

## Atlantic Canada

The combined influence of air masses from eastern Canada and the United States with air currents off the ocean give this region one of the most variable climates anywhere in the country. In winter, mean temperatures can vary markedly as Arctic air is replaced by maritime air from passing storms. Snowfall is relatively heavy and fog common in spring and early summer. The warmest month is July, when mean temperatures are in the 16-18°C range.

## The North

Spanning the entire country immediately north of the Prairies and populated Great Lakes/St. Lawrence region is the boreal forest. This area is usually snow-covered more than half the year, with a frost-free period of barely two months. Precipitation is light, except along the coast of Labrador where the influence of Atlantic storms is felt.

Further north, above the tree-line, lies the Arctic. Here, there are only a few weeks of above-freezing temperatures. A few feet below the delicate but tenacious vegetation that grows in summer, the ground remains frozen year-round.

## Adapting to Climatic Change

Over the centuries, Canadians have learned to savour the changing seasons, to adapt to their variable climate and to pay attention to climatic vagaries. Futile attempts to start the car on a -30°C morning, for instance, have imparted a healthy respect for Mother Nature upon the national psyche. Yet the fruits of modern technology — advanced snow removal, heated and air-conditioned shopping centres, indoor recreation facilities and inter-connected office complexes — have brought protection from the extremes of heat and cold. Still, on the whole, Canadians tend to enjoy the variety and beauty that four distinct seasons bring.

## Means of Temperature and Precipitation\*

	January	April	July	October	Annual
<b>Vancouver</b>					
<i>Temperature (°C)</i>					
Mean daily high	5.2	12.8	21.9	13.6	13.5
Mean daily low	-0.2	4.7	12.6	6.4	6.0
Mean	2.5	8.8	17.3	10.0	9.8
<i>Precipitation (mm)</i>					
Rainfall	130.7	59.3	32.0	114.0	1055.5
Snowfall	25.7	0.3	0.0	0.0	60.4
Total	153.8	59.6	32.0	114.0	1112.6
<b>Regina</b>					
<i>Temperature (°C)</i>					
Mean daily high	-12.6	9.4	26.1	11.9	8.5
Mean daily low	-23.2	-2.8	11.7	-1.5	-4.1
Mean	-17.9	3.3	18.9	5.2	2.2
<i>Precipitation (mm)</i>					
Rainfall	0.3	14.3	53.3	11.4	287.2
Snowfall	20.0	10.9	0.0	8.2	115.7
Total	16.6	23.7	53.3	18.8	384.0
<b>Toronto</b>					
<i>Temperature (°C)</i>					
Mean daily high	-2.5	11.5	26.8	14.6	12.4
Mean daily low	-10.9	0.8	14.2	3.9	2.1
Mean	-6.7	6.2	20.6	9.3	7.3
<i>Precipitation (mm)</i>					
Rainfall	21.3	61.8	71.4	61.0	637.2
Snowfall	33.4	7.4	0.0	0.9	131.2
Total	50.4	70.0	71.4	61.8	761.5
<b>Montreal</b>					
<i>Temperature (°C)</i>					
Mean daily high	-5.7	10.6	26.1	13.3	10.9
Mean daily low	-14.6	0.8	15.6	4.1	1.5
Mean	-10.2	5.7	20.9	8.7	6.2
<i>Precipitation (mm)</i>					
Rainfall	23.7	63.5	90.0	73.8	722.9
Snowfall	52.7	9.7	0.0	1.7	235.1
Total	72.0	74.1	90.0	75.5	946.2
<b>Halifax</b>					
<i>Temperature (°C)</i>					
Mean daily high	-0.1	7.9	21.7	13.4	10.7
Mean daily low	-8.1	0.0	13.0	5.5	2.6
Mean	-4.1	4.0	17.4	9.5	6.6
<i>Precipitation (mm)</i>					
Rainfall	97.5	86.1	97.1	119.2	1157.3
Snowfall	45.7	13.0	0.0	1.7	198.6
Total	143.3	100.5	97.1	121.0	1361.4
<b>St. John's</b>					
<i>Temperature (°C)</i>					
Mean daily high	-0.5	4.5	20.2	10.4	8.6
Mean daily low	-7.2	-2.2	10.7	3.4	1.0
Mean	-3.9	1.2	15.5	6.9	4.8
<i>Precipitation (mm)</i>					
Rainfall	77.9	78.1	75.3	140.6	1157.3
Snowfall	81.4	34.6	0.0	4.4	359.4
Total	155.8	115.6	75.3	145.5	1513.6

\*Data from *Principal Station Data*, published by Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment Canada, 1983

