

Territories. About 9% of the residents of the Northwest Territories are métis (the French word for mixed blood) or people of European and Indian blood.

“Eskimo” is the Algonquin Indian word for “raw meat eater”. Most Eskimos call themselves “Inuit” which simply means “men”.

Eskimos are thought to be an Asiatic people whose ancestors migrated from Northwestern Siberia, across the Bering Strait, to North America. The 17,500 Canadian Eskimos, who live mostly across the Northwest Territories, Arctic Quebec and Labrador, are part of a global family of approximately 83,000 living in Canada, Denmark, Russia and the United States. There is a remarkable uniformity about the Eskimo language which is understood from Greenland, across Canada, through Alaska, to Siberia.

Eskimos were primarily nomadic hunters. Today, many still earn a livelihood by hunting and trapping while others are wage earners.

1971 saw the publication of two books by Eskimo writers: Markoosie wrote *Harpon of the Hunter*, and Pitseolak, *Pictures Out of My Life*.

The term “Indian” was first applied to inhabitants of the New World by Columbus, on the false assumption that he had landed in India. A few years later, when John Cabot landed on what is now Newfoundland, he referred to the “red-skinned” people, those who were in the habit of painting their skin with red ochre. The two fallacies have been perpetuated and North American native peoples are still referred to as Indians.

Today the Indian population is estimated at 264,000 divided into 12 linguistic groups.