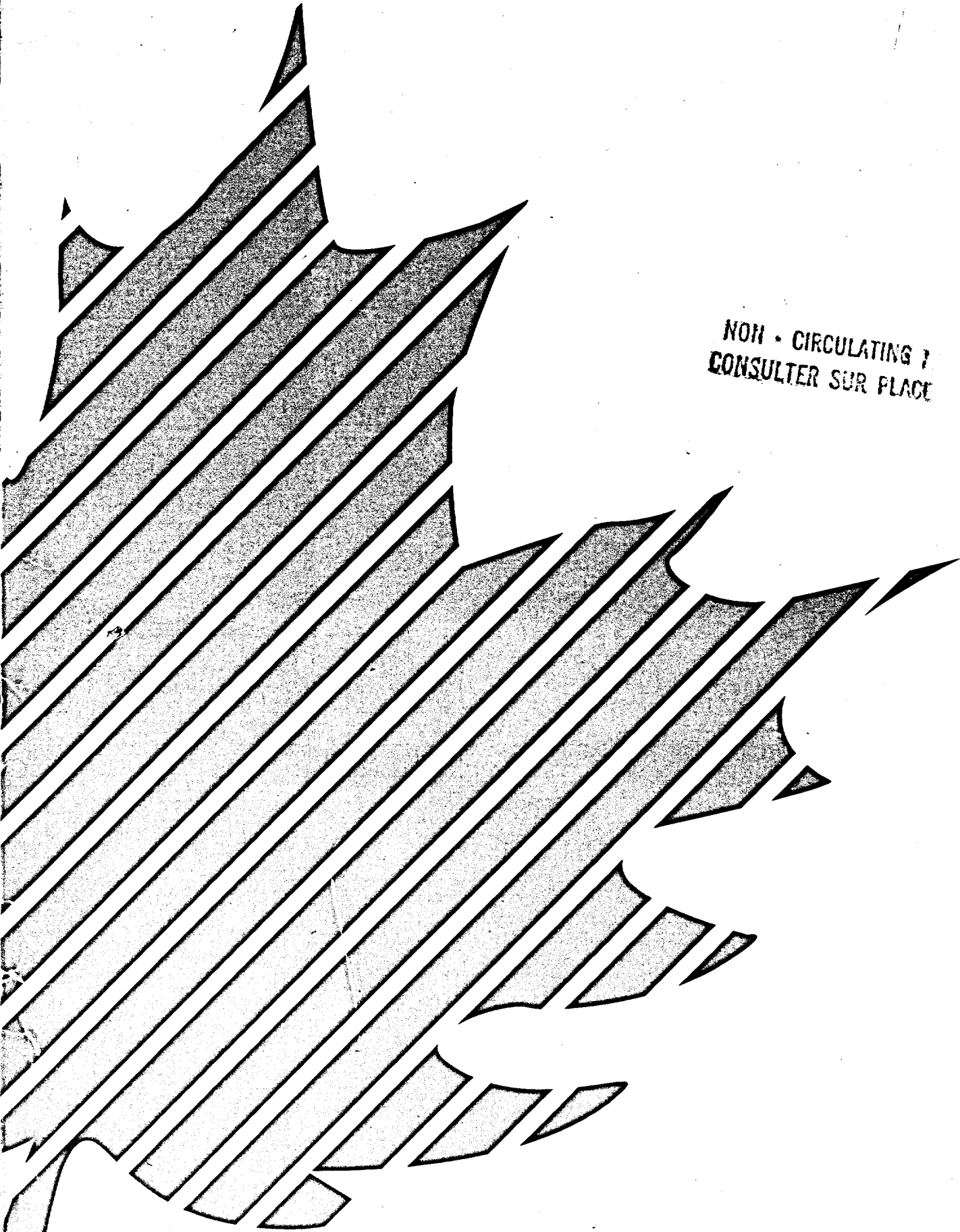


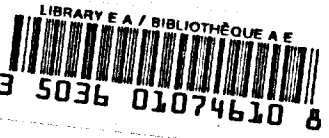
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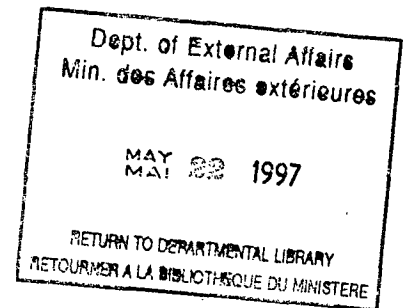
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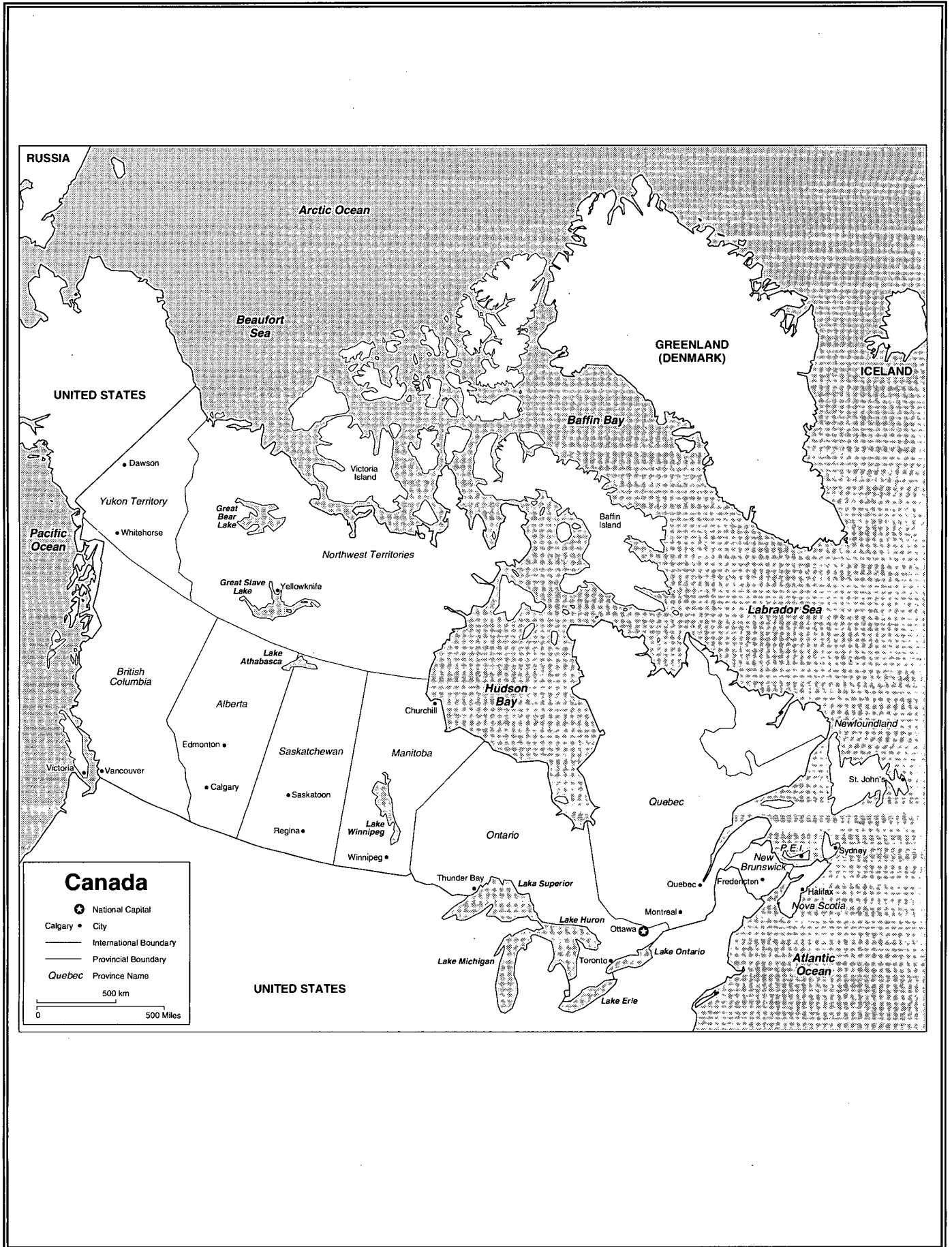
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Canada

Land Mass

At 9 970 610 km², Canada is the world's second-largest country.

Capital

Ottawa, in the province of Ontario.

Provinces and Territories

Canada has 10 provinces and 2 territories, each with its own capital city (in brackets): Alberta (Edmonton); British Columbia (Victoria); Prince Edward Island (Charlottetown); Manitoba (Winnipeg); New Brunswick (Fredericton); Nova Scotia (Halifax); Ontario (Toronto); Quebec (Quebec City); Saskatchewan (Regina); Newfoundland (St. John's); Northwest Territories (Yellowknife) and Yukon Territory (Whitehorse).

