smallwood as Premier on April 1.

The first provincial election was held on May 27 and was won by the Liberal Party led by Premier Joseph Smallwood.

1951

The provincial government established the Arts and Letters Competition to recognize awards for historical essays on Newfoundland for poetry, the short story, portraiture, landscape painting, radio scripts and drama.

1953

The provincial government encouraged the establishment of a private investor company, Brinco, and gave it extensive mineral and water rights in Newfoundland and Labrador, including the Churchill River in Labrador and the Bay d'Espoir area on the Island.

1954

Legislation enacted establishing the Newfoundland Power Commission.

Alfred Valdmanis, former Director-General of Economic Development, convicted of defrauding the government and sentenced to four years in prison.

Launched in 1954 and lasting until 1965, the province's first resettlement program saw approximately 110 communities resettled involving some 8,000 people.

1955

CJON television opened at St. John's by Geoff Stirling.

1957

Unemployment Insurance benefits extended to fishers through the efforts of Newfoundland's representative in the federal cabinet, Jack Pickersgill.

Blanche Drover elected as mayor of Clarenville and became Newfoundland's first female municipal councillor and mayor. She polled the highest number of voters cast among the candidates.

The federal government appointed John McNair to chair a Royal Commission of Inquiry to examine the financial status of the Province as required under Term 29 of the Terms of Union.

The provincial Royal Commission on Term 29 recommended that the Province receive an annual payment of \$15 million under Term 29.

1958

The federal Royal Commission on Newfoundland Finances recommended that Newfoundland receive an annual payment of \$8 million under Term 29. The provincial government was disappointed and launched a national publicity campaign against the Progressive Conservative government of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker to make Canadians aware of the political injustice of the decision of the federal government. Although the Diefenbaker government did not change its position, Premier Smallwood's publicity campaign helped to weaken political support nationally for Prime Minister Diefenbaker.

1959

The International Woodworkers Association (IWA) began a loggers' strike on December 31 against the Anglo Newfoundland Development Company, owners of the pulp and paper mill at Grand Falls. In March 1959 the provincial government decertified the union.

The provincial government moved the Inuit living in Hebron to Nain, Hopedale and Makkovik in an attempt to provide better public services to the residents of the community.

1960

The Newfoundland legislature met for the first time in the newly constructed Confederation Building. The Colonial Building was converted into a repository for the provincial Archives.

1961

The Elizabeth Avenue campus of Memorial University opened at St. John's.

Golden Eagle oil refinery at Holyrood opened and owned by American financier John Shaheen.

Major forest fires destroyed considerable timberland in Bonavista North.

1962

Iron Ore Company of Canada commenced mining operations at Labrador City.

1964

College of Fisheries, Navigation, Marine Engineering and Electronics opened at St. John's in the former building that housed Memorial University.

Asbestos mine opened at Baie Verte.

1965

Wabush Mines Ltd. commenced iron mining operations at Wabush.

The paving of the Trans Canada Highway across the island of Newfoundland was completed on November 27.

The Province offered free tuition to Memorial University students; in 1969 this student assistance program was changed to a “needs” assessment basis.

The federal and provincial governments initiated a new resettlement program specifically designed to move people to larger towns designated as growth centres. One hundred and sixteen communities were resettled between 1965 and 1970, consisting of 3,242 families or over 16,000 individuals.

A provincial Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the economic state and prospects of Newfoundland and Labrador.

1966

Come Home Year celebrated .

The St. John’s Arts Council established.

The Bell Island iron ore mines closed.

American air base at Stephenville closed.

Brinco and Hydro Quebec signed a letter of intent to develop the Churchill Falls hydro-electric site.

1967

The Bay d’Espoir hydro-electric development commissioned.

Shipyard opened at Marystown.

The Royal Commission on Education and Youth made its report public. Chaired by Dr. Philip Warren, the Commission recommended wide-ranging changes to the educational system.

An Arts and Culture Centre opened at St. John’s. Other centres were subsequently established in several large communities in the province.

1968

John Crosbie and Clyde Wells resigned from the cabinet of the Smallwood Liberal government and sat as Independent Liberals over a disagreement with Premier Smallwood over his handling of economic and industrial development projects.

A phosphorous plant opened at Long Harbour, Placentia Bay.

L’Anse aux Meadows Viking site declared a National Historic site.

Royal Commission on Economic Prospects recommended the need for more cost-benefit studies for new industries and emphasized more careful planning of fiscal resources.

