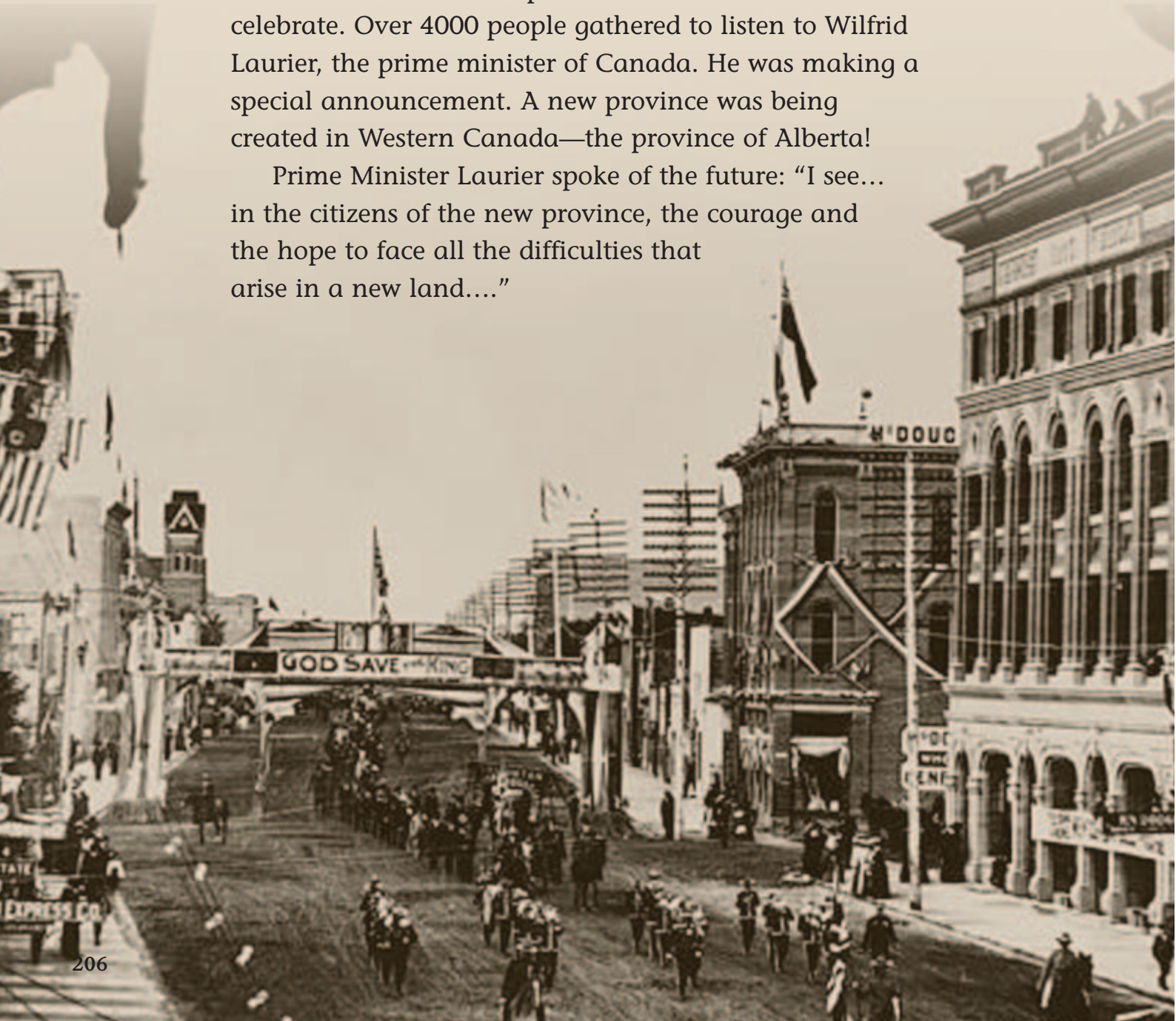


Becoming a Province

Have you ever watched a parade in your community? If you have, you know how exciting it can be! On September 1, 1905, a great parade wound through the streets of Edmonton. People came from near and far to celebrate. Over 4000 people gathered to listen to Wilfrid Laurier, the prime minister of Canada. He was making a special announcement. A new province was being created in Western Canada—the province of Alberta!

Prime Minister Laurier spoke of the future: “I see... in the citizens of the new province, the courage and the hope to face all the difficulties that arise in a new land....”



Alberta's Story

In 1905, Alberta became a province. New industries, towns, and cities began to grow. In this chapter, you will discover how and why this happened. You will find out how Alberta got its borders and its name. You will also learn how Alberta became a place where people from many different places felt they belonged.



Stephen Avenue—a historic street in Calgary

? Inquiring Minds

Here are some questions to guide your inquiry for this chapter:

- How did Alberta become a province?
- What do major events and stories tell us about Alberta's past?

If you want to know more, try some other sources.



How can I use technology to help me with the research process?

I will

- gather information in computer files
- use electronic webs, charts, or spreadsheets
- record interviews
- take photographs

How Did Alberta Become a Province?

words matter!

A **legislative assembly** is made up of leaders who represent the people. They make decisions about running a territory or province.

Thinking It Through

Look at the map on pages 316–317. Is Regina close to or far away from Edmonton and Calgary? Do you think people in Regina would be in a position to know what was best for people in Alberta? Why or why not?

