

Iroquoian peoples, including the Hurons, are found in Ontario and Quebec; Athapaskans inhabit the Yukon and Northwest Territories as well as parts of the interior of British Columbia, while tribes of Sioux inhabit parts of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The Indian population of Canada is widely scattered, with differing 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 band or group is subject to the economic, social and geographical influences of the region in which it lives. For general purposes the Indian population may be grouped according to the natural economic zones of the country:

*Atlantic Seaboard* -- On the Atlantic seaboard, the various tribes lived originally by hunting and had no agriculture. Today, however, they are mainly engaged in forestry, agriculture, fishing and native handicrafts, and live much the same life as other Canadians making their homes in the Maritime Provinces.

*St. Lawrence Basin, South of the Laurentian Plateau* -- At the time of European settlement, the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes regions that became the nuclei of the present Provinces of Ontario and Quebec were inhabited, as now, by two main groups of Indians: Iroquoians, including Hurons, and the Algonkians, including Ojibways, Algonkins, and Abenakis. The Iroquoians were agriculturalists, being the only aboriginal race in Canada which had developed agriculture to any great extent before the coming of the European, while the Algonkians depended mainly on hunting for their livelihood. Today, those in the settled areas are engaged mainly in farming and industrial and professional pursuits, while those in the more remote areas rely mostly on forestry, fishing, hunting, and trapping for a living.

*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 its near extinction. An intensive policy of agricultural assistance has been necessary. Many Indians are now successful ranchers and grain-growers, a remarkable transition in a few generations in view of the fact that no previous agricultural experience was available to guide them.

*Pacific Region* -- The Indians inhabiting the coastal areas of this region were traditionally sailors and fishermen and today they are active in the commercial fishing industry, as well as in logging and other industries peculiar to the region. In the interior, fruit-growing and ranching are important, while many Indians earn their livelihood in lumbering. In the northern areas, trapping is the principal occupation.