

which has traditionally drawn Canadians from across the country, as well as 50,000 immigrants every year. As a consequence, southern Ontario — especially Toronto — has become a truly multicultural 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 and east, and native Indians, who number some 20,000.

While most Canadians speak English or French (the two official languages of the country), many "third" languages enjoy wide use, especially in Ontario. Street signs in Toronto's "Chinatown", for example, are in English and Chinese. And the city has multilingual radio and television, which provide invaluable service to southern Ontario's many cultural communities.

The business of governing this society takes place in two Ontario cities. Ottawa is the national capital, where 95 of the 282 members of the House of Commons represent Ontario constituencies. Toronto is the seat of the provincial government, which, like its federal counterpart, is parliamentary in nature. The provincial legislature at Queen's Park,

in the heart of Toronto, has 117 representatives. Elections are held at least every five years. The governing party in Ontario since 1943 has been the Progressive Conservative, at present under the leadership of the Honourable William Davis. The opposition parties, of roughly equivalent strength, are the Liberals and the New Democrats.

Provincial governments in Canada have considerable authority, much of which is derived from the fact that, as a group, they now account for some 60 per cent of all public spending. Much of Ontario's government spending goes to social services. Health and education each account for a quarter of the total; social security (a jurisdiction shared with the federal government) and community services (the province has responsibility over municipal affairs) account for 10 per cent.

As economic hub and multiculturalism cosmopolis, Ontario occupies a unique place in Canadian society. And it promises to continue doing so.