Imagine you are travelling in Canada. If someone asks you where you live, you would probably say, “Alberta.” You would use the name of your province. At one time, Alberta was not a province. It did not have the borders that it has now.

Think back to what you learned about Canada in Chapter 6. The government had bought a vast area in the West, but this land was not yet part of Canada. Alberta was part of an area known as the North-West Territories.

As more settlers arrived, the government in Ottawa needed a way to take care of what was happening in the North-West Territories. It set up a **legislative assembly** in the city of Regina. Which province is Regina in today? Back then it, too, was part of the North-West Territories. The legislative assembly was based on the British form of government. It is a system of government we still have today.

Regina was the capital of the area that included Alberta and Saskatchewan.



Why Become a Province?

As more settlers arrived, towns and settlements grew. Many services, like roads and schools, were needed. The government in Alberta had been collecting taxes from the people. Still, there was not enough tax money to pay for all the services that were needed. The government did not want to ask for more taxes. If the settlers had to pay more, they might move away.

Every year, Alberta asked the Canadian government for more money, just as you might ask your parents for an allowance. Parts of Canada that had already become provinces didn't have to ask for money. They were given money each year. If Alberta became a province, it would also receive money without having to ask.

ALBERTA VOICES

A Growing Town

There were now three parallel streets and four avenues.... The Trader's Bank had set up offices and amusement halls. A cinema showed films three days a week...There were three grain elevators and a stockyard for loading cattle in railroad cars, and an enormous drugstore where everything could be found.

Marcel Durieux, Stettler, 1908



Stettler in 1908 (*top*) and today (*bottom*). What changes can you see? Who do you think arranged for many of these changes to be made?

Who Had Control?

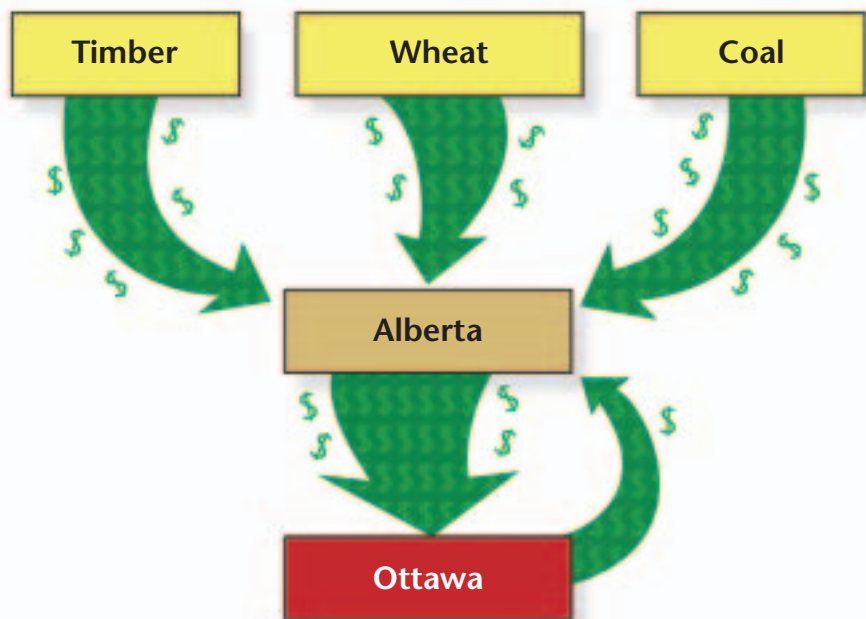


I did some research. I found out that in Alberta in 1881, there were only 1000 settlers. By 1901, there were 73 000 settlers! I will type this into a new computer file called "Alberta's Population."

There was another way Alberta could get more money. It could take more control of its resources. Alberta had coal, wheat, and timber, but the land was controlled by the government in Ottawa. That meant money from these resources went to Ottawa. Then Ottawa decided how much of it Alberta should get back. How do you think people in Alberta felt about this?

Albertans also saw that the provinces could make many of their own decisions and their own laws. Soon some people were saying that Alberta should become a province, too. They wanted Alberta to control its own resources and make its own decisions.

How Ottawa Controlled Alberta's Resources and Money



Skill Smart

- Look at a map of Canada. Use the scale to find the distance between Ottawa and Edmonton.
- Why might it have been difficult for Ottawa to make the right decisions for Alberta? Remember that trains were the fastest way to travel, but even they were slow.



Frederick William Haultain was premier of the North-West Territories. He thought the West should have more control over its resources and development. He worked hard to make Alberta a province.

Where Will the Borders Be?

There was much discussion about the new plan for Alberta to become a province. People had different opinions about how the land should be divided.

- Frederick Haultain wanted one large province covering the whole area. Why do you think he favoured this plan?
- Wilfrid Laurier, prime minister of Canada, wanted to split the area in two. Why do you think he had this point of view?
- Some citizens liked the idea of one big province. They thought the government in Ottawa would pay more attention to a large province.
- Other citizens wanted two provinces, so that each provincial government could be closer to the people of the province.

Eventually, the plan for two provinces was chosen.

Thinking It Through

- Look at Map A. If Province Three had become Alberta, which cities would not have been in this province?
- How might your life be different if Province Three had become Alberta?

Map A



Map B



Map A shows one idea for splitting the area into provinces. Map B shows how Alberta and its borders look today.

