How did Canada and Canadians respond to the Great Depression?
R.B. Bennett

- Became target for peoples frustration
- Bennett Barnyard - deserted farm
- Bennett blanket - newspaper
- Eggs Bennett - boiled chestnuts
- fear of jobless becoming communist
- 1931 Communist Party banned
- Tim Buck (general secretary arrested)
- Like Mackenzie was a bachelor
- secretly generous - sent thousands of his own money to people in need
Relief Camps

- creation of **work camp/** first provincial then federal
- located in the woods - isolation
- building roads, drainage ditches, clearing land
- 20 cents a day + room and board
- living conditions horrible
- 170 000 men in camps
1935 1000’s men left BC camps to protest conditions
Relief Camp Workers Union
traveled to Regina via rail stopped by RCMP
Leaders were allowed to continue to Ottawa
Union leaders met with Bennett /high hopes
Bennett not agreeable / called them radicals
Slim Evans - Bennett wasn’t fit to run country
RCMP in Regina told to clear out trekkers - resistance
clash - 1 dead, many injured, 130 arrested
Trouble in Vancouver

- 1937 Federal Government closed relief camps
- Provincial Government decreased relief payments
- April 1600 protesters - Vancouver Art Gallery, Post Office, Georgia Hotel
- Men at Post Office refused to leave / tear gas is a strong motivator
- 2 days of conflict / police - “sitdowners”

June 19, 1938
Bloody Sunday
Political Changes

- 1932 **CCF Cooperative Commonwealth Federation** formed
  - Farmers, laborers, socialists, intellectuals
  - Led by J.S. Woodsworth / Remember Winnipeg?

**Regina Manifesto** - party platform
- Public ownership of key industries
- Social programs - people need money
- Elderly, unemployed, homeless, sick,
- Creation of public works to create jobs

Woodsworth or is it Lenin?
1935 Social Credit Party

- led by William Aberhart “Bible Bill”
- preacher and highschool teacher
- capitalism was a wasteful economic system
- banks hoard money - should be released for people to buy goods
- $25 a month to buy necessities
- fed govt. said no way - issuing new currency
- party was in power until 1971
- Successors - Ernest Manning, Harry Strom
Ontario

- Provincially, voters expressed discontent by voting out gov’ts
- Liberals came to power for the first time in twenty-nine years
- Mitch Hepburn championed the “little man”
- In truth he was a ruthless strikebreaker

1934
Quebec

- Maurice Duplessis came to power as the leader of the new Union Nationale party
- Relied on rural and Roman Catholic votes
- Blamed the English for Quebec’s social and economic problems
- Premier until 1959

1936
Dufferin Pattullo was elected in 1933
Promised a “Little New Deal” modeled after the U.S.
Shortened the work week
Increased minimum wage
Public works programs were launched
Pattullo Bridge & Vancouver City Hall
Mackenzie King

- Prime Minister for 22 years - 1921-1926, 1926-1930, 1935-1948
- Was noted as being dull
- Secret “bad boy” life - talked to the dead (mom. dogs, other politicians), & kinky stuff
- 1935 Mackenzie King is re-elected
- Voters tired of Bennett not dealing with economic problems
- Established commission to find solution but didn’t follow the recommendations
- Good relationship with Churchill and Roosevelt
Tension between Federal and Provincial Government

- 1937 Rowell-Sirois Commission examined Federal-Provincial relationship
- Recommended more federal control over taxes
- Recommended equalization payments to “have not” provinces
- Wealthy provinces didn’t like the idea
Distractions

- Movies, magazines and radio were popular
- Canadians enjoyed US programming e.g. Lone Ranger, big band music
- CBC introduced in 1936 and has been boring teenagers ever since
- CBC offered programming in French and English
Dionne Quintuplets

- 1934 - born in Ontario
- Parents judged unable to raise children by government
- Taken into care
- Put on display by government
- Ont. made millions
- Money was never given to girls
Grey Owl

- Englishman who pretended to be a Canadian Aboriginal
- Archie Belaney
- Devoted life to the preservation of Northern Canadian forests
- Most famous Canadian of his day
- Irony - The most famous Canadian Aboriginal was a European