

CHAPTER 1

1840-1896

*Development of
Canadian federalism*

PART 2

Responsible government (1848)

**Representatives from both Lower
Canada and Upper Canada
continued to demand
responsible government.
What steps would they take to
make this happen?**

The *Act of Union* (1840) - RECAP



- Established a **single Legislative Assembly** with representatives from both Canadas
- Intended to **make French Canadians the minority.**

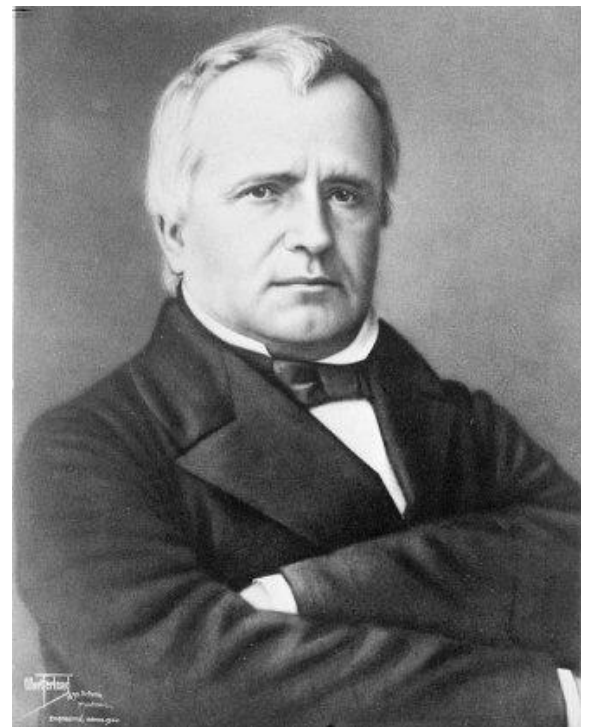
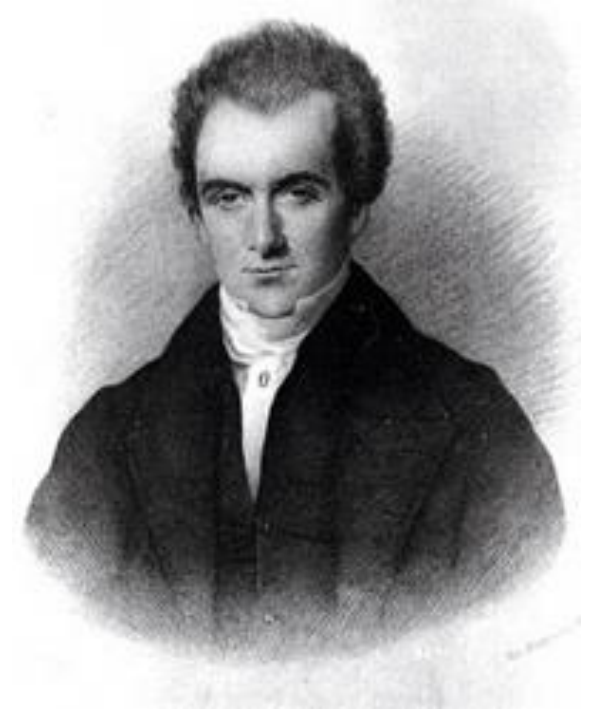
BUT!...

Alliance of Reformers

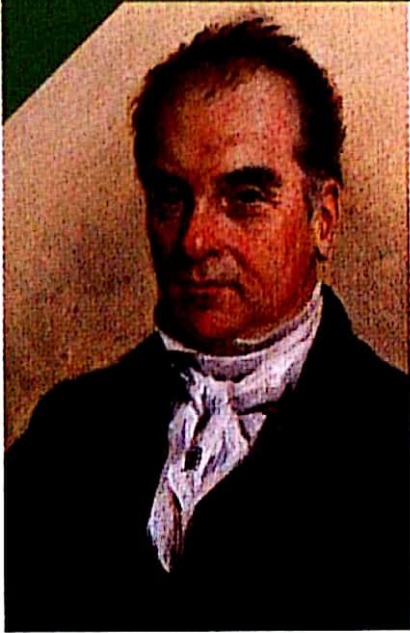
An important political alliance based on shared political views was formed:

- between **Robert Baldwin** (leader of the Reformers in Canada West) and **Louis-Hippolyte Lafontaine** (leader of the moderate Reformers in Canada East)
- based on **compromise**
- 2 common goals:
 - 1) **demand responsible government**
 - 2) **ensure the prosperity of all.**





SPOTLIGHT ON . . .