Geography

Diversity is the keynote of Canada's geography, which includes fertile plains suitable for agriculture, vast mountain ranges, lakes and rivers. Wilderness forests give way to arctic tundra in the Far North.

Climate

There are of course many climatic variations in this huge country, ranging from the permanently frozen icecaps north of the 70th parallel to the luxuriant vegetation of British Columbia's west coast. On the whole, though, Canada has four very distinct seasons, especially in the regions lying along the U.S. border.

Daytime summer temperatures can rise to 35 °C and higher, while lows of -25 are not uncommon in winter. More moderate temperatures are the norm in spring and fall.

National Parks and Historic Sites

The Canadian government has set aside more than 100 national parks and historic sites in honour of the people, places and events that have marked the country's history.

Similarly, the provincial governments may form provincial parks.

Canada's 37 national parks are spread throughout the country. Banff, located on the eastern slopes of Alberta's Rocky Mountains, is the oldest, having opened in 1885, while Vuntut in the northern Yukon was established as recently as 1993.

Mountain Ranges

As one might expect, Canada's terrain incorporates a number of mountain ranges: the Torngats, Appalachians and Laurentians in the east; the Rocky, Coastal and Mackenzie ranges in the west; and Mount St. Elias and the Pelly Mountains in the north. At 6050 m, Mount Logan in the Yukon is Canada's tallest peak.

Lakes

The main lakes, in order of the surface area located in Canada, (many large lakes are traversed by the Canada-U.S. border) are Huron, Great Bear, Superior, Great Slave, Winnipeg, Erie and Ontario. Great Bear Lake in the Northwest Territories is the largest lake situated entirely in Canada; its area is 31 326 km².

Rivers

The St. Lawrence River, which is 3058 km long, provides a seaway for ships from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. The Mackenzie is the longest river, flowing 4241 km through the Northwest Territories. The Yukon and the Columbia, parts of which flow through U.S. territory, the Nelson, the Saskatchewan, the Peace and the Churchill are also major watercourses.

Time Zones

Canada has six time zones. The easternmost, in Newfoundland, is three hours and 30 minutes behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). The

other time zones are the Atlantic, the Eastern, the Central, the Rocky Mountain and, farthest west, the Pacific, which is eight hours behind GMT.

Political System

Canada is a constitutional monarchy and a federal state with a democratic parliament. The Parliament of Canada, in Ottawa, consists of the House of Commons, whose members are elected, and the Senate, whose members are appointed. On average, members of Parliament are elected every four years.

National Emblem

The maple leaf has been associated with Canada since the 1700s. It has become the country's most important symbol since the national flag was introduced in 1965.

National Anthem

O Canada was proclaimed the national anthem on July 1, 1980, a century after being sung for the first time.

Currency

The Canadian dollar is divided into 100 cents.

Population

At the time of the June 1991 census, Canada's population was 27.3 million.

Main Cities

According to the 1991 census, the leading Canadian cities are Toronto (3.89 million), Montreal (3.12 million), Vancouver (1.60 million), Ottawa-Hull, the National Capital Region (0.92 million) and Edmonton (0.84 million).

Urban and Rural Population

The majority of Canadians, 76.6 percent, live in cities and towns, while 23.4 percent live in rural

areas. According to the 1991 census, 31 percent of the population (8.61 million people) live in the three largest cities of Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

Life Expectancy

Women can expect to live almost 80 years, and men, 73, years according to 1991 data.

Family Size

At the time of the 1991 national census, the average family size was 3.1, including 1.3 children.

Living Standard

Canada has one of the world's highest living standards. For example, in 1991, 83 percent of Canadian households had at least one car; 97.5 percent had colour televisions, and one out of five had a computer.

Health Care and Social Security

All Canadians have free access to health care, with the exception of dental services. Most people over 65 and social aid recipients receive the majority of their prescription drugs free of charge. Canada also has an extensive social security network, including old age pension, family allowance, unemployment insurance and welfare.

Native Peoples

In 1991, 533 000 Canadians were either status or non-status Indians, and over one million claimed to be of native descent: of these, 783 980 were North American Indians, 212 650 were Métis and 49 255 were Inuit (formerly called Eskimos).

Ontario had the highest concentration of natives — 243 550 — but the Northwest Territories had the highest proportion: more than 60 percent of its population is of native descent.

Only 295 032 Canadian natives live on reserves or in native settlements.

Religion

The majority of Canadians are Christian. According to the 1991

census, Roman Catholicism has the most adherents (54.2 percent of Canadians), followed by Protestantism. Other religions include Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. About 3.4 million people stated that they had no religious affiliation whatsoever.

Languages

English, the mother tongue of 16.1 million Canadians, and French, the language of 6.5 million, are Canada's two official languages. However, many Canadians have a mother tongue other than English or French, including Italian, Chinese, German, Portuguese, Polish, Ukrainian, Dutch, Greek or other languages.

Ethnic Origin

Canadians, including natives, who claim something other than British or French as their origin represent 42 percent of the population, or 11 million people. Among the largest ethnic are the German, Italian, Ukrainian, Dutch, Polish, Chinese, South Asian, Jewish, West Indian, Portuguese and Scandinavian.

Culture

The native culture is the only truly indigenous culture of Canada, since all other Canadians were originally immigrants. They began moving to Canada in the 17th century, bringing with them their manner of dress, food preferences and customs. Canada opened its doors to immigration from all over the world in the early 20th century; in 1988, the multicultural character of the country was officially recognized when the Government passed the Multiculturalism Act.

Education

The educational system varies from province to province and includes six to eight years of elementary school, four or five years of secondary school and three or four years at the university undergraduate level. The 1991 census revealed that among Canadians aged 15 and over,

56.9 percent had attended secondary school, 31.7 percent had gone to a trade school or other type of post-secondary institution, and 1.9 million - 11.4 percent of the population - had a university degree.

Sports

The most popular sports in Canada include swimming, ice hockey, cross-country and alpine skiing, baseball, tennis, basketball and golf. Ice hockey, Canadian football and baseball are the favourite spectator sports.

Main Natural Resources

The principal natural resources are natural gas, oil, gold, coal, copper, iron ore, nickel, potash, uranium and zinc, along with wood and water.

Gross Domestic Product

The GDP measures the value of all goods and services produced by a country during a year. Canada's GDP was C\$ 688.5 billion Canadian dollars in 1992.

Leading Industries

These include automobile manufacturing, pulp and paper, iron and steel work, machinery and equipment manufacturing, mining, extraction of fossil fuels, forestry and agriculture.

Exports

Canada's leading exports are automobile vehicles and parts, machinery and equipment, high-technology products, oil, natural gas, metals, and forest and farm products.

Imports

Canada imports machinery and industrial equipment including communications and electronic equipment, vehicles and automobile parts, industrial materials (metal ores, iron and steel, precious metals, chemicals, plastics, cotton, wool and other textiles), along with manufactured products and food. 🍁

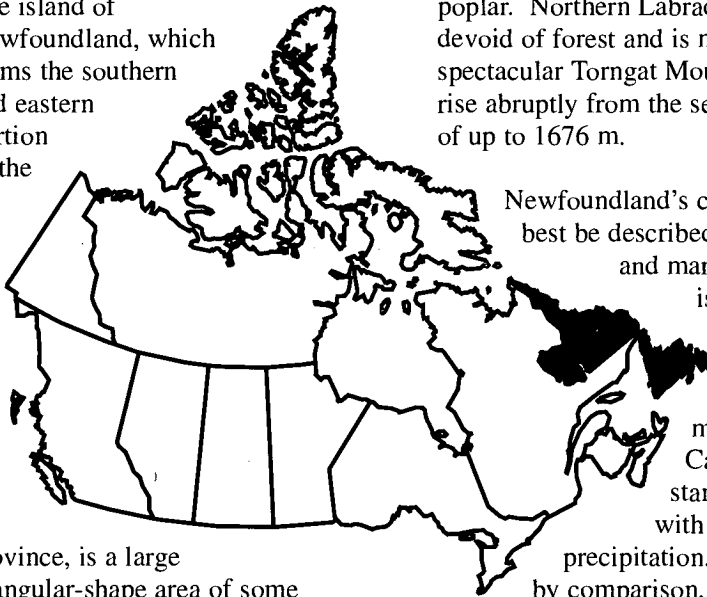


Newfoundland and Labrador

The Land

Nestled into the northeast corner of North America, facing the North Atlantic, is Newfoundland, Canada's most easterly province. Lying between the 46th and 61st parallels, the province consists of two distinct geographical entities: Newfoundland and Labrador.