What About Schools?



The Clearwater School in the Beaumont area taught in French. What else can you tell about school life from this photograph? How does this classroom compare with yours?

Thinking It Through

In the 1880s, many English-speaking people moved to Alberta from Ontario. Some of them wanted the West to be English-speaking only. By 1892, French was not allowed in the legislative assembly, the courts, or the schools. How do you think Francophones felt about this?

If Alberta became a province, it would have to follow Canada's laws. The laws on schools almost made Alberta change its mind about becoming a province.

Most Francophone children went to Catholic schools that taught in French. Some politicians in Ottawa argued that the government should not give money to Catholic schools. In 1905, it was decided that Protestant and Catholic schools could receive money from the government. It was also decided that English was the language of education. The Catholic schools would have to teach in English.

Some Catholic schools, started by Francophone priests and nuns, continued teaching in French. Many French-speaking Albertans sent their children to these private schools. They had to pay tuition and school taxes. They were determined to keep their language, culture, and identity strong.

Alberta or Buffalo?

Do you like your name? What does it tell about you? Why are names important?

The plan to make a new province went ahead, but the province needed a name. Once again, there was much debate. Frederick Haultain wanted the new province to be called Buffalo. Why do you think he considered this a suitable name? Some people wanted the name Alberta, to honour Princess Louise Caroline Alberta. She was the daughter of Queen Victoria, who had been the queen of England and Canada. The princess was also the wife of John Campbell who had been Canada's **governor general**. As you know, Alberta was the name that was finally chosen.



Princess Louise Caroline Alberta. Lake Louise, the town of Caroline, and Mount Alberta were also named for the princess.

Choosing a Capital City

The new province needed a capital city. Several communities put their names forward. In 1906, Edmonton was declared the winner. Why? Edmonton had been settled since it was a fur-trading post more than 100 years earlier. It was also the largest community at the time and was located in the centre of the province.

Capital Cities?

These cities put their names forward. How would you have liked your community to be Alberta's capital?

Calgary	Vegreville
Red Deer	Wetaskiwin
Banff	Edmonton

Skill Smart

- With a partner, suggest three names for your classroom.
- Have others rank your ideas from favourite to least favourite.
- Record your results on a spreadsheet.

Mount Alberta

Alberta Becomes a Province!

It took years of discussion and debate to answer all the questions. How many provinces would there be? What would the borders be? What should be done about schools? During this time, people wrote letters and reports to Ottawa. They held meetings. They debated with each other.

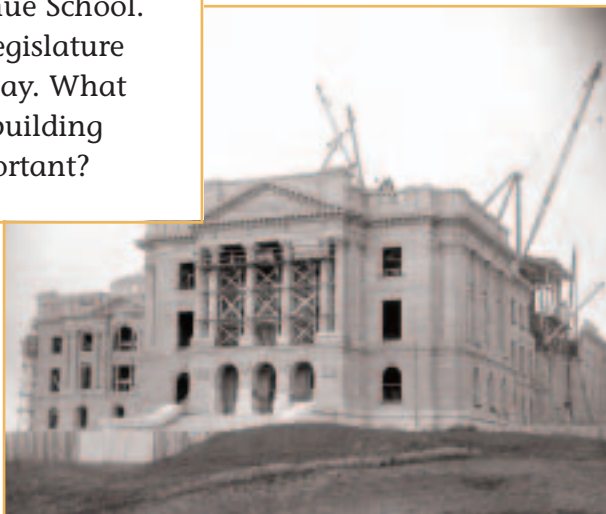
At last, in 1905, Alberta became a province, with its own provincial government. Now the new province could make decisions for its people.

THEN AND NOW

As a province, Alberta needed its own legislative assembly, where members of the provincial government could meet. It was built in the capital city, Edmonton.

Left: The Legislature Building under construction. It was completed in 1912. Before it was completed, the legislature met in McKay Avenue School.

Right: The Legislature Building today. What makes this building look so important?



ALBERTA VOICES

A Parade!

On September 2, 1905, the Calgary Herald described the parade in Edmonton. This parade celebrated Alberta's becoming a province.

Perhaps the best part of this parade was the presence of about 1800 school children. They rode in decorated floats, with such mottoes as "We'll Grow" and "Prairie Flowers."

Governor General Earl Grey watched the parade from the balcony of the Edmonton Club. He was especially pleased to see all the children.

First Nations Perspectives

Do you think many Aboriginal peoples celebrated the birth of a new province? Why or why not? Alberta could make many of its own decisions now, but what about the First Nations?



Gathering grain on a Kainai farm in southern Alberta

ALBERTA VOICES

A New Way of Life

First Nations people on reserves were cut off from traditional ways of life. Some became successful farmers, but they faced many difficulties. Here is one view written by the members of the Blackfoot Gallery Committee at the Glenbow Museum.

In 1889, the Canadian government...decided that each adult could farm only one acre and care for one or two cows. Our people were allowed to use only simple tools such as hoes, rakes, cradles, sickles, and flails. They were not allowed to work together cooperatively [as a community].

The Indian Agent had absolute control over all aspects of our lives. Our people could not buy seeds, sell crops, or sell or butcher livestock without his permission.

From Nitsitapiisinni: The Story of the Blackfoot People



I will make a chart on the computer. I can compare how First Nations lived before and after the settlers arrived.

