

New Brunswick

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Province. Its situation on the Atlantic coast and covers some 13 500 square kilometres. Its early prosperity was derived from timber and shipbuilding industries; today its population is more than 200 000 and has a variety of economic activities ranging from processing light and heavy manufacturing products for domestic and foreign markets.

Cities and population

Over 45 per cent of the population lives in the province's eight urban centres. 34 per cent has English as a first language, while 23 per cent has French. New Brunswick, with a high percentage of francophones outside the province of Quebec, has a truly bilingual character.

The largest city is Saint John, with 60 000 inhabitants. Moncton, the second largest, has an estimated 50 000 and the provincial capital, Fredericton, has 45 000.

Geography

Government was first attracted to New Brunswick because of its strategic location. The terrain is therefore rugged. The coast is 1 100 km long. The province is a New

England. The highest elevation is 1 160 m. Canadian provinces. Approximately 70 per cent are soft woods such as spruce, balsam and fir. The rest are hardwoods, of which there are more than 25 varieties.

New Brunswick is especially forested. It had its first lumber mill in 1785 which cut through the province. It would have been impossible for the early settlers to penetrate the interior. The St. John River has been called "North America's Rhine" because of its importance as an early trading route as well as historic industry for centuries. Waterways such as the St. John River were used by the Micmac and Maliseet Indians for transportation, an example followed by the Europeans.

History

For many years, New Brunswick was a place Europeans feared. After being founded in October 1784, it was an attraction for French fishermen, hunters and settlers. Six years later, the change was the appearance of British and traders along the coast of Acadian Canada. In the 1750s, Acadia was first known to the British. Acadia had a large number of French fishermen and hunters who were attracted to the rich fisheries and fur trade. The British government was not interested in the province until the 1750s when it was needed as a base for military operations against the French. In 1764, the British government decided to settle the province and in 1776, it was officially established as a province. The first settlers were British and French. The province was named in honour of the British monarch, King George III.