The leaders of the Baldwin–LaFontaine alliance

Robert Baldwin (1804–1858) was a passionate defender of the principle of responsible government. He always took a position in defence of French Canadian rights, which made him unpopular with some English Canadians.



Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine (1807–1864) was first elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada in 1830. During the *Patriote* rebellions, LaFontaine supported Papineau's ideas and the *Patriotes'* struggles, but he did not condone armed rebellion. After the *Act of Union* was adopted, he worked to establish responsible government and defended the rights of French Canadians.

	Reformers	Conservatives (Tories)
Composition	<p>Lower Canada: French Canadian members and a few English Canadian members</p> <p>Upper Canada: English Canadian members</p>	<p>Lower Canada and Upper Canada: English Canadian members and two French Canadian members</p>
Positions and demands	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They were supported by the professional bourgeoisie.• They demanded the establishment of responsible government.• The Reformers of Lower Canada wanted to protect the rights of French Canadians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• They were supported by the British business class.• They did not seek political change, because they had influence over the institutions with appointed members (governor and councils).

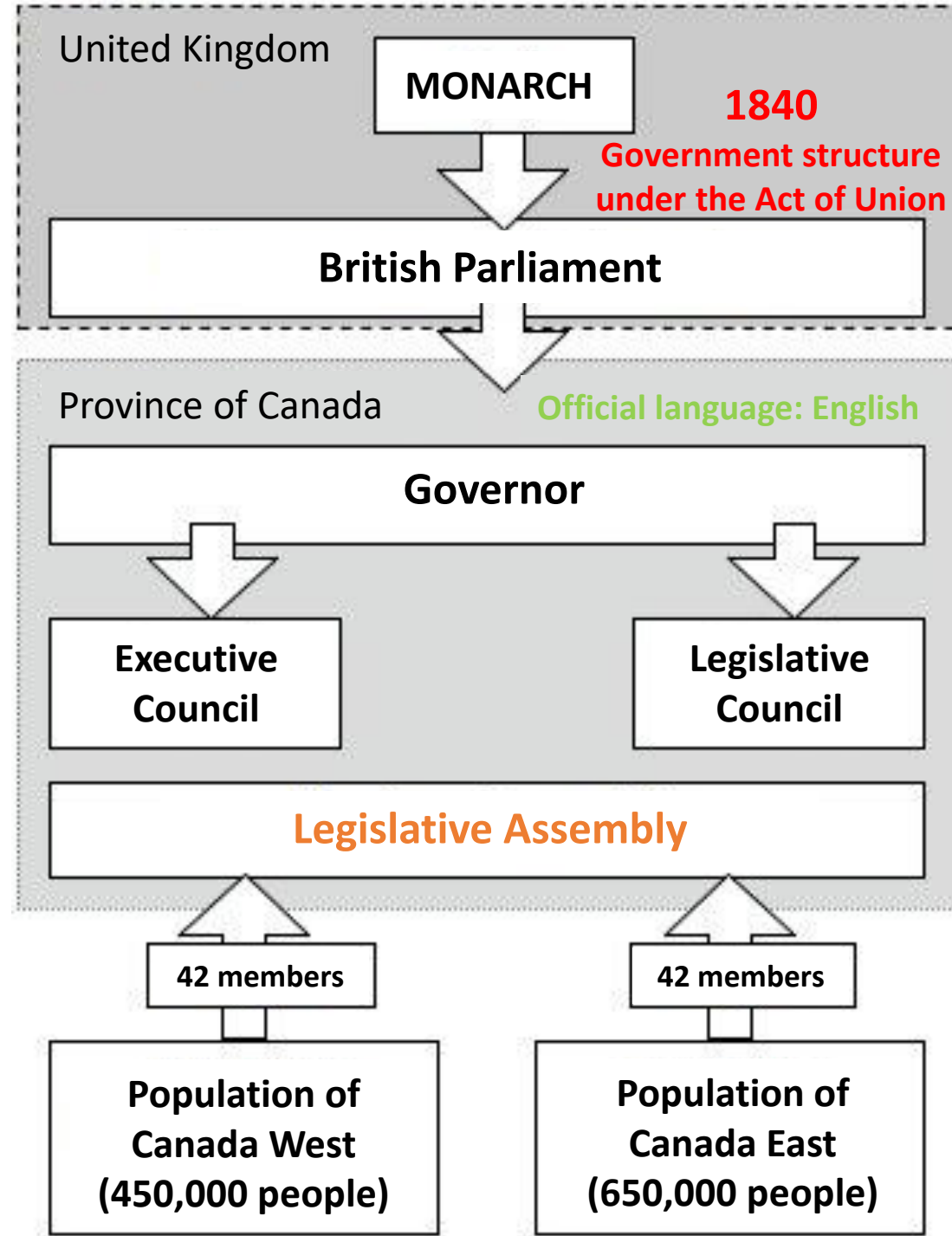
Responsible government



To develop the colony, Assembly members would need more decision-making power.

Members of the Executive Council would be:

- appointed from among the **elected representatives**
- **accountable** to the Legislative Assembly.



Alliance of Reformers



The Reformers were popular in Upper and Lower Canada. They held the **majority** in the Assembly from 1842 to 1851.

Alliance of Reformers



In the 1840s, **London put an end to preferential tariffs** that had encouraged the mother country to buy resources from its colonies.

This led to **2 major changes** in the colonial relationship:

- 1) The colonies had lost their advantages on the British market (foreign competition).
- 2) The colonies were granted greater economic and therefore political autonomy.

Alliance of Reformers



In 1848, London granted responsible government in the colony.

Establishing responsible government



Elgin favoured responsible government

Changes that made the Province of Canada a true parliamentary democracy in 1848:

- 1) The **Prime Minister**, the leader of the majority party in the Assembly, gained **the right to choose members of the Executive Council from elected Assembly members.**
- 2) The Executive Council was now **responsible to the elected members of the Assembly (power!).**
- 3) Members of the **Legislative Council** were appointed by the governor **on the recommendation of the Executive Council.**

