

total land area, they include only 8 per cent of its productive forest. Forestry matters in both territories are governed both by statutes of the Canadian Parliament and by ordinances of the territorial councils. These are administered by the Government of Canada through the Northern Natural Resources and Environment Branch of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

Ownership of forest lands

For many years, the policy of both the federal and provincial governments has been to retain in public ownership lands not required for agricultural purposes. In some of the older settled parts of the country, however, the proportion of privately-owned land is high, especially in the Maritime Provinces — New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island — where nearly two-thirds of the productive forest area is privately owned.

In Canada as a whole, about 90 per cent of the non-reserved forest land classed as suitable for regular harvest is publicly owned. Apart from the two northern territories, nearly all of this is vested in the provinces and administered by provincial government departments. There are, however, in some provinces a considerable number of small forests owned by other public authorities such as counties and municipalities.

In addition to the forests of the Yukon and Northwest Territories, the federal Department of Indian and Northern Affairs is also responsible for the administration of the forest in 28 national parks and many Indian reserves within provincial boundaries. Scattered across the country are numerous small parcels of forested federal land, including those on Canadian Armed Forces bases and federal forest-experiment stations. The administration of these tracts, whose combined area amounts to less than 1 per cent of the provinces' total non-reserved forest land, is the responsibility of the appropriate federal agencies.

Although Canada's forests are chiefly under provincial jurisdiction, there are a number of circumstances in which federal law affects the forest industries — hence the use and management of the resources on which those industries are based. These include the regulation of trade and commerce, taxation, and interprovincial and international transportation.