

Ontario is first among Canada's provinces in wealth and power.

It is more than a thousand miles from north to south and a thousand miles wide, bigger than Spain and France combined. More than a third of all Canadians live there.

It is divided into districts you've never heard of—Patricia, Nipissing, Cochrane, Timiskaming, Rainy River and Kenora—and cities you have.

Two of the cities, Toronto and Ottawa—respectively Canada's centres of wealth and political power—are the principal reasons Ontario is not first in the hearts of its countrymen. They excite various emotions—a touch of pride, a dash of envy and a good deal of exasperation—in much the same way New York and Washington, D.C., do.

There are other cities of more normal dimensions—Hamilton, Kingston, Sudbury, Windsor, Peterborough, Stratford, Thunder Bay and Niagara-on-the-Lake, to name a few—and in this issue of CANADA TODAY/D'AUJOURD'HUI we focus on them.