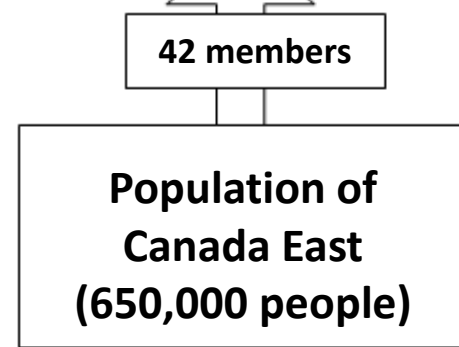
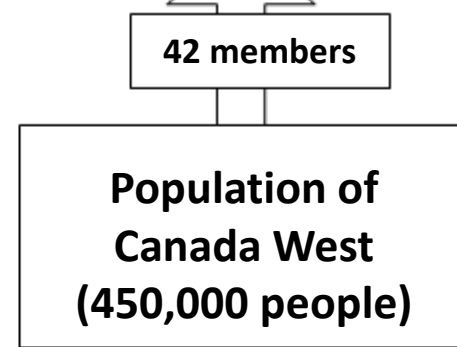
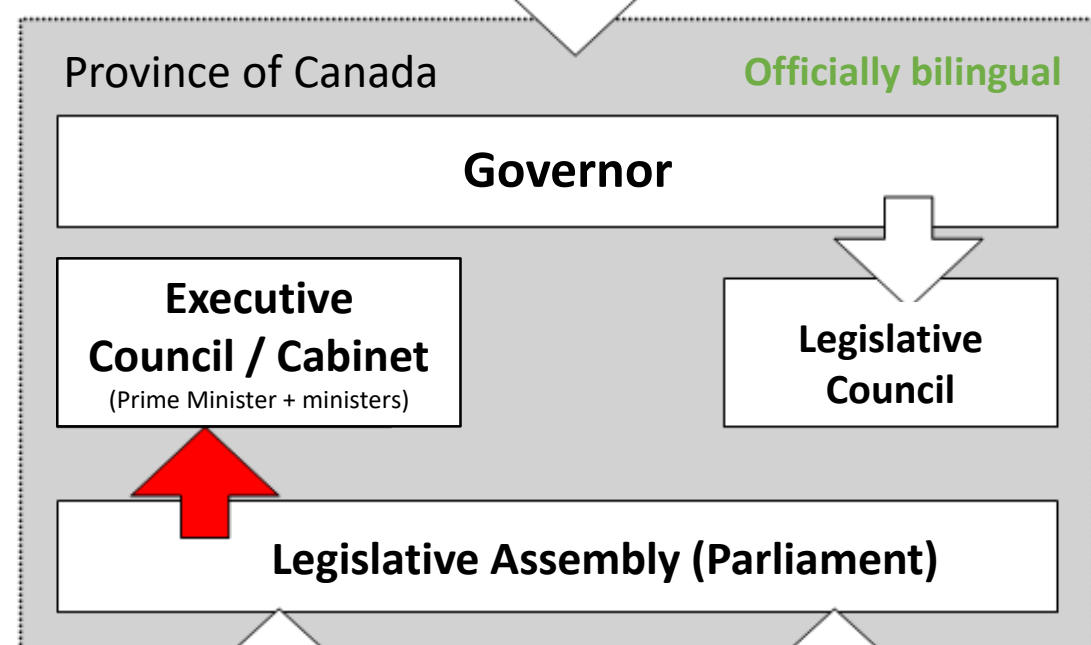
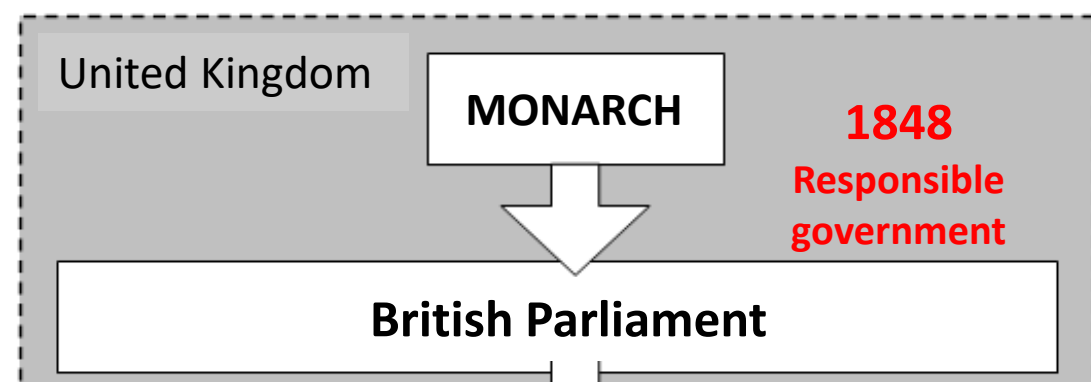