1969

Power contract signed between CFLCo and Hydro Quebec for the Churchill Falls hydro-electric development.

Former Liberal cabinet minister John Crosbie unsuccessfully challenged Premier Joseph R. Smallwood for the leadership of the Liberal Party in a leadership convention.

Medicare instituted in Newfoundland as part of a federal Medical Health Plan.

The passenger rail service provided by Canadian National Railways across Newfoundland was closed down and replaced by the “Roadcruiser” bus service.

1970

The New Labrador Party formed by independent MHA Tom Burgess.

Richard Cashin and Father Desmond McGrath founded the Northern Fishermen’s Union in April and re-organized it in September as the Newfoundland Fishermen, Food and Allied Workers’ Union.

Percy Janes’ novel House of Hate published, considered to be the province’s best novel.

Federal legislation passed establishing the Canadian Saltfish Corporation. Aidan Maloney was appointed as the first Chair of the Corporation.

1971

The first teachers’ strike in Newfoundland took place.

The Newfoundland government established the Newfoundland Human Rights Commission and appointed Gertrude Keough as its first commissioner. Legislation setting up the Commission was passed in 1969.

1972

Joseph Roberts Smallwood resigned as Premier and replaced by Progressive Conservative Leader Frank Duff Moores who won a general election later in the year.

Finance Minister John Crosbie informed the Newfoundland Legislature that the 1969 Power Contract between CFLCo and Hydro Quebec was a bad financial deal for the Province because of inequities in the Federal Equalization Program.

The Churchill Falls hydro-electric power development was commissioned.

New Labrador Party candidate Mike Martin was elected to the House of Assembly in a by-election.

Mummers theatrical troupe formed.

1973

Come by Chance oil refinery opened.

Codco theatrical group made its initial performance in Newfoundland.

Women selected for the first time for jury duty.
First class of medical doctors graduated from Memorial University.
The Province nationalized the linerboard mill at Stephenville.

1974

Former Liberal Premier Joseph Smallwood formed the Liberal Reform Party and elected four members in the 1975 general election.
Dorothy Wyatt elected the first female mayor of St. John's.
The Newfoundland government acquired on June 27 Brinco's interest in CFLCo for \$160 million.

1975

West coast campus of Memorial University opened at Corner Brook.
Ambrose Peddle appointed Newfoundland's first ombudsman.
The Progressive Conservative government of Premier Frank Moores re-elected in a general election.

1976

The Come by Chance oil refinery closed, becoming the largest bankruptcy at the time in Canada.
John Crosbie resigned from provincial politics and entered federal politics by successfully winning a by-election in St. John's West.

1977

Canada Summer Games held in St. John's.
Canada extended its east coast fisheries custodial jurisdiction by 200 miles.
Major anti-sealing protest in Newfoundland centered at St. Anthony where French actress Brigitte Bardot is among the protestors
Fluorspar mine closed at St. Lawrence.

1978

L'Anse aux Meadows Viking site declared a world heritage site by UNESCO.

1979

The Newfoundland legislature passed the Matrimonial Property Act which recognized an equal division of property upon separation or divorce of a husband and wife effective July 1, 1980.
The Hon. Frank Moores resigned as Premier and Brian Peckford won a subsequent leadership convention. He became the third Premier of the Province and the second

Progressive Conservative Premier. He won a general election on June 18 defeating the Liberal Party led by former federal cabinet minister Don Jamieson.

Oil was discovered offshore on the Grand Banks at the Hibernia site.

The first women were appointed to the provincial cabinet, Hazel Newhook and Lynn Verge.

The 16th century whaling archaeological site at Red Bay, Labrador declared a National Historic Site.

Stephenville Theatre Festival opened its first season.

Rising Tide theatrical troupe organized.

The Hon. John Crosbie was appointed Federal Finance Minister, the first Newfoundlander to hold the position.

1980

The Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council was established with responsibility for funding the visual, performing and literary arts and folk arts and crafts in the province.

The Peckford government issued *Managing All Our Resources*, a blueprint for economic development stressing greater provincial control and jurisdiction over resource development.

On April 12, 1980 Terry Fox of British Columbia left St. John's on a cross-country walk to raise money for cancer. Fox, who had lost a leg to cancer, made the "Marathon of Hope" trip as far as Thunder Bay, Ontario.

A new provincial flag, designed by artist Christopher Pratt, was adopted by the Newfoundland legislature replacing the Union Jack.

