

TWO MODERN PERSPECTIVES ON CONFEDERATION NEGOTIATIONS

Read the following perspectives on lack of representation of different groups in the negotiation of Confederation.

PERSPECTIVE #1

“... [T]he First Nations and Métis were approached as illiterate savages, who needed to be patronizingly [treating kindly but showing feelings of superiority] ‘taken care of like little infants’ or worse yet ‘hidden away on reserves to starve or disappear’ from the land that offered resources and development for newly arriving Europeans to work and control as gifted by the colonial politicians, judges, and military of new Canada.”

— *Dr. Terri-Lynn Brennan, cultural heritage professional, 2015*

PERSPECTIVE #2

“Rural and urban workers of Canada East, Canada West, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia played no direct role in the elite political debates that resulted in the *British North America Act*. After Confederation, many male workers and virtually all women lacked the right to vote. Nevertheless they made their presence felt in many indirect ways. Organizing together as groups to take action and be heard enabled them to exercise their power and limit the choices of the elites [upper class].”

— *Dr. Gregory Kealey, University of New Brunswick, 2015*