Thinking It Through

- How would it have helped the First Nations people to be able to farm and ranch without all these rules?
- How would it have helped the rest of Alberta if the First Nations had been able to farm freely?

How Did Alberta Begin to Change?

ALBERTA VOICES

Naming Places

Communities were springing up all along the CPR line. It fell to the railroad to name all these new places, so they did it in alphabetical order. North of Calgary, for example, these communities all begin with A's and down south with C's, and so on.

Marjorie Winspear McEnany, settler, 1917

Find Calgary on a map. Why do you think it became a centre for ranchers? When the railway reached Calgary in 1883, it was a small town. Soon many new ranchers arrived. Calgary grew so quickly, it became a city just a year later.

By 1905, wheat farming was important. Calgary grew more as farmers brought their wheat to be traded. All over Alberta, towns and cities were springing up. Alberta was changing. It had been a farming province. Now most people lived in towns and cities.

THEN AND NOW

Top: Calgary in 1906. Bottom: Calgary today. What similarities and differences can you see?



Skill Smart

- Where could you find proof to support what Marjorie Winspear McEnany says?
- With a partner, make a list of sources you might look at. Check out two sources from your list. Were you able to find proof? If so, what?

From Trading Post to Capital

Why do you think Edmonton was a good place to build a trading post? In 1891, the railway was built from Calgary to Edmonton. It gave fur traders another way to move their goods. Edmonton was booming because many people were passing through on their way to the Yukon, where gold was found. Some people stayed in Edmonton. Others came to build hotels and stores for the gold miners. In 1904, Edmonton became a city.

Edmonton grew quickly again, once it became Alberta's capital city.



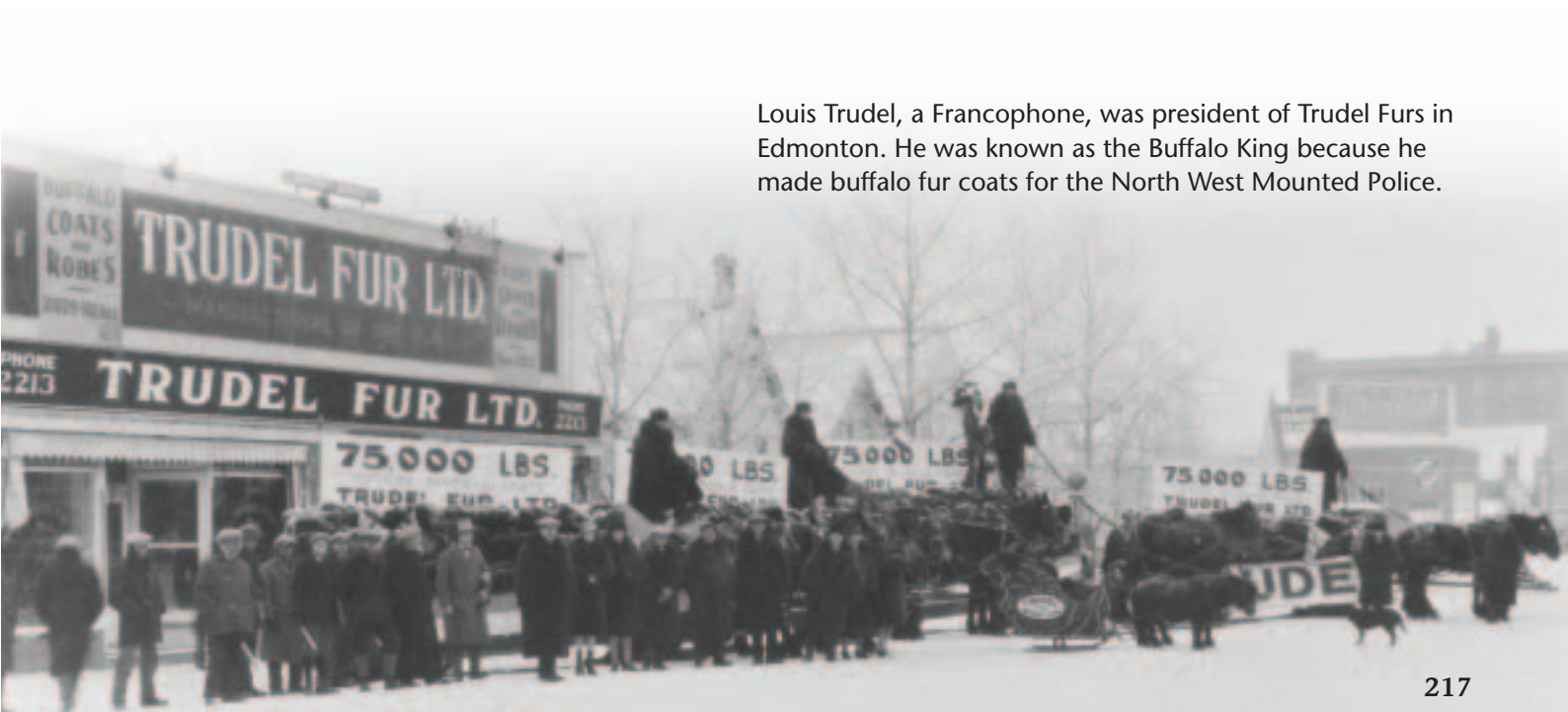
I used my digital camera to take photos at Fort Edmonton Park. I can't wait to share this information with my class!