The Economic Council of Canada released *Newfoundland: From Dependency to Self-Reliance*, a report prepared at the request of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador on the provincial economy.

1981

Premier Brian Peckford took a strident "provincial rights" position at the federal-provincial Conference on the Constitution while supporting Ottawa's constitutional proposals for repatriation of the BNA Act. Premier Peckford played a prominent role in helping the provinces except Quebec to reach a consensus on the specific language that culminated in the agreement.

1982

Strong disagreements between the federal and provincial governments over ownership of offshore mineral resources affected relationships between the two governments. Premier Peckford won a general election on April 6 on an anti-Ottawa stand on resource management issues, especially the issue of the offshore.

The Dictionary of Newfoundland English was published. It was edited by Drs. G.M. Story, W.J. Kirwin and J.D. Widdowson.

The oil drilling rig Ocean Ranger sank February 15, 1982 from a severe storm the previous night which hit the area capsizing the rig and killing all 84 members of its crew. Of the 69 Canadian crew members, 56 were Newfoundlanders, a fact that struck local society very hard.

1983

Margaret Cameron was appointed Newfoundland's first female Supreme Court Justice.

1984

The Mi'kmaq of Conne River received recognition as status Indians by the federal government and in 1987 received a reserve of three square kilometers of land.

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the federal government, and not Newfoundland, had ownership jurisdiction over offshore mineral resources.

Pope John Paul II made an official visit to Newfoundland, the first papal visit to the province.

Fishery Products International was formed out of the bankruptcy of several large fish companies that had operated in the province.

The Hon. John Crosbie was appointed Minister of Justice in the federal government of Progressive Conservative Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Province's Water Reversion Act was unconstitutional of Newfoundland's legislative powers.

1985

The Atlantic Accord was signed on February 11 between the federal government and the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador for the management and development of offshore oil and gas resources. The Accord included a \$300 million Offshore Development Fund to be expended over five years to provide infrastructure for offshore activity.

An Arrow Airlines airliner crashed at Gander killing 248 American servicemen and eight crew members.

The Rising Tide theatrical troupe performed the first of its annual "Revue" programs.

Buchans copper and zinc mines closed.

Premier Peckford and federal Minister of Justice John Crosbie announced that Mobil Oil would use fixed concrete platforms for drilling at the Hibernia oil site.

Premier Peckford won the April 2 general election.

1986

Ethel Cochrane was appointed Newfoundland's first female Senator.

The Report of the Royal Commission on Employment and Unemployment was released. Dr. Doug House was Chair of the Commission appointed in 1985.

Provincial civil servants in the transportation, public works and general service sectors held a general strike in March and early April.

1987

Gros Morne National Park declared a world heritage site by UNESCO.

The Newfoundland legislature passed legislation privatizing Fisheries Products International.

The Peckford government agreed to enter to a joint venture with Alberta financial interests in enviropnics to develop a hydroponic greenhouse (the Sprung Greenhouse Cucumber Project) in Mount Pearl.

1988

An announcement was made by the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador on June 30 for an agreement to close the railway in the province as part of an agreement whereby Ottawa gave \$800 million for road improvements.

The Newfoundland and federal governments signed on July 18 a Statement of Principles with four oil companies for the development of the Hibernia oil field.

The Newfoundland legislature ratified the Meech Lake Accord on July 7.

Premier Peckford publicly endorsed the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement.

1989

The Peckford government abandoned the Sprung Greenhouse Cucumber Project.

The phosphorous plant closed at Long Harbour.

Hon. Brian Peckford resigned as Premier and was replaced by the Hon. Tom Rideout who was defeated in a general election on April 20 by Liberal leader Clyde Wells.

The Wells Liberal government established the Economic Recovery Commission with Dr. Doug House appointed as Chair.

1990

Mount Cashel Orphanage in St. John's closed following a series of sex abuse charges of children by priests. A report of a special commission of inquiry chaired by Gordon Winter found that the Roman Catholic Church had provided inadequate leadership in dealing with alleged sexual abuse charges at Mount Cashel.

The Governments of Canada and Newfoundland and four oil companies signed an agreement to develop the Hibernia oil field.

Report released of the Independent Review of the State of the Northern Cod Stock prepared for federal Minister of Fisheries, the Hon. Thomas Siddon. The Chair of the independent panel was Dr. Leslie Harris.