The island of Newfoundland, which forms the southern and eastern portion of the



province, is a large triangular-shape area of some 112 000 km², while the province's total area is 405 720 km². Located at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River, the island is about halfway between the centre of North America and the coast of western Europe. The island of Newfoundland is separated from the Canadian mainland by the Strait of Belle Isle in the north and by the wider Cabot Strait in the south. The mainland, Labrador, is bordered by northeastern Quebec. Approximately two and a half times as large as the island, it remains a vast, pristine wilderness, where the northern lights, or *aurora borealis*, flicker over the largest caribou herd in the world.

The province's coastline, stretching over more than 17 000 km, is varied and scenic with its bold headlands,

deep fiords and countless small coves and offshore islands. The interiors of both Labrador and Newfoundland have a rolling, rugged topography, deeply etched by glacial activity and broken by lakes and swift-flowing rivers. Much of the island and southern and central Labrador is covered by a thick boreal forest of black spruce and balsam fir mixed with birch, tamarack and balsam poplar. Northern Labrador is largely devoid of forest and is marked by the spectacular Torngat Mountains, which rise abruptly from the sea to heights of up to 1676 m.

Newfoundland's climate can best be described as moderate and maritime. The island enjoys winters that are surprisingly mild by Canadian standards, though with a high rate of precipitation. Labrador, by comparison, has the cold winters and brief summers characteristic of the Canadian mid-North.

The History

The central region of the island of Newfoundland was once the home of the now extinct Beothuk Indians. The first Europeans to visit Newfoundland were Norsemen, who arrived in the late 10th century. (The Norse settlement at l'Anse aux Meadows was the world's first cultural discovery location to receive recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.) Other early visitors, the Basques, Portuguese, Spanish, British and French, staged fishing expeditions in the 16th century and probably even earlier.

In 1497, the Italian seafarer Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot) went to investigate what lay in the northern section of the western Atlantic. John Cabot landed on the island on June 24, 1497, on the feast of St. John the Baptist. Cabot called the new land "St. John's Isle" in honour of the saint, and claimed it for Henry VII of England, his patron and employer.

Anglo-French colonial warfare shaped the history of Newfoundland during the 1600s and 1700s. France, already well-established on the mainland of Eastern Canada, began to make claims to parts of Newfoundland. In 1662, France established a fort and colony at Placentia, despite protests from British merchants and fishermen. The Treaty of Utrecht in 1713 ended a long period of raids and skirmishes by both nations, and reconfirmed British sovereignty over Newfoundland and the fishing banks.

The people of Newfoundland were granted the right to vote for an elected assembly in 1832 and, after much debate, Newfoundland was given responsible government in 1855. In 1865, Newfoundland postponed the decision on whether to join the Dominion of Canada. Following World War II, the question of Newfoundland's future status became an issue once again. It was decided to hold a public referendum on the subject and, in 1948, Newfoundlanders voted in favour of joining the Canadian Confederation. Newfoundland became Canada's newest province on March 31, 1949.

The People

The province's present population of 570 000 is largely descended from settlers from southwestern England and southern Ireland, who immigrated

to Newfoundland in the late 1700s and early 1800s. The pattern of settlement was mainly determined by the fishing industry, a population distribution that has persisted to this day. The Avalon Peninsula and northeastern Newfoundland, the traditional base for the fisheries, continue to be the most heavily populated areas.

St. John's, the historic commercial centre and capital of the island, is the province's largest city, with a population of approximately 172 000. Other major centres are Grand Falls, Windsor and Corner Brook. The smaller communities — called outports — remain, nevertheless, a major element in Newfoundland society. The twin towns of Labrador City and Wabush, which together form the largest urban community of Labrador, are based on the iron-ore mining industries of the area.

In the early 1800s, disease and conflicts with settlers reduced the Beothuk Indians to extinction. There were, and still are, a relatively large number of Inuit concentrated in the coastal communities of northern Labrador.

The Economy

Since its first settlement, Newfoundland and Labrador has been highly dependent on its resource sector. The province was initially settled because of its rich fishing grounds on the "nose" and "tail" of the Grand Banks. The mainstay of the province's fishing industry has been groundfish (primarily cod); however, other important catches are flounder, redfish, capelin, shrimp and crab.

Protection of the rich fishery resources off the coast of Newfoundland has been an ongoing concern which has intensified in recent years. In 1977, the Canadian

government extended its fishery jurisdiction to 200 miles around the coast of the province in an attempt to gain better control of fishing activity. This move produced positive results in the 1980s, but in 1989 scientific studies revealed that, due to a number of factors, some of the Atlantic's key groundfish stocks were in severe decline. Since that period, there have been successive reductions in quotas. The second prominent aspect of the provincial economy is the mining industry. This industry ships mineral products valued at approximately \$700 million a year, mostly iron ore from Labrador. Other minerals mined in the province are gold, asbestos, limestone and gypsum.

The third significant traditional goods-producing industry is the newsprint industry. This industry consists primarily of three pulp and paper mills located in Corner Brook, Grand Falls and Stephenville, which have undergone extensive rationalization and modernization over the past decade.


Recently, the discovery of offshore oil and gas reserves has added a new dimension to the marine resources of the province. The Hibernia discovery in 1979 was Newfoundland's first significant oil find; reserves are estimated at 615 million barrels. Currently under way, Hibernia is the largest construction project in North America.

The province's largest utility industry is electric power. The largest hydroelectric facility is located in Churchill Falls, Labrador, with a total installed capacity of 5 403 megawatts.

In addition to fish products and pulp and paper products, about half of the province's manufacturing gross domestic product comes from other resource and non-resource-based manufacturing. Numerous companies are engaged in the manufacture of items such as boats, lumber, chemical

and oil-based products, food and beverages, clothing and footwear. In total, the province shipped about \$1.4 billion in manufactured products in 1992.

Newfoundland's agriculture industry is small compared with other Canadian provinces. The output of the agriculture industry is mainly for domestic consumption, although some agricultural products such as blueberries and furs are sold to markets outside the province. Newfoundland's service sector has experienced substantial growth over the years: in 1992, the service sector accounted for over two thirds of provincial gross domestic product.

In recent years, Newfoundland's efforts to develop a solid tourism industry have intensified. The province's rich cultural and historical heritage and unique character are considered to be major selling features to other Canadians and travellers from around the world. It is estimated that between 265 000 and 300 000 people visit the province each year, spending an estimated \$400 million annually. 



New Brunswick

The Land

New Brunswick borders on Nova Scotia, Quebec and the U.S. state of Maine. It is almost rectangular in shape, extending 322 km north to south and 242 km east to west. It is more or less surrounded by water on three sides.

New Brunswick has a land mass of 73 500 km², 85 percent of which is forest. The northern part of the province is quite mountainous, the tallest peak being Mount Carleton, 820 m high. The interior consists mainly of a rolling plateau, flatter in the east and more hilly in the southeast.

The main rivers are the Miramichi, Nepisquit, Restigouche and Saint John. Known as "oa-lus-tuk" or "beautiful river" to the Indians, the Saint John waters the fertile lands of the western part of the province over a distance of 725 km. Downstream, in the Madawaska area, it traces a natural boundary between the state of Maine and Canada.

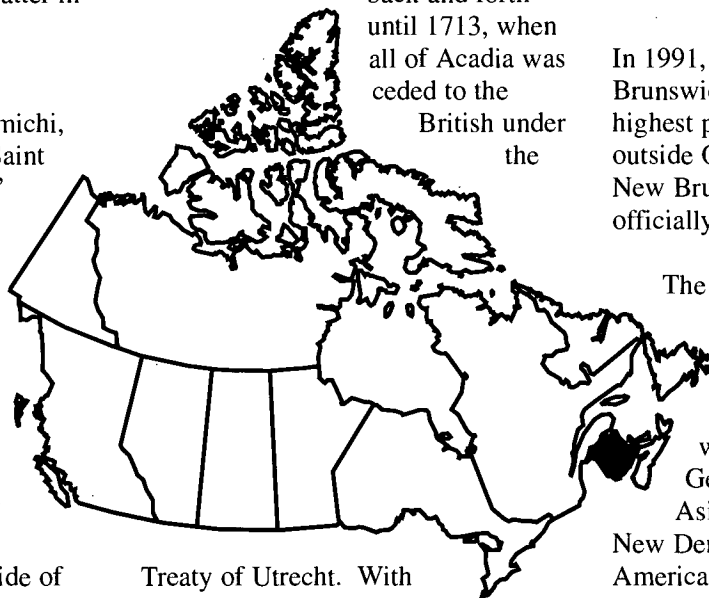
Twice a day, with the rising tide of the Atlantic Ocean, 100 billion tonnes of water stream past a rocky headland in the Bay of Fundy. The current created is practically equal to the flow of all the world's rivers over a 24-hour period. The eastern end of the Bay has tides of nearly 15 m, the highest in the world, sufficient to completely submerge a four-storey building.

