Social changes and voices

Chapter 2

49 The Catholic clergy and religious communities in Québec, 1901 and 1931

Year	Total number of priests and members of religious communities	Number of followers for each priest and member of a religious community
1901	8 612	166
1931	25 332	97

Data from: Paul-André Linteau et al., *Histoire du Québec contemporain*, vol. 1, *De la Confédération à la crise (1867–1929)*, 1979.

The growth in the number of priests and members of religious communities at the beginning of the 20th century testifies to the importance of the Catholic Church in this period.

Cooperatives

Pope Leo XIII's letter from 1891 encouraged the Church to promote cooperatives as a solution to the many social problems tied to industrialization

- **Cooperative:** Association where resources are jointly owned and profits are shared among all members
- The Church saw the cooperative model of saving and credit in a way that encouraged the communal life and values it promoted

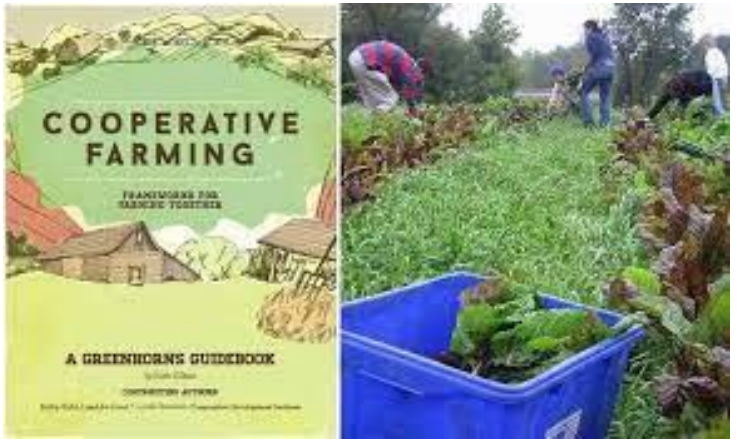
52 A maple syrup producers' cooperative, circa 1930



Cooperative

The cooperative model was also applied to the **agricultural and fishing sectors**

- Many producers were struggling to raise funds to purchase crucial equipment and were having difficulty getting good prices for their products
- Agricultural cooperatives allowed **producers to jointly purchase equipment and resources and determine their product prices**



Cooperatives

In 1908

- Quebec government introduced a law to better regulate agriculture, leading to an increase in the number of cooperatives

In 1922

- The *Cooperative federee de Quebec* was created, bridging together the province's main agricultural cooperatives



2.49 The *Coopérative fédérée de Québec* had many branches and set up its headquarters in Montréal in 1923.

Alphonse Desjardins

Desjardins created the first Caisse Populaire credit union in 1900, the clergy supported him and the Church encouraged priests to set up a Caisse Populaire in their own parish



Desjardins model based on

- The responsibility of the Caisse Populaire members is limited to the value of their investments
- The Caisse populaire provides savings and credit solutions
- The Caisse Populaire sphere of influence is limited to the parish in which it is located

INFANT MORTALITY

In the late 19th century and early 20th century, one in four children died before the age of two. Today in Québec, that number is one in 200.

This illustration shows Death, represented by a skeleton, taking children from a family of modest means.



Public health

During industrialization, new factories were built in urban areas

- This led to many people **leaving their jobs in rural areas to search for better jobs in the city**
- **This influx of job seekers and immigrant created a surge in the urban population**

The urban population increased by 25% between 1901 and 1931



Issues with cities

Cities were not equipped to hold so many people leading to many **infrastructure problems**

