

The Confederation Debates

Name _____

Date _____

In groups of four, plan a debate on the merits of the Confederation plan, from the perspective of the colony you represent. In each group, two members must represent colonies that are opposed to Confederation, and two members must represent colonies that are in favour of Confederation. **Note:** It is possible to be a dissenting voice from a colony that you know ultimately voted in favour of Confederation (e.g., in the United Province of Canada, one member could represent the opposing voice of French Canada). In each case, everyone is responsible for preparing both the arguments they will make and those that the opposing side could raise.

Group members select from the following colonies: Canada, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia.

After each member of your group selects a colony, determine which members will speak in favour and which against Confederation. Research your topic, using *Shaping Canada* and other resources. Prepare your arguments. Use the template below to organize your notes as you work.

Each debate will follow these rules:

- The first speaker for each side introduces his or her general position, including key factors that influenced the viewpoint of the colony she or he represents.
- The second speaker for each side discusses the key arguments and adds the viewpoint of the colony that she or he represents.
- The next step is rebuttal, wherein counter arguments or weaknesses in the other side's arguments are aired—any member may speak on both sides.
- The person who spoke second for each side summarizes the main ideas made by the team and answers questions.

Template for research notes used in planning the Confederation Debate

Colonies opposed to Confederation	Arguments that will be raised individually and collectively
Colonies in favour of Confederation	Arguments that will be raised individually and collectively

