

- After the War of 1812, in which the United States declared war on Britain and its colonies, had ended. Newcomers now poured into the **colony** of **Upper Canada** (now southern and eastern Ontario).
- At the same time, **Lower Canada** (Quebec & along the St. Lawrence River) was building its economy with its busy trading capital, Montreal.
- The Maritime colonies (NS, NB, PEI, NL), specialized in fishing, forestry, & shipbuilding. Trade with Britain and the United States kept these industries booming.
- In the north and west, the Hudson's Bay Company claimed all lands drained by rivers flowing into Hudson Bay, bringing a huge part of the continent of North America under its control. As a result, the fur trade expanded west.
- The North West Company, based in Montreal, built its own trading relationships with Aboriginal leaders & explored the west.
- Fur traders eventually became the natural allies of Aboriginal peoples, particularly the **Métis**.
- However, the growth of the colonies came at the expense of Aboriginal peoples. They had once been military allies of the British & were still a vital part of the fur trade.
- Many died from diseases brought by Europeans, or starvation after losing land & access to traditional food sources.
- First Nations were often forced to give up their land to make way for European immigrants.