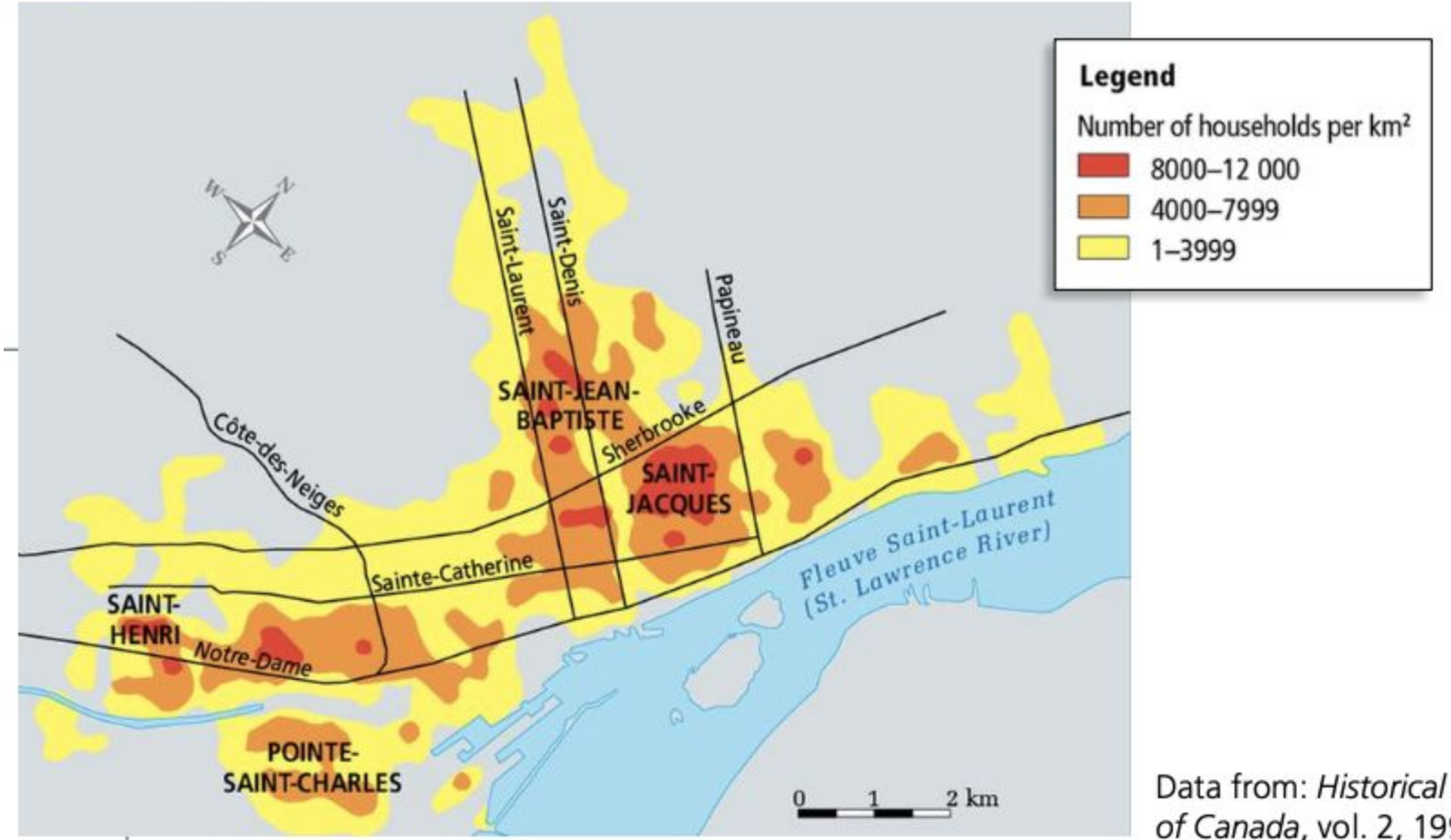
- **Overcrowded housing**
- **Poor ventilation**
- Lack of health services and affordable accomodations
- Epidemics caused by bad water and milks quality
- Garbage in the streets