Edmonton's high-level bridge was completed in 1913. It was one of the largest bridges in Canada at the time.



Fort Edmonton Park was rebuilt in a new location along the North Saskatchewan River. Today, many people come to visit this historic site.



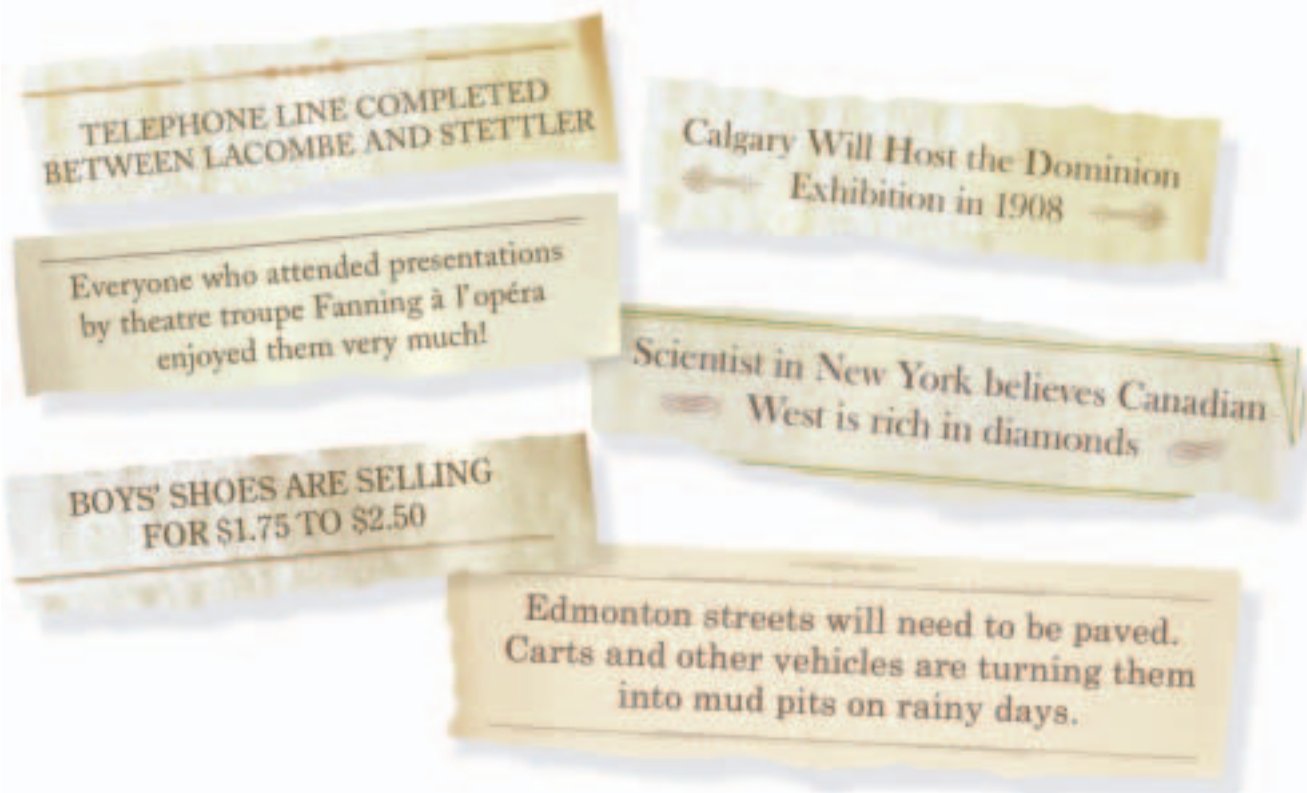
Louis Trudel, a Francophone, was president of Trudel Furs in Edmonton. He was known as the Buffalo King because he made buffalo fur coats for the North West Mounted Police.

Fact and Opinion

Different kinds of information help us learn about the past. We often rely on facts to tell us about events. **Facts** tell us about something that is true. **Opinion** is what someone thinks or believes. Opinions give us only one point of view. We can't always rely on opinions to tell us what happened. The facts might be different. Opinions can still help us understand the past, though. They show us what people believed.

Practise the Skill

The headlines below have been translated from the Alberta newspaper *Le courier de l'ouest* (*Western Mail*). They appeared in 1906 and 1907.



- Which of these headlines give facts? Which give opinions? How do you know?
- What do these headlines tell about life in the early 1900s?

How Did Logging Towns Begin?

As you learned in Chapter 7, many settlers used logs to build their homes. At first, they cut their own wood, but soon logging camps and sawmills opened to provide the lumber that settlers needed. The railway brought more people who needed to build homes. The railway also needed wood to support the steel train tracks.



This sawmill was at Pigeon Lake. What can you tell about the equipment that was used?

Before long, people came to the logging camps and sawmills to find work. Logging towns sprang up on the edges of forested areas all around the province. Which regions of Alberta do you think were the best for logging? Why?



Building a church in Rivière Qui Barre. How can you tell that communities worked together?

Thinking It Through

The name of the settlement at Rivière Qui Barre is French for a Plains Cree word meaning “river that blocks the way.” How could lumber help solve this problem?

How Did Mining Towns Begin?

words matter!

Towns and cities are called **urban areas**.



This is a steam train. Coal heated the water in the train's boiler. The water turned to steam. The steam pushed the rods that made the train wheels move.

