

provincial educational network, are also located in Toronto.

National network productions from Toronto studios are beamed to other major centres by Canada's ANIK satellites and are distributed regionally by microwave links. To coordinate them across Canada's six time zones, programs beamed from Toronto are taped and delayed for broadcast in the western provinces.

The Royal Ontario Museum, the Art Gallery of Ontario and the Ontario Science Centre are among the many public institutions in Ontario which house cultural treasures. The government also supports hundreds of cultural and recreational events in towns and cities across the province.

Sports and recreation

Spectator sports are a big business and a popular pastime in Ontario. In hockey, the professional Toronto Maple Leafs have shared national billing with their arch-rivals, the Montreal Canadiens, for years. Canadian football remains a strong favourite during the summer and fall with three professional teams – the Toronto Argonauts, the Ottawa Rough Riders and the Hamilton Tiger Cats being supported. The Toronto Blue Jays compete in the North American professional baseball league.

Participation in amateur sports is also growing owing to an increased

interest in fitness as well as to the excitement of competition. Since sports facilities are expensive, a large part of the funding for tracks, courts, pools, and arenas is provided by the federal and provincial governments.

For recreation, Ontario boasts more than 250 000 lakes that attract tourists. The focus of much of this tourist activity is the system of 132 parks in the province. Among other popular features are Niagara Falls (Ontario's leading tourist attraction), Ontario Place (a summer entertainment park on the Toronto waterfront) and Ottawa's annual Tulip Festival.

People and government

The 8.6 million people living in Ontario comprise some 36 per cent of the country's population. The southern part of the province especially, has drawn Canadians from across the country, as well as 50 000 immigrants every year and as a consequence, this area – especially Toronto – has become a truly multi-cultural society. Its Italian community numbers nearly half a million, the Black and Chinese each approximately 100 000.

Ontario's cultural mosaic is also made up of communities with deep roots in the province: the English, Scottish and Irish as well as the French, who number half a million and are concentrated in the north