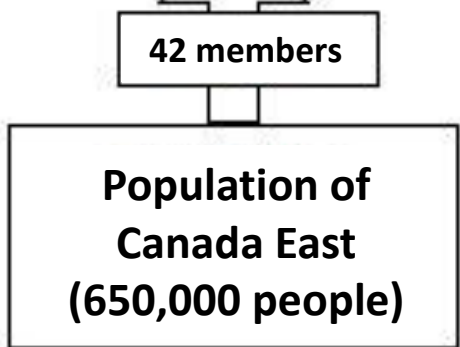
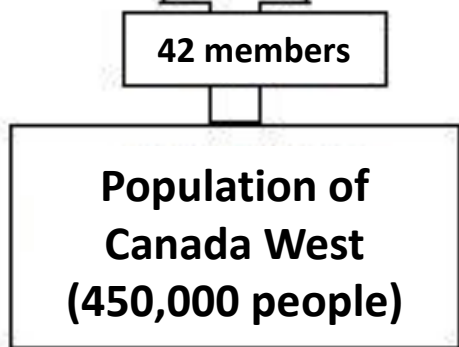
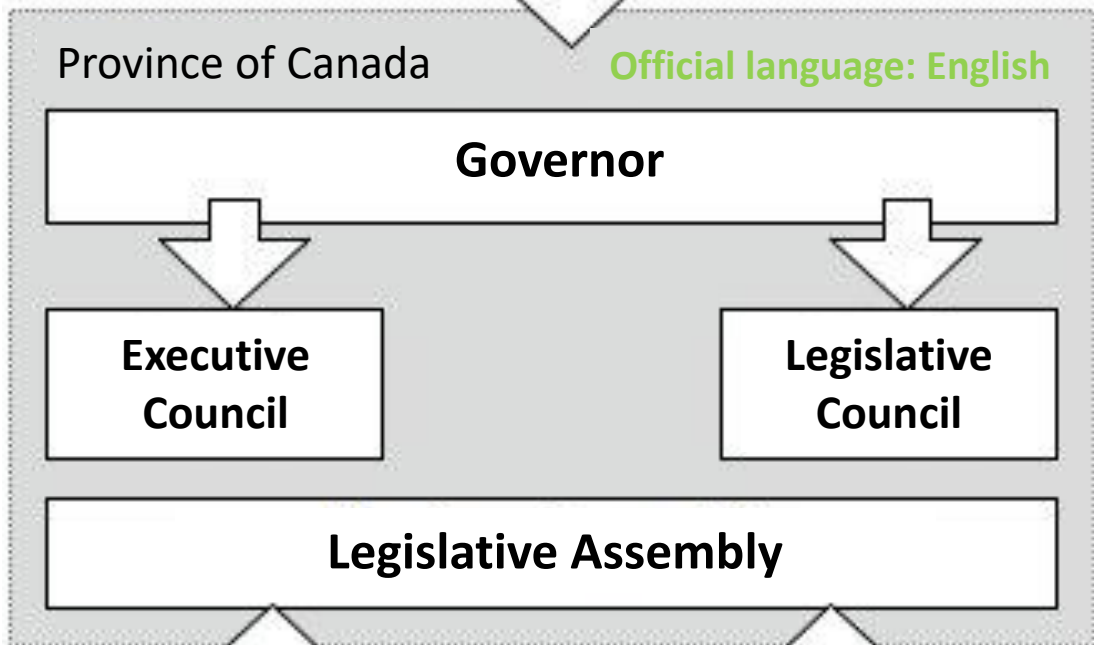
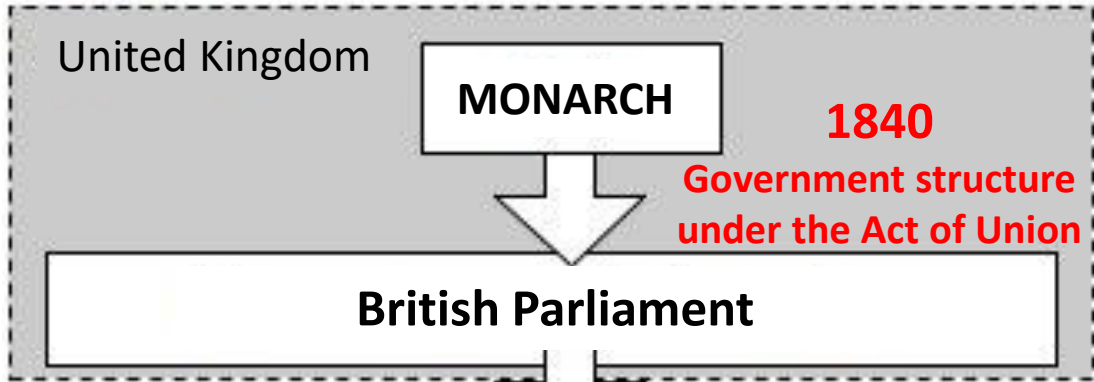
Establishing responsible government