Social problems like alcoholism also emerged

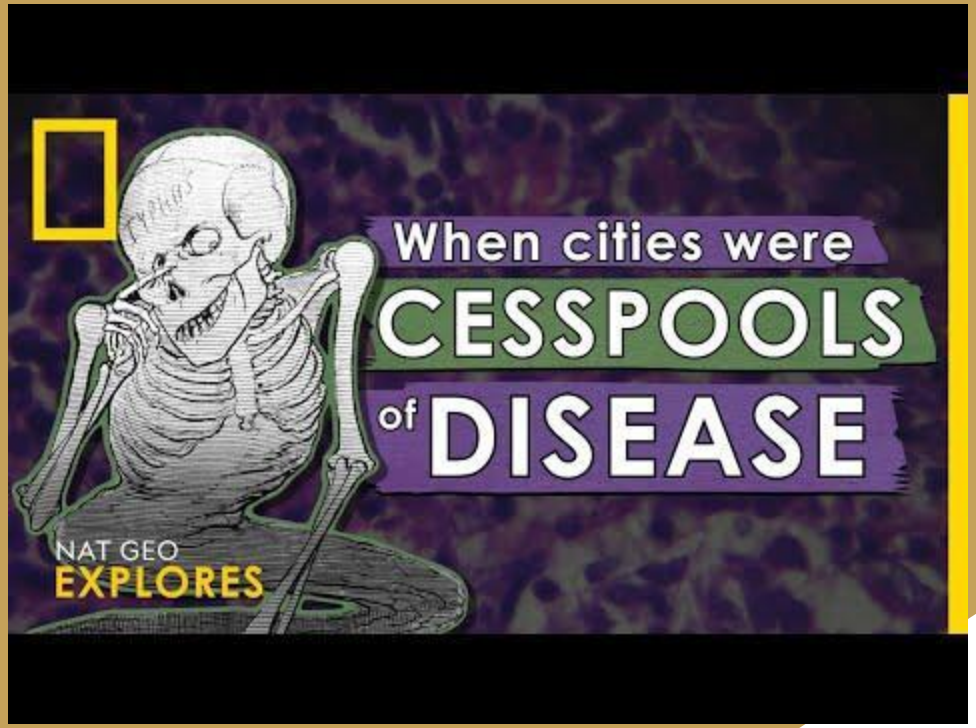




54 The population density of Montréal, 1901



Data from: *Historical Atlas of Canada*, vol. 2, 1993.


When cities were
CESSPOOLS
of DISEASE
NAT GEO
EXPLORES

Public Health Act (1901)

In **1901 the Public Health Act** was introduced in Quebec which gave **cities more power to address the problems** through

- **Low cost housing**
- **Sewers and aqueducts being built**
- Municipal garbage collection being introduction
- Public health regulations to provide education, treatment, and compulsory vaccinations
- Regulations for water purification and milk pasteurization



Loi sur l’assistance publique (1921)

The Quebec government introduced the **Loi sur l’assistance publique,** which was a public assistance to improve **support services for the poor**

- It allowed for the **hospitalization costs of poor patients to be shared** between the provincial government, municipalities and hospitals



The act was controversial: many saw it as an **intrusion by the state on the church’s area**

Infrastructure

The increase in the urban population forced cities to **build new infrastructure to meet needs**

To improve hygiene among the lower classes, the City of Montreal built 11 **public bathhouses for citizens to use free of charge**

This was not unique to Montreal. Lower class individuals did not always have access to running water in major cities. This led to the building of bathhouses



Infrastructure

The **transportation sector** was changing quickly

- **New road networks** were built for cars and new rail lines were created for streetcars and trains

New **architectural developments** were also developing:

- Buildings became **increasingly taller**, **big department stores were built** where shoppers could buy many products in one place

???

DID YOU KNOW

The Henry Birks jewellery store, built in Vancouver in 1907, consisted of 10 storeys, plus a mezzanine. Built in Montréal in 1928, the Royal Bank building reached 22 storeys.



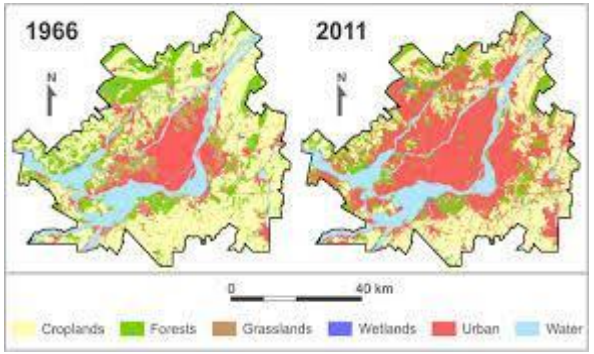
Interior of the Birks store in Montréal, circa 1908.

