the people live within 200 miles and 50% within 100 miles of the United States border. Montreal is its largest city, with a population of 1,139,921.

The largest racial groups in Canada's population are as follows:

British (English, Scottish, Irish)   5,715,904
French   3,483,038
German   464,682
Ukrainian   305,929
Scandinavian   244,603

While people of British stock are spread all over Canada, the French have concentrated in Quebec, with considerable French-Canadian settlements in Manitoba, around Winnipeg, and in northern and eastern Ontario. A census of the French colony in 1754 showed a population of 55,009; this group has grown to nearly three and a half millions, or about 30% of the population of Canada. With their own language, Church, and -- in Quebec -- their own laws and educational system, the French-Canadians have maintained intact their own way of life.

The other ethnic groups, though tending to settle in their own communities, mainly in the prairie provinces, are gradually being assimilated into English-speaking Canada.

HISTORY   The first settlers in Canada, excluding the Indians, were the French who came originally as fishermen and founded colonies on the Atlantic coast and along the St. Lawrence River at the beginning of the seventeenth century. Through their activity as fur traders they began the opening up of Canada. English settlements later in the century tended to centre along the Atlantic seabord to the south. But as the English also established trading posts farther into the interior, they came into a series of conflicts with the French which culminated in the Seven Years' War.

With the Treaty of Paris in 1763, French ascendancy in the new world was at an end and their North American settlements fell under British rule. Only 11 years later, England guaranteed the French way of life and enabled French Canada to preserve its customs and its unity by passing the Quebec Act which has been called the French-Canadian "Bill of Rights." Mainly as a result of this Act, the French refused to join the 13 colonies in the American War of Independence.

The influx of British settlers (the United Empire Loyalists) across the border after this war changed the whole future of Canada. Settling mostly along the St. Lawrence in what is now Ontario, and in the Maritimes, they began turning Canada into a multi-national and bi-lingual country. With them they brought their belief in representative government and other British institutions. After the turn of the century, immigrants from Ireland, Scotland and England flocked into Canada, helping to push back the frontiers and develop new settlements. In 1824 the population of British North America (excluding Newfoundland) was 900,000. By 1861 the population of the four separate colonies which had emerged was over 3,170,300.

These four -- Upper Canada (Ontario), Lower Canada (Quebec), Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, each with its own system of parliamentary government -- were drawn together in making plans for union or confederation for a variety of reasons; certain difficulties had arisen in the functioning of the political system; the need for a common plan of defence was felt; the development of trade made some kind of inter-colonial organization desirable; and, in the minds of the leaders at least, there was the idea of laying the foundation for a nation that would stretch from sea to sea, taking in the whole territory to the west of the Great Lakes.

July 1, 1867, was proclaimed the birthday of the Dominion of Canada. The Confederation inaugurated an era of expansion and tremendous development. Canadian Pacific Railway linking the Atlantic and Pacific coasts made possible the settling of the west, and helped to unite the nine provinces in one vast country. With the maximum encouragement from the railways and the government, immigrants not only from the British Isles but from all parts of Europe poured into Canada. Some settled in the great agricultural lands of the west, turning them into one of the world's leading granaries; some brought their skills to the urban centres of the east and played their part in the growing industrial-ization of the central section of the country. Between 1871 and 1911 the population doubled.

Problems of assimilation and internal development still abounded but