<u>Social Studies Group Problem Solving Activity</u>

PROBLEM

In 1759 after the Seven Years War the English finally defeated the French Canadiens. A challenging problem for the English government immediately arose: **"How could they deal with the newly conquered French Canadien territory and its peoples?"**

Consider the following:

1. The newly conquered French lands covered a huge territory extending from the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River system south to the Gulf of Mexico. At the time of surrender most of this area was a vast wilderness but it did contain scattered settlements, traders and soldiers and native peoples, many of whom had sided with the French during the war. The main population of course was along the St. Lawrence River focused on towns like Quebec City and Montreal.
2. The French economy, based primarily on the fur trade, was in chaos. The French were not self-sufficient anyway. Many of their manufactured goods and some of their food had come from France. The trade with France ended with the French defeat.
3. The French Canadiens were mainly of the Catholic religion, while the English conquerors were mainly Protestant and had strict rules against allowing Catholics into positions of power and authority.
4. The French spoke French and English and the English spoke English and very few were bilingual…….and that was a problem.
5. The French Canadien social system, culture and customs were in many ways different from the English. Also they were used to being ruled from France.
6. French pride had been hurt. They were fearful of the English and what they might do.
7. Winter was coming….
8. ?

Group Activity

List your recommendations to the English government on how to solve their problem. With a partner, list a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 10 resolutions. Back up each of your statements with supporting points. Eg, "No French Canadien is permitted to possess firearms. This should help head off any future uprising against the English.