

Facts and Stats

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- * The northern territories range from 60° N to 83° N latitude and include the Arctic Islands as well as islands in Hudson Bay. They account for roughly 40 per cent of Canada's land mass, but less than 1 per cent of its population.
- * The territorial governments, in cooperation with the federal government, are trying to reduce their dependence on the non-renewable resource sector by expanding the use of renewable resources and tourism.
- * Aboriginal people form the majority of the northern population. In the Yukon, people with Native ancestry accounted for 23 per cent of the population in 1991; in the Northwest Territories, they represent 62 per cent of the territorial population. In the eastern Arctic (Nunavut), Inuit make up 84 per cent of the population. Inuit also reside in northern Quebec and Labrador.
- * Native people have the highest birth rate in Canada, and have a high proportion of people under 25, compared to the national average.
- * In both territories, political development hinges on the continued transfer of provincial government-type responsibilities from federal departments and agencies to territorial public institutions. After several years of concentrating on land claim negotiations, territorial governments will likely focus now on devolution planning, particularly with respect to natural resource issues.

Source: Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

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