The History

The existence of New Brunswick was known to the Europeans as early as the 1400s, when intrepid Basque

fishermen plied their trade off Miscou in the northeast of the province. At that time, the region was inhabited by the Malecite and Micmac Indians. The Micmacs were the first to receive Samuel de Champlain and the French when they landed in New Brunswick in 1604. The Indians established good relations with the French from the outset, helping the French settlers, known as Acadians, to adapt to their new country and taking part in the French attacks on New England.

The British and French feuded over the area for a century. Control passed back and forth until 1713, when all of Acadia was ceded to the British under the



Treaty of Utrecht. With time, France lost interest in the Acadians, turning most of its attention to New France and the burgeoning fur trade.

By 1755, England had established its dominance as a colonial power. Fearing that the Acadians were a security threat, the British deported, mainly to the United States, all Acadians who would not swear allegiance to the British Crown. Their exile lasted eight years, after which a significant proportion returned to their homeland.

In 1783, the western part of Nova Scotia became the home of thousands of Loyalists who had taken flight in the aftermath of the American Revolution. These American colonists, wishing to remain faithful to the British Crown, founded communities in the northern part of the province. This mass influx of Loyalists created a rift between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and New Brunswick became a separate province in June, 1784. In 1867 it joined other provinces to form the Dominion of Canada.

The People

In 1991, the population of New Brunswick was 723 900. With the highest percentage of Francophones outside Quebec (almost 35 percent), New Brunswick is Canada's only officially bilingual province.

The heritage of New Brunswick's people is a blended one, combining elements of the French, British Loyalist, Scots and Irish traditions, with later elements of German, Scandinavian and Asian. The little municipality of New Denmark boasts North America's largest Danish colony.

The aboriginal people of New Brunswick number more than 12 000, most of them Micmac and Malecite.

The coasts and river valleys are the areas of heaviest population; Saint John is the largest city, followed by Moncton and Fredericton, the provincial capital.


The Economy

Leading the manufacturing industries are food and beverages, followed by

pulp and paper, sawmills, manufacturers of furniture and other wood-based industries, metal processing, transportation equipment, processing of non-metallic ores and primary metals.

Tourism is a vital part of the province's economy. In 1991, nearly 1.5 million people visited the New Brunswick's tourists attractions, including its two national parks and numerous provincial parks.

New Brunswick has an abundance of natural resources. Forests occupy 85 percent of the land mass; consequently, wood and wood products are a cornerstone of the economy, with black spruce and fir leading the list. Mining, too, is important; New Brunswickers mine silver, bismuth, cadmium, coal, copper, natural gas, gold, oil, lead, potash, peat, tungsten, silica, salt and zinc.

Fishing and agriculture are also very important. More than 50 varieties of fish and shellfish are caught here; in fact, the town of Shediac has been called the "lobster capital of the world." In agriculture, New Brunswick is self-sufficient in the production of forage, milk and poultry. Its potatoes are renowned in over 25 countries; strawberries, apples, blueberries and vegetables are produced for local consumption and for export. 



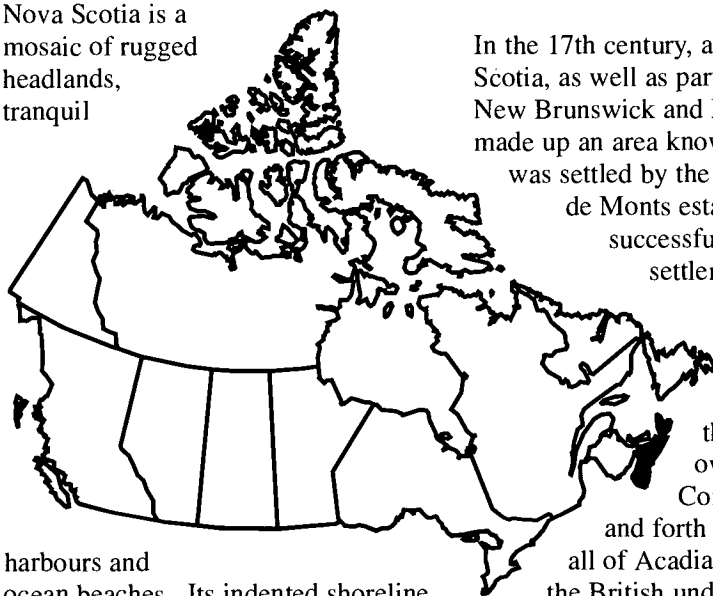
Nova Scotia

The Land

Nova Scotia's 580-km-long peninsula is surrounded by four bodies of water — the Atlantic Ocean, the Bay of Fundy, the Northumberland Strait and the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Its geographic location, together with large, ice-free, deep-water harbours, has been a key factor in the province's economic development.

With an area of 55 491 km², Nova Scotia is larger than Denmark, although somewhat smaller than Scotland, after which it is named. Its average width of 128 km means that no part of the province is far from the sea.

Nova Scotia is a mosaic of rugged headlands, tranquil



harbours and ocean beaches. Its indented shoreline stretches 10 424 km, while inland is a myriad of lakes and streams. The land is framed by the rocky Atlantic Uplands, the Cape Breton Highlands and the wooded Cobequid Hills. The agricultural areas of Nova Scotia are predominantly lowlands. When the glacial ice withdrew from coastal Nova Scotia 15 000 to 18 000 years ago, the ocean flooded ancient river valleys and carved out hundreds of

small protected harbours which later became fishing ports.

Nova Scotia lies in the northern temperate zone and, although it is almost surrounded by water, the climate is continental rather than maritime. The temperature extremes of a continental climate, however, are moderated by the ocean.

The History

The Micmac Indians inhabited Nova Scotia long before the first explorers arrived from Europe. The first visitors were Norsemen in the early 11th century, and, in 1497, Italian explorer John Cabot had noted the rich fishing grounds in the area.

In the 17th century, all of Nova Scotia, as well as parts of Quebec, New Brunswick and Maine, which made up an area known as Acadia, was settled by the French. Pierre de Monts established the first successful agricultural settlement in Canada, at Port Royal in 1605. In the next century, the British and the French feuded over the area. Control passed back and forth until 1713, when all of Acadia was ceded to the British under the Treaty of Utrecht.

Conflict between Britain and France continued. The Acadians, mainly settlers from France, tried to convince both sides of their neutrality, but by 1755 the British had decided that the Acadians posed too great a security threat. They expelled all Acadians who would not swear allegiance to the British Crown. Many returned to

France, some settled in New France and many others moved to the United States.

In 1783, thousands of United Empire Loyalists from the newly independent New England states immigrated to Nova Scotia. They wanted to remain British despite the formation of the United States of America. The influx of the Loyalists doubled Nova Scotia's population; and in 1784, it was partitioned to create the colonies of New Brunswick and Cape Breton Island.

In 1848, largely through the efforts of newspaper owner and patriot Joseph Howe, Nova Scotia became the first British colony to win responsible government. Nova Scotia was one of the four provinces that constituted the new federation called the Dominion of Canada in 1867. At that time, the province was in the forefront of international shipbuilding, and the lumber and fish trades. Confederation helped to finance the railroad to Quebec City, which opened the province to the interior of the continent. The first and second world wars emphasized the importance of Halifax, Nova Scotia's capital, as a staging point for convoys and confirmed it as one of the world's major military ports.

The People

Over 80 percent of Nova Scotia's population of 920 000 trace their ancestry either wholly or partly to the British Isles. Those with French origin rank second: 18 percent of residents have some French ancestry. The next largest groups by ancestry are German and Dutch.

Residents of Nova Scotia are also of Polish, Italian, Jewish and Lebanese

descent. After the War of 1812, several thousand Blacks, including the Chesapeake Blacks, settled in the Halifax area; today over 15 000 residents of the province have Black origins. More recent immigrants to Nova Scotia have included Chinese, Indo-Chinese, African, Asian and eastern European groups.

Almost 22 000 residents of Nova Scotia have Aboriginal origins, and primarily belong to the Micmac Nation.

The largest concentrations of population are found in the Halifax metropolitan area with a population of 320 000 and the Sydney urban area with 116 000. Major towns include Yarmouth, Kentville, Bridgewater, Truro, Amherst and New Glasgow.

The Economy

Nova Scotia's economy is highly diversified, having evolved from resource-based employment to include many types of manufactured goods as well as business and personal services.


The resources sector started with the sea and the teeming fish of the Scotian Shelf. This resource, particularly cod, has been hit by dwindling stocks in recent years, and quotas are affecting those who derive their livelihood from this sector. In 1992, approximately 20 000 workers were directly employed in fishing and fish processing and many more jobs were indirectly created by activity in the sector. The catch is composed mainly of cod, haddock and pollock, as well as lobsters, scallops and crab.

For a small province, Nova Scotia has a highly developed forestry sector with four pulp and paper mills and several hundred sawmills.

