



English-Speaking Canadians

The other Canadian provinces are mainly English-speaking. Most recent statistics indicate that 47.9 per cent of all Canadians are of British stock. The Atlantic Provinces have the highest proportion (almost seventy-five per cent) and, next to Quebec, the Prairie Provinces have the lowest (forty-five per cent). During the American Revolution large groups of pro-British settlers (known as United Empire Loyalists) fled the Thirteen Colonies for the British havens of New Brunswick and southern Ontario and they and their descendants have had an influence out of all proportion to their numbers.

More than three million of the population are of Scottish and Irish descent. Many of the early fur traders and explorers were Scottish.



Three of them, Mackenzie, Fraser and Thompson, gave their names to three of Canada's great rivers. Such place names as Inverness and Glengarry tell their own story of Scottish settlement. In part of Nova Scotia, Cape Breton Island, the Gaelic tongue is in current use; here the kilt is a familiar sight and the traditional Highland games an annual event. In business, public life, agricultural settlement, and education the Scottish people have played a leading part. Some of the country's banks and universities were founded by Scottish immigrants and many of their presidents today are of Scottish blood.

The Irish came to Canada during the terrible potato famine of the nineteenth century and settled in large numbers in New Brunswick and Ontario. Irish lumbermen played an especially colourful part in the early development of the country.

