

## Unit 1: Video 2 Transcript

**Q9** Why is studying pre-Confederation of Canada important for students?

A: The great majority of historians of Canada concentrate on the 20th century. And I feel it's a bit of a personal mission to remind people that the 20th century didn't come out—20th century Canada did not come out of nowhere. It came out of an earlier past. And whether it's called Canada as a transcontinental nation or not, and it's not, of course, prior to 1871. I don't think you can fully understand modern Canada without being acquainted with New France, with the, you know, British Columbia in the fur trade era, with the Prairies at the time of the Hudson's Bay Company and so on. And, you know, Newfoundland as a, you know, fascinating very special place that wasn't part of Canada until 1949. I don't think you can understand Canada without having that background, that sense of that—that very different and very diverse set of places and peoples and events that it came out of.