Elgin favoured responsible government

Changes that made the Province of Canada a true parliamentary democracy in 1848:

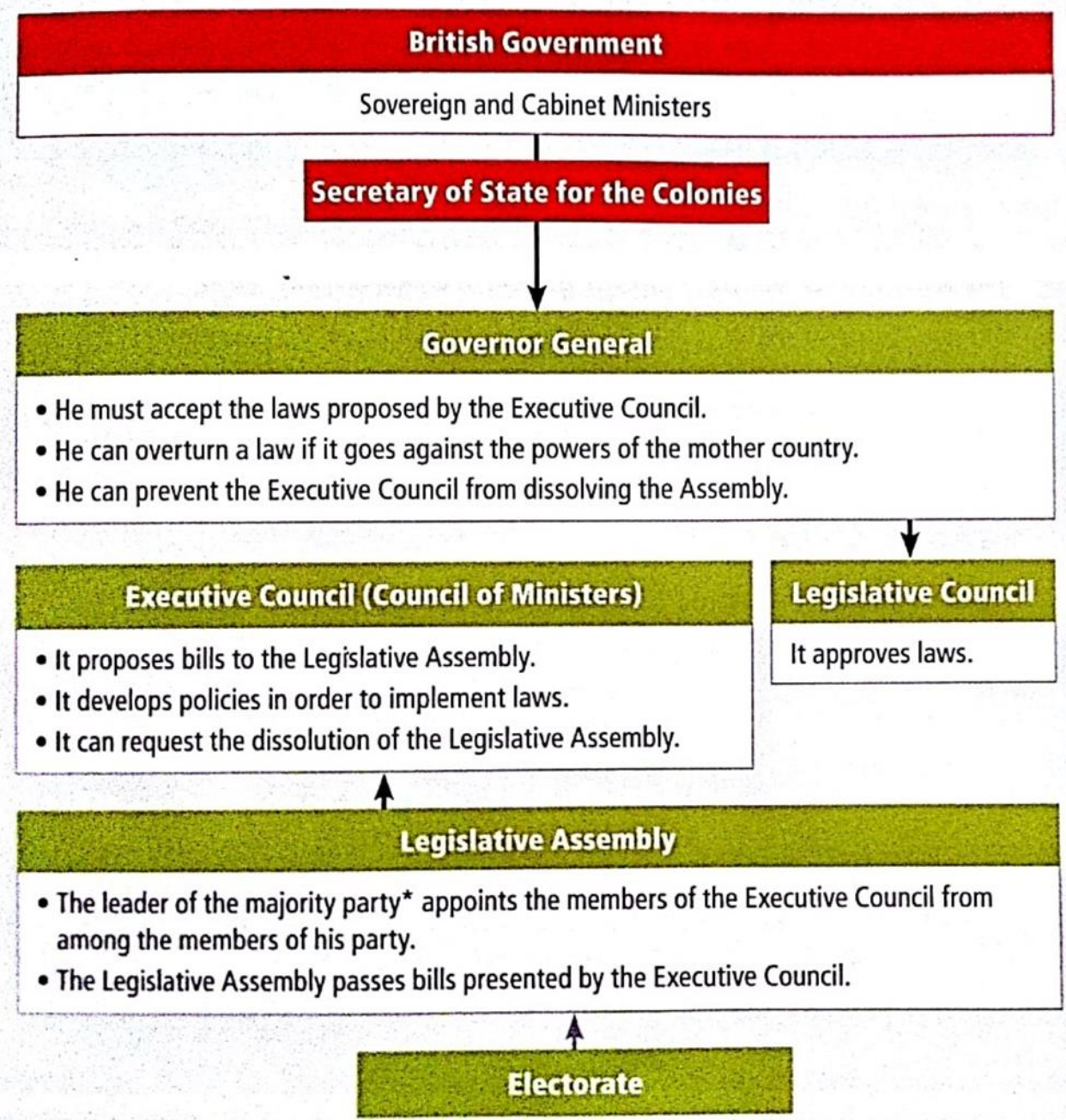
- 4) From then on, a lot of power was transferred from the governor to the leader(s) of the majority party.
- 5) The governor was no longer attached to a political party.
- 6) The governor **no longer intervened in the Executive Council** – his powers were restricted to defence and internal relations.



