

mainly in Ontario and Quebec, although some of the  
Northern Territories and the Yukon, where the  
Inuit population is concentrated.

The Indian population of Canada is widely scattered  
with different racial and cultural backgrounds and in varying  
stages of economic and social development from the primitive  
nomadic hunter to the highly skilled industrial worker or  
member of the learned professions. Like every other community  
in Canada, the Indian population is subject to the economic  
social and occupational fluctuations of the region in which it  
lives. For general purposes the Indian population may be grouped  
according to the nature of its economic base or activity.

(1) Atlantic Region - The tribes inhabiting the Atlantic  
coast of Canada lived in small groups and had a  
primitive economy. However, they are now mainly engaged in  
forestry, fishing, mining and service industries  
and have much the same problems as other Canadians  
making their home in the same region.

(2) St. Lawrence Basin - The Indian population of the  
St. Lawrence Basin is concentrated in the St. Lawrence  
and Great Lakes regions that form the Ontario and  
Old Quebec were inhabited by two main groups  
of Indians, the Iroquois, including Hurons and the  
Algonquians, including Ojibwa, Algonquians, and  
Abenakis. The economy and culture of these two main  
groups differed widely. The Iroquois were agriculturists  
and had developed agriculture to a great extent before  
the coming of the Europeans, while the Algonquians  
depended mainly on the hunt for their livelihood.  
Today, those in the settled areas are engaged mainly  
in forestry and industrial and professional pursuits,  
while those in the more remote areas are mostly in  
forestry, fishing, hunting, and trapping for a living.

(3) The Prairies - In the Prairie Provinces the Indians  
who depended upon the buffalo for practically all their  
needs had to adapt themselves to new conditions following  
the extermination of this animal. An intensive policy  
of agricultural settlement has been necessary, many  
Indians are now successful ranchers and cattlemen, a  
remarkable transformation in view of  
the fact that they had no previous agricultural experience.

(4) Pacific Region - The Indians inhabiting the coastal areas  
of this region were traditional hunters and fishermen  
and today are active in the commercial fishing  
industry. In the interior, with growing and trapping are  
important, while many Indians are now living in  
lumbering. In the northern area trapping is the principal  
occupation.

(5) Protonic Field - Originally, the Indians in this area  
were entirely dependent upon game and fishing for their  
food. Although there were periods of plenty in good years  
and periods of starvation and starvation when game  
was scarce. On the whole, their life has been a hard  
one. The extent of their livelihood, and the  
region has witnessed a remarkable change in recent years  
with the advent of the pulp and paper industry.  
In the more settled regions of this area, the  
employment of the Indians, while still in other  
occupations, is rapidly increasing.