

British explorers who followed included Martin Frobisher, Sir John Franklin, Samuel Hearne and Alexander Mackenzie. The fur companies (the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company) established the first European settlements in the North.

Despite the many expeditions from which Britain drew its claim to the North, huge tracts remained unknown. In 1870, Britain transferred to the new Canadian government all Rupert's Land and the North West Territory. In 1880, Queen Victoria declared that the islands of the Arctic Archipelago were also to become part of Canada. It was not until the end of the century, however, that the Canadian government commissioned Captain Joseph Elzéar Bernier of Quebec to make the first of three Arctic voyages to take "formal possession of all lands and islands" on behalf of Canada. By 1912 the Northwest Territories assumed their present dimension.

In this century, the Canadian government has established Royal Canadian Mounted Police posts, weather stations, post offices, defence installations and medical and communications facilities throughout the North. In recent years, resource exploration and environmental protection have especially added to the national presence.

The North has always attracted and been home to a hardy breed of people. Much of the Northwest Territories' development since the turn of the century has been a chronicle of these

rugged individualists — men and women whose ancestors settled the North, and more recent arrivals in scarlet jackets, black robes and the leather headgear of the bush pilot.

The history of law enforcement in the Northwest Territories has been unique. In the wake of the Klondike gold fever came the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, whose dog team patrols became legendary. So important were the RCMP that the commissioner of the force was also commissioner of the territory from 1905 to 1919.

In the territory's recent history, the names Sissons and Morrow have earned a special place in the North. Mr. Justice Jack Sissons, at 63, became the first judge of the New Territorial Court in 1963. He and his successor, Mr. Justice William Morrow took the justice that had been imported from the south and gave it a northern face. Justice Morrow packed a pistol and a bottle of rye whiskey (to protect him against northern predators and the cold) when travelling his lonely circuit. They used a bush plane to take the judicial system to the very homes of the native people, and bent the law to the needs of a unique northern culture. Sissons became known to the Inuit as Ekoktoogee, "The One Who Listens to Things". At present the judiciary consists of a Supreme Court judge and three territorial judges, two in Yellowknife and one in Hay River.