Urban sprawl

During this period, urban sprawl began to emerge

- **Small cities developed around larger cities** like Montreal and Sherbrooke
- In the late 1920s, **zoning was introduced** which allowed for the **division of land** into residential, commercial and industrial zones





Services

In the 1920s, there was a **big difference between the rich and the poor in cities**

- The **bourgeoisie lived in clean, safe neighbourhoods** while the majority of the urban population did not
- **25% of workers had non-permanent jobs** and often relied on charity





Public services introduced

The growing disparities **led to the government attempting to improve the quality of life** in the city by introducing public services

- **Permanent firefighting service** which allows quick control of fires
    - Originally services were offered by private companies. However, eventually firefighting was eventually offered as a public service
- **Electric street lights were introduced** making neighbourhoods safer

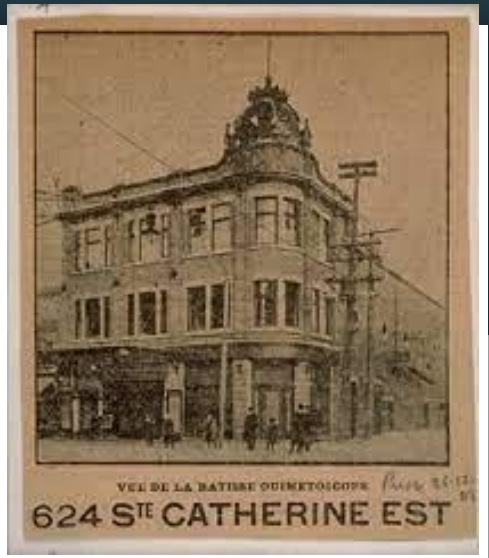


2.31 Firefighters in a fire engine, circa 1925.

Recreational services

Sports began catering to spectators

- The creation of le **Club de Hockey Canadien** (Montreal Canadiens) in 1909
- **Parks were built to provide safe play for children** and a place for people to enjoy leisure activities free of charge



Public transit was being developed with **streetcars and new businesses** were being built in urban centres to provide entertainment



- Canada's first theater to show movies was the **Ouimetoscope** which opened in Montreal in 1906

What observations can you see regarding school attendance?

2.52 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR CHILDREN AGED 8 TO 14 IN QUÉBEC, IN 1901

AGE	GIRLS		BOYS	
	CATHOLIC FRANCOPHONES	PROTESTANT ANGLOPHONES	CATHOLIC FRANCOPHONES	PROTESTANT ANGLOPHONES
8 YEARS	88.9%	81.4%	89.4%	81%
10 YEARS	93.6%	100%	94%	96.3%
12 YEARS	82.3%	90.2%	86%	83.7%
14 YEARS	48.3%	73.8%	56.7%	84.2%

School attendance and education

In the first half of the 20th century, the importance of schooling varied across Canada. Three trends could be observed:

- **Fewer children attended school in Quebec than in other provinces**
- **In Quebec, there was a disparity between francophones and anglophones.** In children ages 12 and up, attendance was higher for anglophones
- Beyond the age of 12, more boys than girls continued their education

2.50 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IN QUÉBEC AND ONTARIO

YEAR	QUÉBEC	ONTARIO
1911	69.6%	74.5%
1921	64.8%	81.3%
1931	53.9%	Not available
1941	52.9%	79.9%

2.52 SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR CHILDREN AGED 8 TO 14 IN QUÉBEC, IN 1901

AGE	GIRLS		BOYS	
	CATHOLIC FRANCOPHONES	PROTESTANT ANGLOPHONES	CATHOLIC FRANCOPHONES	PROTESTANT ANGLOPHONES
8 YEARS	88.9%	81.4%	89.4%	81%
10 YEARS	93.6%	100%	94%	96.3%
12 YEARS	82.3%	90.2%	86%	83.7%
14 YEARS	48.3%	73.8%	56.7%	84.2%

School attendance and education

What were the reasons for the differences in school attendance?