10 The functioning of responsible government, as of 1848

UNITED KINGDOM

PROVINCE OF CANADA



Legend

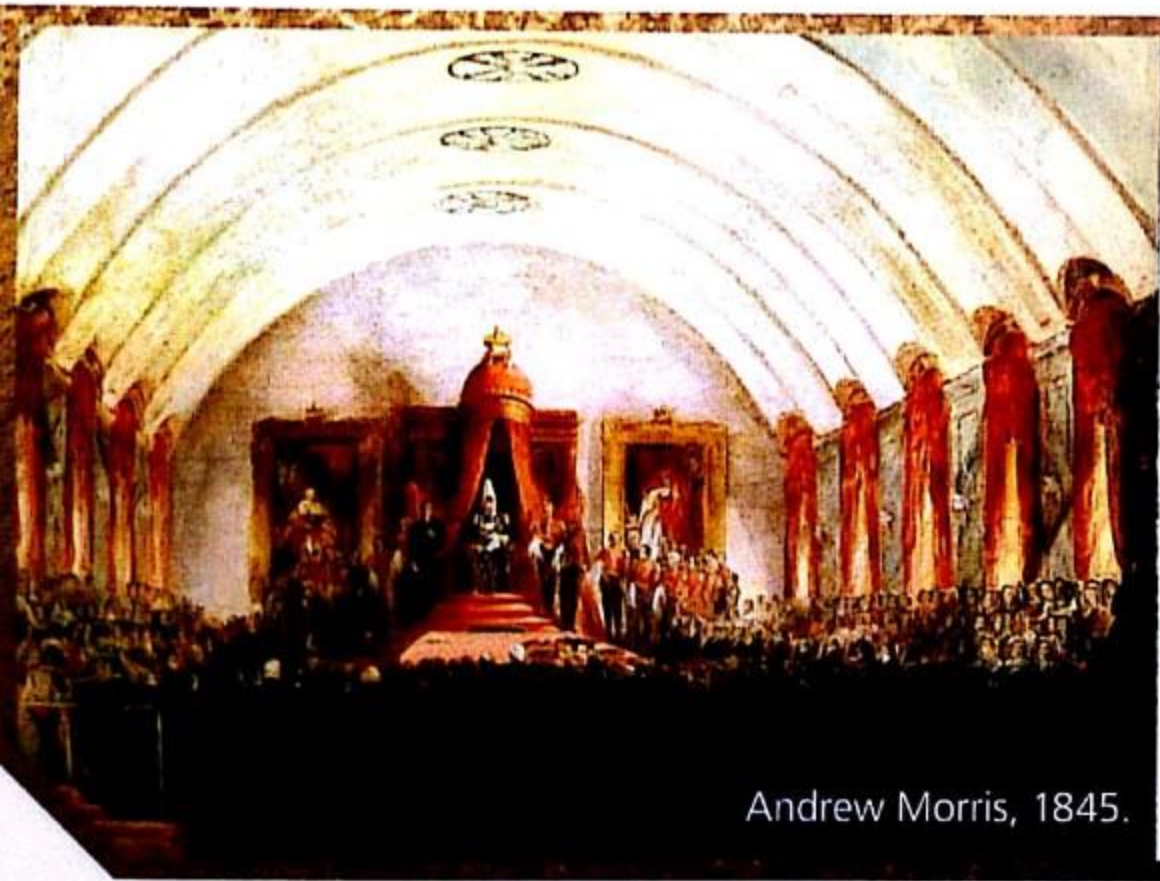
→ Appoints

→ Elects

The Burning of the Parliament Building in Montréal (1849)



- In 1849, the Reform government made the **Parliament officially bilingual**.
- The passing of the **Rebellion Losses Bill** by the Baldwin-Lafontaine alliance, which pardoned *Patriote* rebels and gave money to anyone who had suffered losses during the 1837-1838 rebellions (mostly French Canadians), triggered a violent reaction among some English Canadians (Tories).
- On April 25, 1849, an angry mob set fire to the Parliament Building in Montréal and ransacked the homes of Reform leaders.



Andrew Morris, 1845.

A travelling capital

Over a 25-year period, the members of the Legislative Assembly voted over 200 times on the choice of a location for the capital of the Province of Canada! From 1841 to 1866, the capital of the Province of Canada moved six times. The cities of Kingston, Montréal, Toronto and Québec each had turns as the capital. In 1857, Queen Victoria designated Ottawa as the official capital of the colony. Parliament was established there in 1866.

◀ The Parliament in Montréal, 1845