



## **173 Years of Responsible Government in Canada**

**March 11, 2021**

173 years ago today, the 11th of March, Canada became a democracy. Louis-Hippolyte LaFontaine was called to form a government with Robert Baldwin as his number two. This was the beginning of Responsible Government.

It was citizens, through their elected representatives, deciding who would govern. Was it incomplete? Were women left out? Yes to both. But it was a remarkable breakthrough for a colony which, as a result of Responsible Government, immediately became semi-independent.

Over the next three years, "The Great Ministry" removed the mechanisms of the English class system and gave first formal structures for what we call egalitarianism, inclusion and justice. We're still trying, but today, 173 years ago, was the beginning.