The mining sector is dominated by coal production of four million

tonnes. The province also produces 5.3 million tonnes of gypsum, over 85 percent of the Canadian total. Other mining activity includes salt, barite, crushed stone, peat and sand and gravel. Extensive exploration of offshore oil and gas has been undertaken in the past decade, and in 1991 the first commercial production of oil began near Sable Island.

Nova Scotia has a highly specialized commercial agriculture sector. Dairy is the largest sector, followed by horticultural crops, poultry, eggs, beef cattle and hogs. Export commodities include blueberries, apples and processed fruits, vegetables and juices.

Tourism is an important sector in the provincial economy. Total tourism receipts exceed \$800 million and over 30 000 are employed in the many aspects of the industry. More than a million persons visit the province each year, with almost one quarter of these coming from outside Canada. 

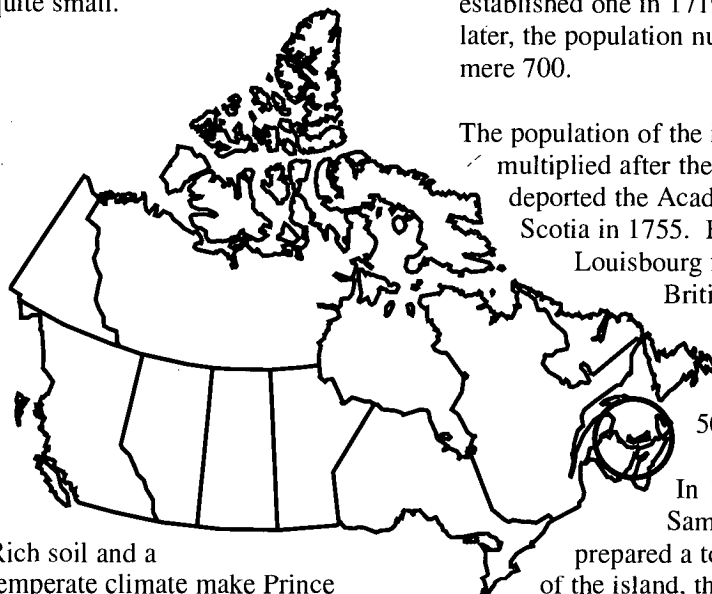


Prince Edward Island

The Land

One of the four Atlantic Provinces, Prince Edward Island is also Canada's smallest province in both area and population.

The crescent-shaped island is 224 km in length and ranges in width from 6 to 64 km, giving it a total area of 5 660 km². It lies in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, separated from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick by Northumberland Strait. Its highest point is 152 m above sea level. The province has numerous lakes and rivers, most of which are quite small.



Rich soil and a temperate climate make Prince Edward Island an ideal place for mixed farming. Half of its land is under cultivation, earning it the nickname, "the Garden Province." It is renowned for its red soil, sand dunes and 800 km of beaches.

The History

Prince Edward Island was called "Abegweit" by the Micmac Indians, who lived there for some 2 000 years before the arrival of the Europeans.

The name means "lying down flat," but is freely translated as "cradled by the waves." There is evidence that the ancestors of the Micmacs lived on the island 10 000 years ago, presumably having migrated across the low plain now covered by Northumberland Strait.

The Europeans discovered the island when Jacques Cartier landed there in 1534; he described it as "the most beautiful stretch of land imaginable." In spite of his enthusiastic description, it was a long time before the island was settled. No permanent colony existed until the French established one in 1719; 30 years later, the population numbered a mere 700.

The population of the island multiplied after the British deported the Acadians from Nova Scotia in 1755. By the time Louisbourg fell to the British in 1758, the island's population had risen to 5000.

In 1766 Captain Samuel Holland prepared a topographic map of the island, then known as the Island of Saint John, dividing it into 67 parcels of land and distributing it by lot to a group of British landowners. The absentee landlords, many of whom never set foot on the island, gave rise to numerous problems. Some refused to sell their lands to their tenants, while others demanded exorbitant purchase or rental prices.

In 1769 the Island of Saint John became a separate colony, and in

1799 it was given its present name, in honour of Prince Edward of England. Prince Edward Island is known as the cradle of Confederation, since Charlottetown, its capital, was the site of the 1864 conference that set Canadian Confederation in motion. This distinction notwithstanding, the island waited until 1873 to join the Dominion of Canada.

The People

The population of Prince Edward Island was 130 000 in 1991. Of this number, 62 percent live in the rural districts, including 8 percent on farms. With a population of 33 000, Charlottetown is the only urban centre.

Approximately 80 percent of the people are of British (mainly Scottish and Irish) origin. About 15 percent are of French origin, and five percent speak French.

The island population is quite young - about 38 percent of the people are under 25.


The Economy

Agriculture, tourism and fishing are the economic mainstays of Prince Edward Island. Most of the industrial activity has to do with food processing, although high-technology industry is becoming important, especially in the medical, electronics and agricultural fields.

Prince Edward Island's rich, red soil is ideal for growing potatoes, which are the most important source of income for the province's farms.

Although lobster is king of the waters off Prince Edward Island, about

30 other fish and seafood species are caught, notably cultivated mussels, herring, bluefin tuna and the renowned Malpeque oysters.

Finally, the island's 800 km of beaches attract over 665 000 visitors yearly for relaxation and water sports, including bluefin tuna fishing. 

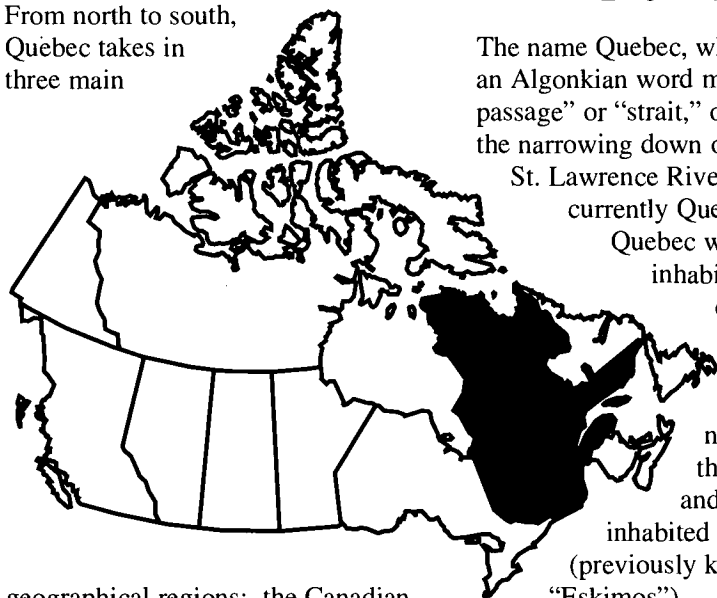


Quebec

The Land

Bordered by Ontario, New Brunswick and Labrador (the mainland portion of the province of Newfoundland) and by the United States, Quebec has an area of 1 450 680 km², three times that of France and seven times that of Great Britain, making it the largest of Canada's provinces. The province is almost entirely surrounded by water: by Hudson Strait to the north, the St. Lawrence River and Gulf to the south, and James Bay and Hudson Bay to the west.

From north to south, Québec takes in three main



geographical regions: the Canadian Shield, the St. Lawrence lowlands and the Appalachian Mountains. Extending from the shores of the Canadian Arctic to the Laurentians, the Canadian Shield covers about 60 percent of the land mass, and is the world's oldest mountain range. Permafrost reigns in the northern part of the Shield; only dwarf birches and lichen are able to grow there.

The St. Lawrence River, the province's dominant geographical feature, links the Atlantic Ocean with the Great Lakes. The St. Lawrence

lowlands are dotted with more than a million lakes and rivers. Quebec's forests are equal in area to those of Sweden and Norway combined. To the south, the foothills of the Appalachians separate Quebec from the United States.

Almost 80 percent of Quebecers live in urban centres located along the St. Lawrence. Montreal and its suburbs have a population of three million; Quebec City is the province's capital and third-largest city.

The History

The name Quebec, which comes from an Algonkian word meaning "narrow passage" or "strait," originally meant the narrowing down of the St. Lawrence River off what is currently Quebec City.

Quebec was originally inhabited by members of the Algonquin and Iroquois aboriginal people. The northern part of the province was, and still is, inhabited by the Inuit (previously known as "Eskimos").

The European history of Quebec began with the arrival of the French explorer Jacques Cartier in 1534. The succeeding era was characterized by the establishment of a thriving fur trade, relatively friendly relations with the aboriginal people and a continuous rivalry between French and English colonists.

Founded in 1608, Quebec City became the capital of New France. During the French regime, the fortified city was an important centre

of trade and development. Today it is regarded as the cradle of French civilization in America, and was named a World Heritage City by UNESCO in 1985.

