

Summary:

B.C influx of immigration can be mainly contributed to the several gold rushes that took place in B.C. The start of the gold rush was due to the Hudson's Bay Company establishing forts on Vancouver Island and bringing employees to visit B.C. Years later, the California Gold Rush started, creating a hunger for gold and wealth felt by thousands around the world. In this gold rush there was often conflict between ethnic minorities and Europeans due to Europeans thinking they are superior to them. In 1858, gold was first discovered on the Fraser River causing thousands of prospectors to come to B.C to hopefully find gold. The influx of immigrants was a concern for James Douglas since he was afraid that the Americans would steal B.C away from the British. This is one of the reasons James Douglas invited African-American families to come to B.C was to gain members for the British Columbian police. Due to this influx of foreigners, Indigenous people started to die from smallpox due to the lack of resistance to the disease. This is one of the factors that led to the Chilcotin War, a conflict between the tsilhqot'in people and the American settlers. Eventually, there was no gold left in B.C which meant many prospectors left B.C to go back to their homes. However, some prospectors decided to stay and their bloodline is still found in B.C to this day. Around the time of 1870, the Canadian Confederation was a group of provinces that B.C considered joining. That is why in 1871, B.C formally joined the Canadian Confederation and became independent.