

## Information Session #3: Causes of Discontent in Upper Canada

### I. Causes of Discontent

#### *A. The Way The Colony Was Governed*

- we talked about this before(see notes)
- since councils and governor were not chosen and elected by the people, they could do whatever they wanted- often ignored the people

#### *B. The People Who Ruled The Colony*

- the problem was that people on councils always chosen from among the wealthy and influential people of the colony
- included judges, clergy, bankers, lawyers, military officers, business people - most were from Loyalist Families
- close friends- the colonist nicknamed them the Family Compact- belonged to high social class
- thought because they were wealthy and better educated, they could govern colony more effectively than ordinary people
- governor usually selected all officials Sir Francis Bond Head- immigration officers, coroners, sheriffs, etc.
- gave land grants - spent money to reward faithful supporters
- farmers and poor were not included
- John Strachan - one of the most powerful - Bishop of Toronto - he thought Anglican Church should have special privileges - only Anglican clergy allowed to perform marriages - he did do some good
- John Beverley Robinson - Chief justice things to - education - lawyer
- he was head of all law courts
- elected representatives had no say as long as Family Compact was around

#### *C. The Problem of Land*

- land granted to settlers unfairly
- most of land had once belonged to Native peoples
- Sir Francis Bond Head was governor - 1836- convinced some Native Peoples to move to reservations in Georgian Bay- best land given to Family Compact and Friends
- as a result less than 1/10 of land producing crops - most of good land owned by people who weren't Farming it - waiting for value to increase so they could sell it
- 1/17 of land given to Anglican Church (Clergy Reserves)
- people said not fair to other Churches
- biggest complaint - land left uncleared for years - poorer land given to new immigrants
- no roads could be built through reserves

#### *D. The Problem of Transportation*

- farmers needed roads to get crops to market
- roads terrible, impassable - in winter when frozen not so bad but the no crops
- government did spend money building canals - they benefited merchants and business people associated with Family Compact - ex. well and canal between Lake Erie/Ontario
- farmers felt government giving money to everyone but them - impossible to borrow money - struggled