The Newfoundland legislature on April 6 voted to rescind its 1988 approval for the Meech Lake Accord. Premier Wells received national attention for his strong opposition to the Accord.

1991

The provincial government implemented strong economic and restraint measures in public expenditures.

1992

The federal government announced a moratorium on northern cod stocks and a fiscal compensation package for fishers and fish plant workers.

The Wells government supported the Charlottetown Accord for constitutional change. The Accord was defeated in a national referendum held on October 26, although 62.9 per cent of Newfoundlanders voted in its favor.

The Royal Commission on Education recommended that the province's denominational school system be dismantled.

An international tribunal established on June 10 a maritime boundary favorable to Canada in a boundary dispute between Canada and France off the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon.

1993

Children from Davis Inlet were the subject of international attention following press accounts that they were sniffing gas.

The Rising Tide theatrical troupe gave its first performance of its annual "Trinity in the Bight" Festival.

The Wells government won re-election in a general election held on May 3.

1994

Ottawa closed the recreational food fishery.

American naval base at Argentia closed.

Volume 5 of the Encyclopedia of Newfoundland and Labrador published. This was the final volume of a project conceived by former Premier Joseph Smallwood who published Volume 1 in 1981 and Volume 2 in 1984. Following the bankruptcy of Smallwood's publishing company in 1987, the J.R. Smallwood Heritage Foundation was established to raise funds to complete the project.

Strong public opposition forced the provincial government to abandon its plans to privatize Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro.

The provincial government sold the crown corporation Newfoundland and Labrador Computer Services Ltd. to Newtel Enterprises.

1995

Newfoundland prospectors Albert Chislett and Chris Verbiski discovered nickel deposits at Vosiey's Bay.

Canadian patrol ships captured a Spanish fishing vessel outside the 200-mile limit and charged its owners with illegal fishing of undersized turbot.

1996

Hon. Clyde Wells resigned as Premier and was replaced by Brian Tobin who had resigned from the cabinet of Liberal Prime Minister John Chretien and won the leadership of the provincial Liberal Party by acclamation on January 17. Tobin was sworn in as Premier on January 28 and won a general election on February 22.

International nickel company (Inco) acquired ownership of the Vosiey's Bay nickel development in Labrador.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador reached an agreement with several oil companies to develop the Terra Nova oil field.

1997

The Newfoundland and Labrador Film Development Agency established.

Queen Elizabeth II visited the province as part of the 500th anniversary events of the celebration of John Cabot's discovery of Newfoundland in 1497.

A public referendum on the province's denominational system of education found that a majority of voters favoured its abolition. Term 17 of the Terms of Union was amended in 1998.

Hibernia oil field produced its first oil.

1998

The Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and of Quebec signed an agreement concerning the recall of power by Newfoundland and Labrador of power from the Churchill Falls hydro-electric development for sale outside the province.

1999

The government of Premier Tobin won re-election.

2000

Premier Tobin announced the Province would undertake the construction in St. John's of a \$40-million complex (to be known as The Rooms) to house the Art Gallery, the Provincial Archives and the Newfoundland Museum.

In October Brian Tobin resigned as Premier and was appointed federal Minister of Industry. He won election to the House of Commons in the November 27 federal election.

The Hon. Beaton Tulk was sworn in as Premier on October 16, 2002 and served until the Liberal Party chose a new leader at a leadership convention.

2001

The Hon. Roger Grimes won the leadership of the Liberal Party and was sworn in as Premier on February 13.

Term 1 of the Terms of Union amended to change the name of the province from “Newfoundland” to “Newfoundland and Labrador”.

Men’s junior curling team captained by Brad Gushue won the world title, giving the province its first official world championship in a team sport.

On June 25 the Inuit of Labrador as represented by Labrador Inuit Association, and the Governments of Newfoundland and Labrador and of Canada signed the Labrador Inuit Land Claims Agreement-in-Principle.

2002

Newfoundland won an offshore boundary arbitration dispute with Nova Scotia.

Inco signed an agreement with the Province for the development of the Voisey’s Bay nickel deposits.

The provincial government appointed the Royal Commission on Renewing and Strengthening Our Place in Canada.

The Innu of Davis Inlet began moving in December to a new community erected by the federal government at nearby Natuashish. The move was because of inadequate public and social services in Davis Inlet.

The province’s third offshore oil development project, White Rose, received regulatory approval from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador following approval of the project from the Canada-Newfoundland Offshore Petroleum Board.

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