

Iroquoian stock, including the Hurons, is found mainly in Ontario and Quebec, Athapaskan stock inhabits the Northern Territories and the Yukon, while tribes of Sioux inhabit parts of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The Indian population of Canada is widely scattered, with differing racial and cultural background, 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:

- (1) Atlantic Seaboard - The tribes inhabiting the Atlantic seaboard originally lived by hunting and had no agriculture. Today, however, they are mainly engaged in forestry, agriculture, fishing, and native handicrafts, and face much the same problems as other Canadians making their homes in the same region.
- (2) St. Lawrence Basin, South of the Laurentian Plateau - At the time of European settlements, the St. Lawrence and Great Lakes regions that became Old Ontario and Old Quebec were inhabited, as now, by two main groups of Indians: the Iroquois, including Hurons, and the Algonkians, including Chippewas, Mississaguas, and Abenakis. The economy and culture of these two main groups differed widely. The Iroquois were agriculturists, 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 the chase 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.
- (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 near extinction of this animal. 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 they had no previous agricultural experience.
- (4) 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. In the interior, fruit growing and ranching are important, while many Indians earn their livelihood in lumbering. In the northern area trapping is the principal occupation.
- (5) Precambrian Shield - Originally, the Indians in this area were entirely dependent upon hunting and fishing for their food, alternating between periods of plenty in good game years and periods of privation and starvation when game was scarce. On the whole, they still depend to a large extent upon the chase for their livelihood. But this region has witnessed a remarkable change in recent years with the advent of the airplane. The pulp-wood industry in the more accessible regions of this area provides employment for many Indians, while mining and other projects are changing employment patterns.