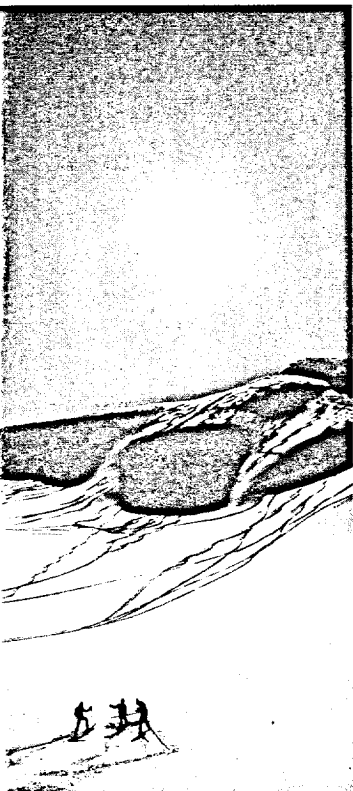




Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, known as the "gateway to the West," has a population of some 625 000; it recently lost the regional dominance it enjoyed throughout the period of early settlement. Calgary, Alberta, is home of the popular annual Calgary Stampede and staged the 1988 Winter Olympic Games. It has a population of approximately 671 000. The Alberta capital, Edmonton, which grew from a Hudson's Bay Company fur trading post in 1795, now has a population of some 785 000. About 186 000 people live in the Saskatchewan capital, Regina, once the headquarters of the North West Mounted Police which, since 1920, has been known as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police with headquarters in Ottawa.