Look at the picture of the train. How can you tell it is a steam train? All trains that ran on the new railway were powered by steam. The steam was produced by burning coal. Alberta was lucky because it had lots of coal. Before long, many mines opened to dig out the coal that was needed for the new railway. Coal was also used to heat homes and other buildings. Soon towns grew up around the coal mines as people came to find work. Alberta was becoming more **urban**.



Lethbridge was the centre of the coal industry. The Blackfoot named it *Sik-okotoks*—"place of black rocks."

Thinking It Through

How do you think lumber and coal added to quality of life in the new province of Alberta?

ALBERTA VOICES

Keeping Warm

The log house was heated by a large potbelly stove. There was a large hole in the living room ceiling to allow the heat to rise to warm the bedrooms during those long, cold winters. It was a long trip in the fall by horse and wagon to go to Starkey Coal Mine...where they got...coal to feed the potbelly stove and the kitchen stove during the winter.

Eileen Skinner, a settler's granddaughter

Some Logging and Mining Communities



I will make an electronic web to show what I've learned about logging and mining communities. I can use the text, this map, and photographs for information.



▲ Lille was a mining town from 1901 to 1912. This photo shows the coal mine (*bottom*) and the homes of the miners (*centre*). Many miners came from Europe to work and settle in Lille.



◀ This is a lumber mill in Eau Claire, a logging camp near Calgary on the Bow River (1901). Eau Claire was the main source of lumber in the Calgary area. It closed down in 1945.

My Day in a Coal Mine

Did you know that until 1913, some children worked in Alberta's coal mines to help earn money for their families? I got to imagine what it was like when I went to the Atlas Coal Mine near Drumheller. Kids like me used to go down into the mine, where the air was full of coal dust. They worked for 10 hours at a time!

Seeing people in costume who were re-enacting the past helped take me back in time. We tried pushing one of the coal carts on a reconstructed railway. Wow—was it heavy! Then I took a ride in the coal car, which used to take the miners to work. When I finished the tour, I went to the wash house. I imagined what I would be like after a day of working underground.



My visit gave me lots to think about. I'm glad people decided that work for kids should be in school, not in mines!



What Happened to Wheat?

Alberta's cities were growing quickly in the early 1900s. Even so, about half of all people who lived here still worked in agriculture. Most farmers grew wheat. Wheat was still "king." People said the Prairies were the "breadbasket of Canada." When they thought of Alberta, they thought of wheat. It was part of the province's identity.

Wheat fields near Cereal, in 1920. What can you tell about the crop from this photograph?



The Dust Bowl Years

Without warning, everything changed. In the late 1920s, a terrible **drought** hit the Prairies. It lasted 10 long years. The land dried out. Fierce winds made matters worse. They blew the soil away. Huge dust storms turned the skies black. The Prairies were renamed the "dust bowl."

words matter!

A **drought** is a long period with far less rain or snow than usual.

ALBERTA VOICES

The Land Blew Away

The wind blew all the time.... [My wife] said the wind used to make the house vibrate...a hot sucking wind. It sucked up all the moisture. So this wind just blew and blew, and we had dust storms...The land just blew away.

Prairie farmer, 1930s



Grasshoppers Everywhere!

The hot, dry weather brought massive clouds of grasshoppers that ate any wheat the farmers did manage to grow.

ALBERTA VOICES

Spring Swarms

Millions [of grasshoppers] hatched early in the spring and gobbled up everything in their path. They could strip a wheat field in one day.

Buildings, on windy days, became brown and sticky from dead bugs' juice. A patient in a dentist's office almost choked to death when they swarmed through the window.

Prairie farmer, 1930s

Skill Smart

Imagine you lived on a prairie wheat farm during the time of the dust bowl. Write a journal entry to tell how your life has changed. What was the land like before and after the drought?

Prairie dust storm near Lomond in the early 1930s. Compare the dust bowl field below with the field shown on page 223.

How Did Alberta Recover?

The whole province suffered during the drought of the 1930s. Starving families had to sell their land or simply abandon it. Many people moved to the cities, even though it was hard to find work there. Yet, by the 1940s, the quality of life had improved for many people. How did that happen?

Think back to the story of Leduc in Chapter 3. The discovery of oil in 1947 brought changes to Alberta. Many people had already begun working in logging and mining. Now more began working in the oil and gas industries. Alberta had a new identity. It became known as an “oil province.”



How Did Alberta Become More Diverse?

Who lived in the new cities that were springing up? After Alberta became a province, its **population** became more **diverse**. People came from different cultures and from many different countries. Some immigrants came from the United States, Scotland, Ireland, and Belgium. Others came from Russia, Germany, Italy, and China. They brought their families and their traditions to Alberta.

Some settlers who came to farm didn't do as well as others, so they moved to the cities. Sometimes workers who had built the railway stayed once it was finished. Some people planned, from the start, to live in towns and cities. They came to open shops and other businesses, or to work in schools or hospitals.

words matter!

The **population** of a province is all the people who live there. A **diverse** population is made up of people from many different cultures and backgrounds.

