



# Module 6 Lesson 2

**Pierre du Gua de Mons (1558 -1628)**

**Part 2**

**Cornelis de Bellois**



In Part 1, we learnt that *forces in France were at work against Du Gua's endeavours in Acadia.*

*The colony in Acadia failed eventually because of jealousy from Saint Malo merchants who were not included in the monopoly.*



It has been suggested that the **Duc de Sully** lobbying with the **'Paris Hatters' Corporation'**, had influenced the King to revoke Du Gua's privileges.

**Champlain, Poutrincourt and the rest of the settlers were instructed to return to France in 1607.**



**Sully did not support Henry IV's interest in colonization.**  
He was of the opinion that it did not jive with French interests.

**He opposed Champlain and Du Gua's efforts** which urged  
the crown for greater colonial efforts in **Acadia and New  
France.**



**Expenses exceeded the income** to maintain the colony.

In the **Fall of 1607**, an assessment of the business was done and the accounts showed that even with **high revenues from fur trading**, **operating costs to support the colony were very high.**



Du Gua's personal loss was **10,000 livres**.

He had raised **90,000 livres** but **lost 10,000** livres of his own investments. He was in the red.

As word spread about this new lucrative business, Du Gua was unable to prevent **interlopers** from encroaching on his monopoly.



An influx of private vessels rushed to the area illegally to trade with the Indians, ignoring the terms of the monopoly.



The terms of Du Gua's monopoly was - **trade with the Indians and use the funds to provide the necessities for the colonists to survive in Acadia** - a burden which interlopers did not have to bear.

# Du Gua In New France



**In 1607/1608**, Du Gua had the monopoly extended for 1 year.

He pledged that he would now establish **a post on the St. Lawrence at Tadoussac.**



Previously, in 1599/1600, **François Gravé du Pont** and **Pierre Chauvin de Tonnetuit** had built a trading post there.

Thus, his efforts at colonization were resumed, but **in New France**.



Du Gua also acquired **two business partners**, (**Lucas Legendre and Collier**). *(2nd company)*

He now sent out **3 vessels**

- one vessel was to go to **Port Royal** under Angibault, dit Champdoré
- one to the **Tadoussac** area
- and the other to found a trading post at **Quebec (City)** directed by Champlain.



This trading venture **brought in a small profit.**

The plan was for *the Quebec trading post to also be used as a base for Champlain's exploration further West.*



**In 1608**, the monopoly was not renewed because there was not as much success in the new method of colonizing by developing more trading posts.

Instead, the fur trade was open to all.



**The rights he held in Acadia were eventually passed on to the Marquise de Guercheville.**

**Even though Du Gua was officially granted a compensation of 6,000 livres for his efforts, he never received it.**



The company decided to continue their operations in two phases:

1. have Champlain manage the Quebec post and to conduct explorations westward
2. Francois Grave du Pont would manage the fur trade at Tadoussac.



**In 1611 (after Henry IV died), trade in lumber was added to the portfolio when Du Gua shipped the first lumber export of oak from Canada to France.**



Du Gua continued to send out supply-ships to the colonists which included goods to be traded with the Indians.

**Champlain maintained the Quebec post, continued exploration westward, and came into contact with new Natives.**



**The company continued to operate at a loss and his two partners called it quits.**

They could not continue to maintain the Quebec post.



The unrelenting visionary in **Du Gua**, bought the shares of **his partners** so that Champlain could continue his work and the colony would be maintained.

He was convinced of the importance of the exploration work Champlain was doing, He could not abandon Quebec.



**In 1612**, (*after Henry IV died*) with some royal lobbying, Du Gua and Champlain successfully had the title of **Viceroy** given first to the **Comte de Soissons** and then to the **Prince de Condé**.



Protected by these viceroys, **Du Gua was able to organize yet another company with privileges restricted just to Canada (New France)** where his partners won the monopoly.  
*(3rd company)*



**Until 1617**, Du Gua continued to be active in the Canadian fur trade, encouraging the exploration and settlement of the country.

**After 1617**, he returned to his home, continuing to be a shareholder in successive trading companies **until 1622**.



**In 1622, he and Cornelis de Bellois** became members of the **Company of Montmorency.**

*(4th. company)*

Du Gua's vision to develop Canada, and his personal sacrifice of time and money, made it possible for Champlain to accomplish as much as he did.



**The founding of New France and Acadia, rests firmly on the shoulders of Pierre Du Gua de Monts. Du Gua left a rich legacy behind:**

- He inspired others with his vision, energy and direction to develop the first permanent colony in Canada.



- He used trade as the means to provide funds for colonies to prosper and exploration of Canada to happen.
- He was undaunting in his sacrificial service at personal loss to himself for the greater good of the colonies he founded.



- He encouraged and supported his gifted friend, Samuel de Champlain, who made Du Gua's dream come true.
- He proved that agricultural endeavours could be sustained in Canada and that Europeans could live here successfully, thus expanding commercial trade between France and Canada.



- Because of his brave and pioneering venture, he put Canada on the map so that it was better known in Europe. *Champlain and Lescarbot acclaim his contribution as having immeasurable value, as recorded in their writings.*



*In **1606**, **Lescarbot** dedicated the following poem by the name of*

***Adieu à la France (1606) to Du Gua:***

*[De Monts, it is you whose high courage has traced the way for such a great undertaking, and for this reason, in spite of the attack of time, the leaf of your fame will grow green in an eternal spring.]*



# Cornelis de Bellois



**De Bellois** was probably from Antwerp in Belgium. It is said that in the **1570's** he was already financing French fishing expeditions to Newfoundland. He became a French subject and invested in fur trading instead.



Between **1604** and **1608**, it is estimated that **he outfitted at least 10 ships** for fur trading in **Canada**.

From **1613** to **1620**, he became part of the trading company, **'Company of Montmorency'** which included **Du Gua, Francois Grave du Pont** and **Champlain** as members, together with other Flemish investors and partners.



**These members were all Protestants.**

The fur trade was linked by **merchant families** who had an **ancestry in the mercantile trade, had religious affiliations, or had intermarried with them.**



One of these **Dutch** families was the **Duysterloo** family, of which **Matthijs** was associated with the **Paris Hatters Corporation**, and virtually cornered that market.

Another **Duysterloo** by the name of **Hendrick**, was a financial backer of **Francois Grave du Pont**, who worked closely with Champlain in supporting and maintaining the colony in Quebec.



It is said that **Francois Grave** had been trading in furs between **1590** and **1620**.

In the early **1600's** some of these **fur trading merchants** **pirated other ships, seizing their cargo.**

The report made by Du Gua about the influx of unauthorised vessels for the fur trade has been substantiated.



**A Dutch pirate ship, the Witte Leeuw around 1606, had attacked Du Gua's ship** seizing their cargo, cannon and ammunition.

This elicited a **letter of protest in 1607 by King Henry IV** to the States General of the Dutch Republic.



**Henry IV** claimed that they had trespassed in French territorial waters.

**Pierre Du Gua de Mons** received restitution from the company which had hired the **Witte Leeuw**. The company was further forbidden to sail in Canadian waters.



The end of Du Gua's monopoly, the death of Henry IV, Hudson's discovery of the bay named after him in 1611, and the doctrine of freedom of the seas published by Hugh Grotius, conspired, it is said, to set the trajectory for the more aggressive influx of fur traders which Du Gua saw as 'interlopers'