**Premiers Who Raised Provincial Clout**

**Maurice Duplessis: Quebec Premier (1936-1939; 1944-1959) under Union Nationale**

* **Promoted Quebec as a “distinct society” and nation rather than province**
* **Saw Roman Catholic Church as defender of Quebec culture -> focus on farm, faith, and family**
* **RC Church ran hospitals and schools with religion playing key role**
* **Encouraged foreign investment but discouraged foreign culture**
* **Known for corruption and bribery**

**Rene Levesque: Quebec Premier (1976-1985) Parti Quebecois**

* **Created his own separatist party after being disillusioned by the federal Liberals**
* **Focused on strengthening French language and issued Bill 101, the “Charter of the French Language” (French is only official language and commercial signs have to be in French; immigrant children have to attend French schools)**
* **Called a referendum in 1980 for Quebec to be politically independent through sovereignty association (lost on a 40-60 vote)**
* **Did not sign the new Constitution proposed by Trudeau (patriation) in 1982**

**Bill Davis: Ontario Premier (1971-1985) Progressive Conservatives**

* **Oppose PM Clark’s austerity measures including a gas tax; his argument led to collapse of federal Tories**
* **Supported Trudeau on patriation and National Energy Program**
* **Supported bilingualism and the Ontario Human Rights Code**
* **Supported merger of Progressive Conservatives and Canadian Alliance to form the Conservative Party of Canada**

**W.A. Bennett: B.C. Premier (1952-1979) Social Credit**

* **Longest serving premier in B.C.**
* **Led B.C. into an era of modernization and introduced the first provincial flag west of Quebec**
* **Introduced Crown Corporations by creating B.C. Ferries, B.C. Hydro and B.C. Rail and Bank of British Columbia**
* **Introduced universal health care and created UBC, Simon Fraser and UVic**
* **Instrumental in negotiating the Columbia River Treaty with USA**

**Peter Loughheed: Alberta Premier (1971- 1985) Progressive Conservatives**

* **Developed Alberta’s oil and gas resources**
* **Created Alberta Heritage Savings Trust Fund (use resource revenues for health care and research)**
* **Opposed Trudeau’s National Energy Program**
* **Instrumental in bid for Calgary as site of Olympics**

**Frank McKenna: New Brunswick Premier (1987-1997)Liberal**

* **Put New Brunswick on the map through PR operations and video releases**
* **Won every seat in the legistlature**
* **Went on to become successful business man and is current chair of TD Canada**