



The location of the new capital was the topic of conversation in barber shops, newspapers, taverns, and churches all over Canada. People in Toronto said that Montréal should not be chosen because riots had occurred there in 1849. People of Québec City felt that the capital should be in Canada East. Toronto or London were too far west. The people of Kingston thought that Québec City was too far east to suit them. Ottawa was the surprise choice. This painting shows Ottawa in 1857. What key features do you notice?

Not everyone in the Assembly was pleased with Queen Victoria's decision. When the vote was taken to move the capital to Ottawa, English-speaking Conservatives voted in favour of the move. Macdonald said that to ignore the Queen's advice would be an insult. But the Grits voted against having Ottawa as the capital. They were joined by French-speaking Conservatives who preferred Montréal or Québec. Even though John A. Macdonald's Conservatives had the majority in the Assembly at the time, the vote toppled John A's government.

When the Conservatives went down to defeat, George Brown's Grits became the

government. Just two days later, there was another dramatic shift. The Conservatives moved a vote of non-confidence in Brown's new government. A **non-confidence vote** means that the Assembly is saying to the government "we no longer support you." If the vote passes, the government must resign.

This is exactly what happened to George Brown and the Grits. This time the French-speaking Conservatives voted with the English-speaking Conservatives. Brown was prime minister for a little over 48 hours. Macdonald and his Conservative government returned to power and joked about the **double shuffle**.