ALBERTA VOICES

A New Beginning

Pauline Stein's grandson, Richard Stein, describes his grandmother's experience:

Pauline was excited and relieved, but apprehensive [scared] as she stepped onto Canadian soil at Halifax on a warm September day in 1912. Excited because she and her children...were finally in their chosen country. Soon they would be reunited with her husband, Daniel Stein, who had gone ahead six months earlier to find a place to live. Relieved because it had been a difficult three-week journey from her home village in Russia. She was tired and weak from seasickness and caring for her children. Apprehensive because she spoke only German and was worried about the long train trip in an English-speaking country.



Pauline and her family in Canada in 1922. Before the Steins came to Canada, they were German immigrants living in Russia.

Why Was Alberta a Land of Promise?

Where did the children on these pages come from? Why did their families want to come to Alberta? What kinds of work were they looking for? Imagine you are one of these children. In your journal, write how you feel about moving to Alberta.

My name is Natalie Masson. It is 1906. My father is a farmer, and we live in Québec. We have farmed here for many years, but now we cannot grow enough for our family.

Last Sunday, a priest visited our parish. He told us about French-speaking communities in Alberta with Catholic churches, schools, and rich farmland. He said that Francophone families are needed in the West. Now my parents are talking about moving there.



My name is Peter Helt. It is 1903. I live in Budapest, a city in Hungary. My father works on a boat on the Danube River. He loads and unloads freight from the busy docks. It's hard work, but he's strong and doesn't mind it.

My mother's cousin wrote a letter from Canada. He is in a place called Crowsnest Pass. He is working as a coal miner. He says lots of miners are needed, and the pay is much better than it is here.

My name is Kristina Nilson. It is 1904. I live in Minnesota, in the United States, but my family comes from Norway. Our farm here is not doing well. It's too small, and we can't afford to buy more land.

Last week, my uncle was in the general store. He saw a poster about Alberta. There are lots of jobs there and plenty of land. My dad and my uncle thought they could go logging in the woods. My parents told me there are many Norwegian communities in Canada's West. Perhaps we'll also move there.



My name is Hiroki Tanaka. It is 1910. I live in Japan. My family owns a small farm. There isn't much land in Japan that's good for farming. Most farmers, like us, build terraces up the steep hills to make room for more crops. But there's no room to grow!

We are going to move to Alberta. My aunt and uncle and my cousins are all living there. They grow sugar beets for the sugar factory in Raymond. My uncle has written to tell us that there is flat farmland as far as the eye can see!

My name is Kaari Lehtinen. It is 1907. I live in Finland. My parents are worried about the changes happening here. There has been a lot of trouble lately.

My uncle went to Alberta to see what life would be like there. He works in a coal mine at a place called Canmore. He says it's beautiful. He told us there is lots of wide-open space in Alberta. It makes you feel like you have room to grow!



Helping Alberta to Grow

For many immigrants, Alberta was a place where they could make a good life for themselves and their families. Look at the information below. How did immigrants help Alberta to grow?



People left China because there wasn't enough land to grow food. At first, many worked on the railway. Then they went into business for themselves. They opened restaurants and grocery stores. They worked hard and brought their families to Alberta and to other parts of Canada.

A Russian Jewish couple, Judah and Chasia Shumiatcher, started a hat-making business in Calgary. It still exists today. One of their hats became the official hat for the winter Olympics in Calgary in 1988.



Little Italy

Some of the Italians who came to Alberta found work in the railway, in the mines, and in the forestry camps. Many who worked in the mines settled in the Drumheller Valley. Some moved to cities like Edmonton and Calgary. A part of Edmonton where many Italians settled and still live today is called "Little Italy."

Keeping Francophone Culture Strong

Most of the immigrants who came to Alberta began to learn English. What do you think this would mean for Alberta's Francophones? Most of them were more determined than ever to keep their culture, language, and identity strong. They opened private French schools, and they started French-language newspapers. Today, more than half of Alberta's Francophones live in the Calgary and Edmonton areas.



Today the town of Falher offers services in English and French. Many residents are Francophones.



Francophone children outside their school in 1909. Their teacher, Dellamen Plamondon, is standing at the doorway. She is only 12 years old!



Le Progrès was founded in Morinville in 1909. It was one of four French newspapers published at the time. Another newspaper, *Le Franco*, is still published today.



In 1940, French radio programs ran for only six minutes a day! Alberta's French language radio station, CHFA, opened in 1949.

Keeping Aboriginal Cultures Strong



I'm going to record some interviews with my neighbours to see if they moved here from somewhere else.

As Alberta's cities grew, they drew in many more people. Aboriginal peoples, too, began moving to the cities. They also helped the cities grow and become more diverse. Yet, they also remembered their traditional ways of life.

Emma Minde was a Plains Cree woman who was born in Saddle Lake in 1907. Later, she went to live with her husband in Hobbema. She shares her memories of how her people used to live.

ALBERTA VOICES

Remembering a Way of Life

From the time I was a child, I saw my parents and other people, other parents, work so hard at making a living. These are things they used to do. They used to hunt so they had meat, and they also used to trap.... And they also used to fish.



Emma Minde

And today these skills are greatly missed.... You just go to the store now; you just go and try to buy something. This is why I am asked to tell about it, so that the young people would know how the old people back then used to run their lives.... Everything used to be hard to obtain, but for them it was not hard because they were used to it. They were happy to do these things....

The life of long ago was certainly good, but you probably could not live like that today, for there is too much damage to the earth. There is so much cultivation all over.