- **Schooling provided some social distinction**- teaching young people to read, write and count
- Many young people dropped out at the end of primary school **once they achieved the basic skills** and worked in jobs created by industrialization
- **Farming families(often francophone) would have their children absent from school when they were needed to help with work on the farm**
- Anglophones stayed in school longer due to the fact that **many francophone families could only survive if all members worked**



2.51 Kindergarten class in Montréal, 1943.

Access to education

Feminist associations advocate for **equality** of the sexes

In Quebec, Caroline Beique and Marie Lacoste Gerin-Lajoie founded the ***Federation nationale Saint-Jean-Baptiste*** **(FNSJB)in 1907**. Its plan included

- Legal recognition of **women's fundamental rights**(right to vote and legal equality)
- **Improved public health and a reduction in infant mortality**
- Women's access to **higher education**


19.....-19.....

MEMBRE DE LA

Fédération Nationale St-Jean-Baptiste

SECRETARIAT ET BUREAU DES AIDES MATERNELLES

853-est, rue Sherbrooke Tél: Frontenac 2665

HEURES DE BUREAU: 10 H. À 12 H. A.M. 2 H. À 5 H. P.M.

"LA BONNE PAROLE"

ORGANE DE LA SOCIETE Prix d'abonnement: $1.00;

escompte de 50% pour les Associations professionnelles, les Fédérations et les Sections paroissiales, les communautés religieuses.

Prière de consulter les journaux pour la date des assemblées de membres, des réunions générales, Messe annuelle du Saint-Esprit, 1er Dimanche de mai à Notre-Dame de Lourdes.

Access to education

In 1908, The ***Ecole d'enseignement superieur*** the first classical college for women opened its doors and would be the only French university access for women for the next 25 years



2.38 The *École d'enseignement supérieur* provided women with access to classical studies through an eight-year program that led to a bachelor's degree.

Voting rights and eligibility

Women's struggle to obtain the right to vote became a central issue at **federal and provincial levels** in the 20th century

- On November 21, 1911 police arrested **223 suffragettes** who tried to enter the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa in a **demonstration for women's suffrage**
- Women began to form **organizations** advocating for women's voting rights
- In **1918, Canadian women won the right to vote in Federal elections**



Two stances on women's rights to vote in Quebec

In Quebec, the struggle revolved around **two main stances**

- Marie Lacoste Gerin- Lajoie believed that women's **maternal instincts and role as mothers could provide a new vision for society**
- **The second was held by more liberal fe**minists like Idola Saint-Jean and Therese Casgrain who argued **men and women were equal and should enjoy the same rights**



2.40 Idola Saint-Jean (1880-1945), journalist, educator and feminist. She established the Canadian Alliance for the Women's Vote in Québec, and was secretary for the board of the Montréal Juvenile Court.

Voting rights in Quebec

Women's suffrage in Quebec took longer to achieve because of the **divided attitudes** in Quebec society

- Some religious leaders and intellectuals **feared that women's suffrage(vote) would threaten traditional values such as family and faith**
- The other view was **Pope Benedict XV who supported women's suffrage** as did the *Action liberal national* (a Quebec political party).

Lajoie led the first group of Quebec suffragettes in the Quebec Parliament to support a bill that would have given women the right to vote, but the bill did not get past the first reading

Quebec suffragettes would need to continue **fighting for years**

Why did it take so long for women to get the provincial vote in Quebec?

Women and the labour market

During this time, women were expected to work at home. Their jobs were considered less importance and the average wage for women was 56% of men's average wage.

By the end of the 19th century, jobs available to women were limited to factory worker, domestic servant, hairdresser, nurse, and teacher. Eventually women also had access to office jobs as a secretary. They later fought for jobs like lawyers, notaries, accountants or doctors