French-English rivalry in North America culminated with the Seven Years' War, which saw the fall of Quebec City to British forces in 1759. With the Treaty of Paris in 1763, New France became a colony of Britain. In 1774, under the Quebec Act, Britain granted official recognition to French civil laws, guaranteed religious freedom and authorized the use of the French language.

In 1791, the colony was divided in two to reflect the large influx of Loyalists who, wishing to remain British subjects, fled north after the American Revolution, to settle in western Quebec. This led to the creation of Upper Canada (now Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec). After rebellions in both regions in 1837, the two were reunited by the Act of Union, 1840 and became the Province of Canada. In 1867, Quebec became a founding member of the new Dominion of Canada.

For a long time, Quebec's rural roots and domination by the Roman Catholic Church made it a traditional, agrarian society. With the advent of the second industrial revolution between 1920 and 1940, urbanization and higher living standards came to the province.

Beginning in 1960, Quebec entered a period of transition: the "Quiet Revolution". It was marked by rapid economic expansion, cultural pride and a revamping of political institutions to meet the needs of contemporary society.

The Quiet Revolution was also the beginning of a period of political tension and federal-provincial bickering as the province sought to assume greater control over its economy and society. Regrettably, acts of terrorism, including political kidnapping in 1970, brought in sharp relief the issue of Quebec's status in Canada.

In 1976, Quebecers elected the Parti Québécois, a party wanting independence for Quebec. The PQ made French the sole, official language of Quebec, and, in 1980, conducted a referendum on negotiating an arrangement for sovereignty-association with Canada. The referendum was defeated by a majority of Quebec citizens.

Throughout Quebec's history, the survival of the "French fact" in Quebec and also in the rest of Canada has been central to the concerns of Quebecers. It is this very aspect that reflects Quebec's distinct place in the Canadian Confederation and gives Canada its bilingual character and cultural richness.

The People

Out of a total population of about seven million, Quebec has more than five million people of French origin, 350 000 of British origin and about 137 000 Amerindians (Mohawk, Cree, Montagnais, Algonquin, Attikamek, Micmac, Huron, Abenaki and Naskapi), Métis and Inuit.

Italians and Eastern Europeans were traditionally the largest immigrant groups to Quebec, but since 1960 the ranks of new Quebecers have been swollen by Portuguese, Haitians, Lebanese, South Americans and Southeast Asians. Since the end of World War II, more than 650 000 immigrants from over 80 countries have moved to Quebec, particularly to the city of Montreal.

French is the mother tongue of 82.2 percent of Quebecers, while 9.7 percent cite English as their mother tongue.

The Economy

Highly industrialized and quite diversified, Quebec's economy is strong and full of promise. The province has abundant natural resources and energy, along with well-developed agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors. Quebec's dynamic business sector has seized on the economic potential of the province, and produces a wide variety of top quality products for export, such as air traffic control equipment, software, subway trains, helicopters, compact disks, air purifiers and toys.

Montreal, the province's commercial capital, has developed competitive industries in space and aeronautics, telecommunications, energy and transportation.

Quebec exports 40 percent of its total production, mainly from the forest industry (printing, lumber and paper), mining (aluminium and iron ore) and transportation equipment manufacturing. Quebec also exports electricity, engineering know-how, electronic products and telecommunications equipment. 🍁



Ontario

The Land

The name "Ontario" comes from the Iroquois word "Kanadario" meaning "sparkling water." The name is fitting: not only is Ontario bordered on the south by the Great Lakes and on the north by Hudson Bay, but 177 390 km², or one sixth of its terrain, is covered by rivers and lakes.

Three main geological regions make up Ontario: the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Lowlands, the Canadian Shield and the Hudson Bay Lowlands. The latter are narrow coastal plains bordering Hudson Bay and James Bay; the land is wet and covered by scrub growth. The Canadian Shield, covering the rest of northern Ontario from Lake Superior to Hudson Bay, and extending into the southern part of the province, is a vast rocky plateau. Although the soil is poor and not well suited to large-scale farming, there is a wealth of minerals, forests and water power.

The Canadian Shield and the Hudson Bay Lowlands cover 90 percent of the province's 1 068 580 km² of territory, but are home to only 10 percent of the population. Northern Ontario's towns were built because of the railway, and today rails and roads carry the products of the mines and mills southward. Further north, travel is often limited to air and water. The extremes of the northern climate are a fact of life there. At Winisk, mean daily temperatures reach only 12 to 15°C in July, dropping to -25°C in January.

The five Great Lakes are the most visible results of the ice age in Ontario, and the biggest, Lake Superior, is the world's largest body of fresh water.

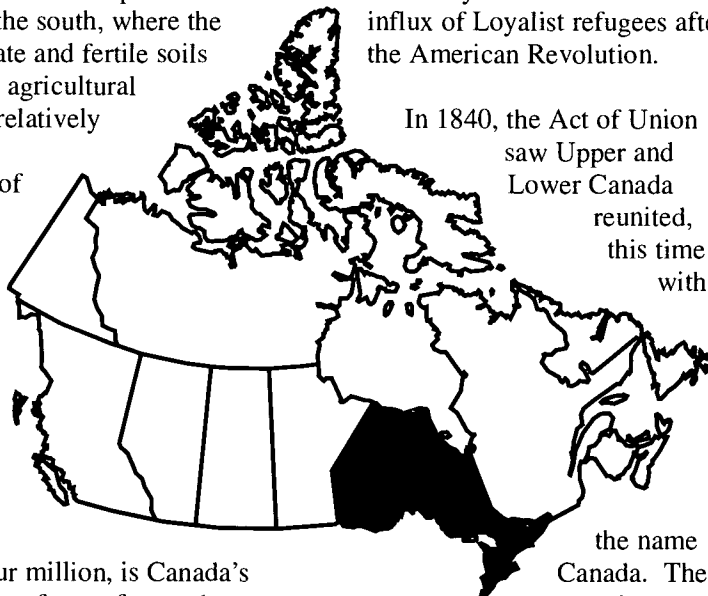
The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands comprise the rest of southern Ontario and contain most of the population, industry, commerce and agricultural lands. The Lowlands include the Windsor-Thousand Islands-St. Lawrence Valley triangle. The relatively temperate climate is more severe east of the Great Lakes. Mean annual summer temperatures reach 22 °C in the south, where the temperate climate and fertile soils nurture a major agricultural industry. This relatively small area has more than half of Canada's best agricultural land.

Toronto, Ontario's capital and Canada's largest city, with a regional population approaching four million, is Canada's leading producer of manufactured goods and headquarters of a large number of Canadian companies. Ottawa, the bilingual, bicultural national capital, sits at the junction of the Gatineau, Rideau and Ottawa rivers.

aboriginal people in the southern part of the province.

In 1774 the British ruled over southern Ontario, then part of the British colony of Quebec. Under the Constitutional Act of 1791, "Quebec" was divided in two and Ontario renamed Upper Canada. This became necessary with the tremendous influx of Loyalist refugees after the American Revolution.

In 1840, the Act of Union saw Upper and Lower Canada reunited, this time with



the name Canada. The two regions, Canada West and Canada East, took part in the 1864 Confederation debate and, when the Dominion of Canada was created in 1867, became the separate provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

The History

Ontario's first immigrants arrived about 10 000 years ago, during the last ice age. The European explorers encountered the Iroquois and Algonquin descendants of those first migrants in the 17th century. Sailing into the large bay that bears his name, Henry Hudson became the first

European to touch the shores of present-day Ontario in 1610; in 1613, Samuel de Champlain and Étienne Brûlé made the first contacts with the

The People

From 1779 on, waves of English, Scottish and Irish immigrants followed one another, moving up the St. Lawrence and populating the country. Today, immigration continues to be important to Ontario, and there are large numbers of people of Italian, German, Chinese, Dutch, Portuguese, Indian and Polish origin.

In 1991, Ontario had almost 250 000 people of Indian, Métis or Inuit origin.

With over 10 million people, Ontario is the country's most heavily populated province. English is the only official language, but Ontario's Francophones play an essential part in the province's cultural life and are the largest language minority. The provincial government provides services in French in the regions where the Francophone population is sufficiently high.

The Economy


Ontario is Canada's most productive province, having generated some 40 percent of the country's gross domestic product in 1992. Its manufacturing industries lead the way (\$85 billion in 1992). Ontario's competitive advantages include its natural resources, modern transportation system, large, well-educated labour force, reliable and relatively inexpensive electrical power, and proximity to key U.S. markets: less than a day's drive puts Ontario's products within reach of 120 million American consumers.

In Canada's urban and industrial heartland the car is king. Automobiles are Ontario's major manufacturing industry and most important export, employing 136 000 people and providing 26 percent of Canada's total exports in 1989.