Emma Minde

Thinking It Through

- How do you think Emma Minde felt about the changes that took place? Explain.
- What does Emma Minde mean by "damage to the earth"? Do you think perspectives on how we treat the earth are changing today? Give reasons for your view.

Honouring the Past

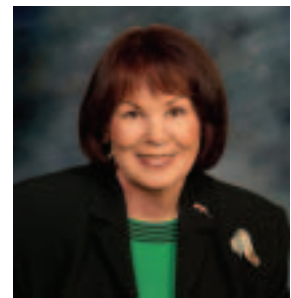
Aboriginal peoples worked to build communities and organizations that would keep their cultures strong. You learned about some of these efforts in Chapter 4 and Chapter 6. Over time, Aboriginal organizations also began talking to governments. They wanted to make sure that promises made to their peoples at the time of the treaties were not forgotten. They want to be sure that their contributions to Alberta are recognized.

ALBERTA VOICES

Celebrating Our Heritage

I am proud of my Métis heritage: I am Scottish and Cree... I want Alberta to be a place where all people can feel proud of who they are and where they came from—a place where we are all encouraged to celebrate the things that make us unique. Many Albertans share that vision. People from across the province are finding ways for Aboriginal people to honour, celebrate and preserve their wonderful and unique heritage....

Colleen Klein, volunteer and wife of Ralph Klein, premier of Alberta, 1992–2006



Colleen Klein



First Nations Conference, Ottawa, March 9, 1984. Representatives of First Nations and Métis peoples met with the Canadian government. Since then, there have been many other meetings.

Viewpoints

How Can a Growing City Respect the Past?

Alberta's cities have continued to grow and change. Some people want to make sure we don't lose the heritage of our cities as they grow. Let's look at one example.

Rossdale Flats is an area in Edmonton on the banks of the North Saskatchewan River. For 8000 years, it was a meeting place for First Nations. During the fur trade, two forts were busy in the flats. Many people were buried here—First Nations people, Métis, Francophone fur traders, voyageurs, and European settlers.

City of Edmonton



Rossdale Power Plant

In 1903, a power plant and a water treatment plant were built to supply Edmonton with electricity and clean water. Later, bridges, exhibition grounds, and a ballpark were built. A paved road covered part of the burial grounds. When Alberta needed more power, plans were made to expand the Rossdale Power Plant.

Over time, there have been many meetings about what to do with this area. In one discussion, people expressed the following points of view.

I've heard people say that the site is almost the birthplace of Alberta...It would be lovely to see the Power Plant shut down.

— Catherine Garvey, Historical Board of Edmonton

It may cost \$600 million to build the plant somewhere else. The community needs the new plant.

– *Power Plant official*

We have to honour that site.... But some people are saying, "Oh, it was just a cemetery, just leave it, and don't put anything on it." If we do that, in 50 years it will be forgotten.

– *Philip Coutu, Métis representative*

I wish they would turn that building into an education centre.... My ancestors are buried on this site.... I would like to have a monument there.

– *Fran Gosché, descendant*

We should make more parkland and green space in the area, or put in some small shops or restaurants. A community centre, tennis courts, or a public swimming pool would be a good addition to the neighbourhood.

– *Some responses in a survey of Rossdale residents*

These decisions were made for Rossdale Flats:

- Operate the water treatment plant, but shut down the power generator.
- Make the burial grounds a historic cemetery.
- Protect some buildings as historic sites.
- Put up a monument to honour the people buried there.

Over to YOU!

1. Discuss the different views. Talk about reasons for the differences.
2. What does "compromise" mean? Do you think the results were a compromise? Why or why not?
3. Are there any monuments or areas in your community that preserve and respect the past? Why are they important?

Set Your Skills in Motion

Display Some Headlines

Look through a local newspaper. Cut out stories, headlines, or letters to the editor about current events in your community or in the province. Sort your findings and post them on a bulletin board under the headings “Fact” or “Opinion.” Look at the clippings other students posted.

- Is everything under the correct heading?
- How do you know?
- Why is it important to be able to tell the difference between fact and opinion?



Say How You Help

You have seen that, at one time, children worked hard. They helped build the province. How do you contribute to Alberta today? Do you contribute by going to school? If so, how? How do you contribute by other actions, either at home or in the community? How could you do more? Write a journal entry to give your views.

Protect a Special Site

Research a historic area in your community. As a responsible citizen, inform others about what they could do to protect and preserve this site. Try using technology to create a brochure or poster.

Make a Flow Chart

Make a flow chart. Show how groups of people have used the land over time. Think about First Nations, fur traders, and settlers before and after 1905. What events caused these changes? Try using a computer to make your chart.



Look What You Have Learned!

Many settlers came from around the world to live and work in the province. They made their living as farmers, coal miners, and loggers, and in the new jobs that were opening up in towns and cities. Communities grew quickly. Some people moved from rural to urban centres. In 1905, Alberta got its name and joined the other provinces in Canada. Alberta had a provincial identity.

Review the inquiry questions for this chapter:

- How did Alberta become a province?
- What do major events and stories tell us about Alberta's past?

Show what you have learned in this chapter by using a computer to make a graphic organizer. Save your organizer in a database for others to view.

Take Time to Reflect

Before you go on to the next chapter, think about what you have learned in this one. What have you learned about fact and opinion that will help you in the future? How can you use technology to help you in your inquiries?



Choose something from this chapter to save for your Alberta Treasure Chest.

