

The Royal Proclamation of 1763

Name _____

Date _____

The Royal Proclamation was issued by King George III on October 7, 1763, and included these main provisions:

Regarding Government:

- set the boundaries and governmental policies of the colony of Québec and all territories that were surrendered to Britain by France in the Treaty of Paris, 1763
- established that the ultimate authority in the colonies would be the governors who were appointed by the British monarch, government, and House of Lords
- although colonial governors were directed to work with elected representatives of the people, the appointed governors had seniority over any elected assembly
- governors held the power to settle land, which now belonged, by right of the conquest, to the British king

Regarding British Settlement:

- British military officers and soldiers were given land grants to encourage them to settle in Québec:
 - to each Field Officer: 2023 hectares (5000 acres)
 - to every Captain: 1214 hectares (3000 acres)
 - to every Staff Officer: 809 hectares (2000 acres)
 - to every Non-Commission Officer: 80 hectares (200 acres)
 - to every Private Officer: 20 hectares (50 acres)

Regarding First Nations:

- large area of the interior of North America was defined as First Nations land and was to be used as their hunting grounds (see Figure 4-6, page 113 in *Shaping Canada*)
- prohibited any private buyer from purchasing any part of First Nations territory
- First Nations territory (as set out by the Royal Proclamation) could be sold back only to the British government (this would become the basis for future treaty negotiations between First Nations and the British and Canadian governments)
- gave Britain the right to purchase First Nations hunting and fishing grounds, but gave First Nations the right to continue to hunt and fish on these lands once they were bought (this law would be critical in future land agreements between First Nations and the Canadian government)