Mining has always played an important role in the development of Ontario's economy. Extraction of gold, nickel, copper, uranium and zinc represents a multibillion-dollar business.

Many Ontario towns have at least one industry connected to forestry. Fully 87 percent of the forest land is owned by the provincial government, which licenses logging rights. The forest industry accounts for 5.8 percent of Ontario's exports.

Financial industries are also a source of prosperity. Toronto is the world's fourth-largest capital market; its stock exchange is North America's second-largest by volume and third-largest by value traded.

Tourism is also important to the Ontario economy. In 1990, tourist spending of more than \$9.5 billion generated about \$13.4 billion in total revenue for the province and more than 320 000 person-years of employment. 



Manitoba

The Land

Bordered by Ontario, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories, Hudson Bay and the United States, Manitoba is one of the three Prairie provinces and is located in the centre of Canada.

Its 650 000 km² of landscape offers few extremes. Elevations rise slowly to the south and west from sea level at Hudson Bay. Most of Manitoba lies between 150 and 300 m above sea level, but in the Turtle, Riding, Duck and Baldy mountains, heights rise to 700 m or higher. The highest point in Manitoba is Baldy Mountain, in Duck Mountain Provincial Park, at 831 m.



Manitoba is known as the land of 100 000 lakes, a legacy of enormous Lake Agassiz which covered much of the province after the glaciers retreated. The major rivers of western Canada flow into the lowland region of Manitoba, giving Manitoba 90 percent of the hydro-electric potential of the Prairie region. The northern topography is heavily glaciated and covered in forest, dominated by pine, hemlock and birch.

Manitoba is one of the sunniest provinces in Canada. It has a

continental climate, with great temperatures extremes. Typical of southern Manitoba, the mean January temperature in Winnipeg is about -20 °C; the July average is about 19 °C. In Thompson, in the centre of northern Manitoba, the averages for the same months are about -27 and 15 °C.

The History

The name Manitoba likely comes from the Cree words "Manitou bou", which mean "the narrows of the Great Spirit." The words applied to Lake Manitoba, which narrows to less than a kilometre at its centre. The waves hitting the loose surface rocks of its north shore produce curious bell-like and wailing sounds, which the first aboriginal peoples believed came from a huge drum beaten by the spirit Manitou.

The Assiniboine Indians were the first inhabitants of Manitoba. Other tribes included the nomadic Cree, who followed the herds of bison and caribou on their seasonal migrations.

In their search for the rich Orient through the Northwest Passage, Europeans reached Manitoba through Hudson Bay. Unlike most of the rest of Canada, the northern parts of the province were settled before the south. In 1612, Captain Thomas Button wintered two ships at the mouth of the Nelson River, on Hudson Bay. Later, a party led by La Vérendrye explored the Red and Winnipeg rivers in the years 1733-38 and built several outposts.

Early European interest in Manitoba centred on the fur trade. In 1670, the Hudson's Bay Company was created, and King Charles II of England granted it a large tract of land named Rupert's Land. The company set up fur-trading posts to exploit the country's wealth. During the 18th century, intense rivalry for fur trade supremacy developed between the Montreal-based North West Company and the Hudson's Bay Company.

In 1812, the first European agricultural settlement was established in the area around the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers by Lord Selkirk, a Scottish nobleman, who sent a number of Scottish Highlanders to settle land he had secured from the Hudson's Bay Company. He called the area Assiniboia. The Selkirk colony suffered through floods and problems arising from unfamiliarity with the environment, and rivalries within the fur trade. Nevertheless, the settlement survived.

In 1836, Assiniboia was transferred to the Hudson's Bay Company by the Selkirk family. In the 1860s, the provinces of Canada, anxious to expand into the great northwest, offered to buy the land from the Hudson's Bay Company. Negotiations for the transfer of sovereignty of the Hudson's Bay Company lands to Canada followed, but with little regards to the wishes of the inhabitants.

During the lengthy negotiations, this lack of consultation and the movement of American and Canadian settlers into the territory led the Métis (people of mixed aboriginal and European blood) to fear for the preservation of their land rights and culture. The Métis, under the

leadership of Louis Riel, opposed the Canadian proposals in an insurgency known as the Red River Rebellion. Riel succeeded in establishing a locally-elected, provisional government in December 1869. Delegates of this provisional government negotiated terms with the new federal government of Canada, making Manitoba a province of the Dominion of Canada on July 15, 1870.

The new "postage stamp" province (so named because of its square shape and small size) consisted then of 36 000 km² surrounding the Red River Valley. However, the province did not remain that small; its boundaries were stretched in 1881 and again in 1912.

Bolstered by its central location as the entry point to western Canada, Manitoba grew quickly over the next 50 years. With the help of the railway, thousands of settlers from eastern Canada and from countries all over the world made Manitoba their home.

The People

For many years, most Manitobans were of British origin. But changes in migration and immigration patterns have produced a province where no ethnic group is numerically dominant. Manitoba is home to dozens of groups from all over the world, who have enriched the province's economy, culture and society.

Although Manitoba is one of the smaller provinces in population, it is an important centre for a number of ethnic groups. It is one of the most important centres of Ukrainian culture outside Ukraine and has one of the largest populations of Mennonites in the world. More than 115 000 people are of Amerindian or Métis origin.

About 60 percent of Manitoba's 1 091 949 people live in metropolitan

Winnipeg, the provincial capital. The second-largest city is Brandon, in southwestern Manitoba.

The Economy


The early provincial economy was based on agriculture, with manufacturing and transportation later becoming vital sectors. Manitoba now has a very diversified economy, but the services sector is the most important. The central location of the province makes Manitoba an attractive base for a wide variety of services, notably in transportation and wholesale distribution.

Manufacturing is the largest goods-producing economic sector. Food and transportation equipment have long been the leading manufacturing industries. Other important industries are primary and fabricated metals, electrical goods, clothing and textiles, and printing and publishing.

Agriculture is the backbone of rural Manitoba, as well as supporting thousands of jobs in towns and cities. The strong balance in the Manitoba economy is reflected in agriculture, where both crops and livestock are important sectors. Wheat is the most important crop, accounting for about a third of crop production value, followed by barley and canola. The province is the leading Canadian producer of flaxseed, sunflower seeds, buckwheat and field peas.

Mining is another major Manitoba industry, with metals normally accounting for three quarters of the value of production. The most important metals are nickel, (of which the province is a world leader in production), copper and zinc. Manitoba also produces petroleum and a number of industrial minerals.

Camping grounds, parks, lakes and rivers as well as historic sites are the principal attractions for Manitoba's visitors. Tourism also relies on

dozens of community festivals, a number of which have international reputations. 



Saskatchewan

The Land

Located in the western part of Canada, Saskatchewan is bordered by Manitoba, Alberta, the Northwest Territories and the United States. The province is almost rectangular in shape and is 651 900 km² in area. Half of it consists of forests, one third of cultivated lands, and one eighth is covered with water.

The northern zone rests on a formation of Precambrian rock characteristic of the Canadian Shield. As a result, there are numerous lakes (over 100 000), rivers, bogs and rocky outcroppings.

The southern part of the province is relatively flat, with occasional valleys created by erosion from the glacial era. This prairie zone is where most of the people live.

Camel caravans would not be out of place in certain parts of Saskatchewan. Athabasca Provincial Park has sand dunes 30 m high and semi-arid vegetation. Nowhere else in the world are dunes found this far north.

The name Saskatchewan comes from the Cree word "kisiskatchewanisipi," which means "swift-flowing river." The province has three major rivers: the Assiniboine, the South Saskatchewan and the Churchill.

The whole province enjoys a hot, dry summer but the town of Estevan is the undisputed "sunshine capital" of Canada, getting 2540 hours of sunshine per year.

The History

The first European explorers and trappers to visit Saskatchewan found established settlements of Aboriginal people. The Chipewyan Indians lived

in the north; the nomadic Blackfoot roamed the eastern plains, while the Assiniboine inhabited the west. The territory of the Cree, who were long-time residents of the north, also extended southward to the plains.

The earliest explorer was Henry Kelsey, a Hudson Bay's Company agent, who in about 1690 followed the Saskatchewan River to the southern plains of Saskatchewan. On the heels of the trappers came fur-trading companies and trading posts, which became the foundation of many present-day settlements.

For 200 years, the Hudson's Bay Company owned and administered the vast Northwest Territories. Realizing their agricultural potential and the opportunities for colonization, the Government of Canada purchased the Territories in 1870. After the Dominion Lands Act of 1872, which encouraged homesteaders, and another act to stimulate immigration, the new railway began bringing settlers in to farm these rich lands.

When Saskatchewan separated from the Northwest Territories and entered Confederation in 1905, Regina became the provincial capital. The years following were years of prosperity, until the 1929 economic crash, combined with a decade of drought and bad harvests, brought the lean years of the Great Depression to the province.

