

early Scottish settlement and the years of the massive European (and Eastern Canadian) influx before World War I to the present day, the province has attracted settlers and immigrants from around the world. Drawn here at first by the rich farm land and later by city jobs, these hard-working newcomers populated and developed the province.

Manitoba is cosmopolitan. British, French, Germans, Ukrainians, Indians and Inuit, *Métis*, Poles, Dutch, Scandinavians and Italians are among the main ethnic groups.

Over half the population lives in the city of Winnipeg and most of the remainder inhabits other cities, towns and villages. All in all more than 70 per cent of the people are in urban centres. This is quite a change from the earliest days when the bulk of the population was rural. But the rural-urban shift didn't happen suddenly. Its roots can be traced back to the turn of the century.

History

The first Manitobans were Indians and, much later, the Inuit. Indians have lived in the province for some 12,000 years and used tools of stone and copper. Their livelihood was dependent upon the hunting of bison, moose and caribou. Their diet was, however, supplemented by the fish that stocked the lakes and rivers. Traces of these ancient civilizations have been found in the pottery and other artifacts left by

the woodland Indians and the red and orange designs on rocks and cliffs in certain areas of the province. In south-eastern Manitoba, they arranged boulders in various geometrical shapes to portray the rising of the sun and moon.

Today, there are more than 45,000 Indians living either in urban centres or on reserves scattered around the province. Some rely on the land for their livelihood, and others are employed in fishing, mining exploration, logging, service and manufacturing industries.

The Inuit appeared in Manitoba approximately 3,500 years ago and small numbers can still be found in the most northern section of the province and in communities along Hudson Bay.

Captain Thomas Button was the first European to set foot in Manitoba. This was in 1612. Button landed at what now is Port Nelson on Hudson Bay and spent the winter there.

Europeans were lured to Manitoba by the possibility of harvesting the great cash crop of the northwest — furs. For almost 200 years it provided the region's main economic activity. But in those days Manitoba was not a province. In 1670 Charles II of England gave the Hudson's Bay Company sovereignty over Rupert's Land, an area which included all of present-day Manitoba. In effect, the company governed the area through the forts and posts it built. Colonization was not