In 1945, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF) became the first socialist government

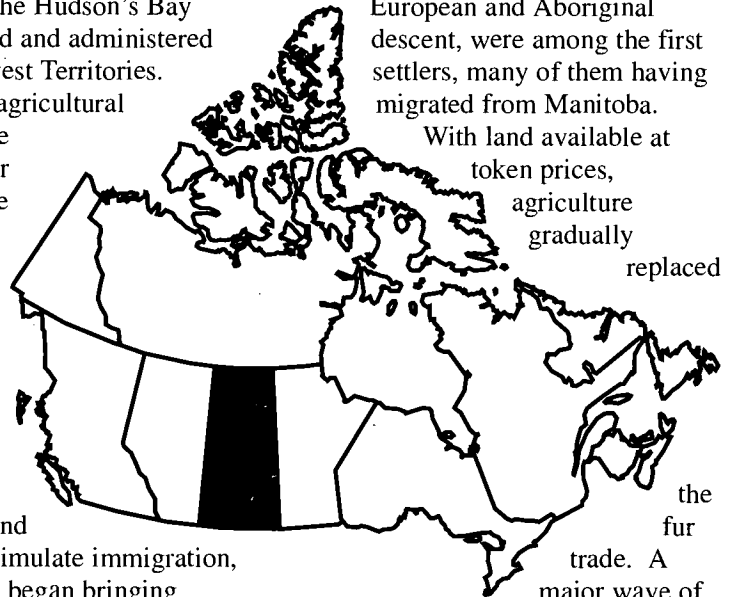
elected in North America. Its leader, Tommy Douglas, led the fight for public hospitalization and medicare, earning Saskatchewan the reputation as the "social laboratory of North America."

The recovery of the 1940s and 1950s saw the economy, once dependent solely on agriculture, become more diversified with the development of oil, uranium, potash, coal and other minerals.

The People

The Métis, people of mixed European and Aboriginal descent, were among the first settlers, many of them having migrated from Manitoba.

With land available at token prices, agriculture gradually replaced



the fur trade. A major wave of immigration began in 1899 and continued until 1929.

Today, Saskatchewan's population stands at about one million. Saskatchewan is Canada's only province where the majority of the population does not have a British or French background. The population has a variety of ethnic inheritances — German, Ukrainian, Scandinavian, Amerindian, Dutch, Polish and Russian — as well as British, French, and many other non-European origins.


Regina and Saskatoon are the two main cities and together have about one third of the total population. Named after Queen Victoria (Victoria Regina), the capital is the site of Wascana Centre, one of the world's largest urban parks. Saskatoon, which has a larger population, is bisected by the South Saskatchewan River.

The Economy

Saskatchewan has changed greatly since it joined Confederation in 1905. Back then, agriculture was the only industry, and it centred on wheat farming. Today, Saskatchewan supplies 28 percent of Canada's grain production, and crops include canola, rye, oats, barley and flaxseeds, as well as wheat. Saskatchewan is also a major producer of cattle and hogs. The average Saskatchewan farm takes up 420 hectares.

Northern Saskatchewan's 350 000 km² of forests are the province's most important renewable natural resource. Softwoods are the focal point of forestry development.

Saskatchewan is also a province rich in minerals. Potash, uranium, coal, oil and natural gas are the leading mineral resources. Saskatchewan's 14 000 oil wells produce about 12 percent of Canada's total oil output. In addition, with an estimated two thirds of the world's reserves, Saskatchewan is the leading exporter of potash.

Research and development is a growing business in Saskatchewan, as attested to by the inauguration of Saskatoon's Innovation Centre. The province's technological potential in agriculture, space technology and biotechnology is now recognized internationally. 



Alberta

The Land

The westernmost of Canada's three Prairie provinces, Alberta lies between the 49th and 60th parallels, at virtually the same latitude as the United Kingdom. Alberta is 1217 km from north to south and between 293 and 650 km in width from west to east. Nearly equal in size to the state of Texas, the province covers an area of some 661 185 km².

Roughly half of the southwestern section of the province is dominated by mountains and foothills -

striking reminders of the glaciers that, over millions of years, formed, moved and receded in the area.

Peaks of the Rocky Mountains located in Alberta range from 2130 to 3747 m in elevation.

The foothills, which form a gentle link between mountain and prairie landscapes, feature heavily forested areas and grasslands used for grazing cattle. Beneath their surface, the foothills contain some of the province's richest deposits of sour gas and coal.

The remainder of the province - approximately 90 percent of the land area - forms part of the interior plain of North America. The plains include the forested areas that dominate the northern part of the province and the vast stretches of northern muskeg that

overlay much of Alberta's oil and gas deposits and oil sands.

Alberta has what is known as a continental climate. It is characterized by vivid seasonal contrasts in which long, cold winters are balanced by mild to hot summers and an unusually high number of sunny days, no matter what the season. Although cold air covers the whole province in winter, it is frequently replaced in the southwest by a mild wind, the "chinook", funnelling through the mountains from the Pacific Ocean.

The History

The native people, whose ancestors are thought to have

crossed the Bering Sea from

Asia thousands of years ago, were the first people to live in what is now Alberta. The Blackfoot, Blood, Piegan, Cree, Gros Ventre, Sarcee, Kootenay, Beaver and Slavey Indians, speaking a variety of Athapaskan and Algonkian languages, were the sole inhabitants of what was then a vast wilderness territory.

The early Albertans, particularly the woodland tribes of the central and northern regions, became valuable partners of the European fur traders who arrived in the 18th century. The first European explorer to reach what is now Alberta was Anthony Henday, in 1754.

Peter Pond, of the North West Company, established the first fur-trading post in the area in 1778. The Hudson's Bay Company gradually extended its control throughout a huge expanse of northern North America known as Rupert's Land and the North West Territory, including the region occupied by present-day Alberta. From that time, the region was fought over by the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company, each of which built competing fur-trading posts. The rivalry ended only in 1821, when the two companies merged.

Expeditions led by Henry Youle Hind and John Palliser found parts of the region to have exceptionally good land for farming, especially the fertile belt north of the Palliser Triangle, a particularly arid zone. As a result of these findings, the British decided not to renew the licence of the Hudson's Bay Company and, in 1870, the North West Territory was acquired by the Dominion of Canada and administered from the newly formed province of Manitoba.

Beginning with the arrival of the railway in 1883, the population started to grow quickly. Other factors that helped swell the population were the discovery of new strains of wheat particularly suited to the climate of the Canadian Prairies, the lack of new farmland in the United States, and the end of an economic depression throughout North America.

On September 1, 1905, Alberta, named for Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, fourth daughter of Britain's Queen Victoria, became a province of Canada with Edmonton as its capital city. The province of Alberta was created by joining the District of Alberta with parts of the districts of



Athabasca, Assiniboia and Saskatchewan.

The People

Tracing the roots of Alberta's 2.5 million people is an exercise that begins with the province's Aboriginals and leads to virtually every corner of the globe. The province's native people formed the bulk of the area's population until the 1880s, when they were outnumbered by the influx of Europeans. In 1881, there were barely more than 1000 non-native people in the area that was to become the province of Alberta. Ten years later, 17 500 people occupied the territory. Immigrants from many countries came in response to the Canadian government's aggressive efforts, between the 1890s and the 1920s, to promote immigration and encourage agricultural development. By the end of the immigration push in 1921, there were 584 454 Albertans.

After the Second World War, the pattern changed. From the 1960s on, immigrants have come from all over the world, including the Pacific Rim, Asia and the Caribbean. Today, roughly 44 percent of Albertans are of British descent; other large ethnic groups are the German, Ukrainian, French, Scandinavian and Dutch. In 1991, close to 150 000 people were of Indigenous or Métis origin. Smaller numbers of people, tracing their heritage to virtually every country in the world, make up the remaining 24 percent of the population. English is the language of the vast majority of Albertans, and most religious faiths are represented.

With two thirds of the population under the age of 40, the province has one of the youngest populations in the industrialized world. This is, in part, due to the high level of international and interprovincial migration to Alberta over the past 25 years. Approximately 80 percent of

Albertans live in urban areas, and more than half live in the two main cities of Edmonton, the province's capital, and Calgary.

The Economy


Alberta has one of the world's most productive agricultural economies, producing about 20 percent of the value of Canada's annual output. Approximately 22 million hectares of cultivated and uncultivated land are used as pasture and forage for livestock. While wheat remains the primary crop, the production of new crops continues to expand as the industry diversifies. The province maintains the largest livestock population in Canada.

Long known as Canada's "energy province," Alberta has more than 80 percent of the country's reserves of conventional crude oil, over 90 percent of its natural gas, and all of its bitumen and oil-sands reserves. The oil and natural gas sector has responded successfully to the challenges of unstable energy prices in the 1980s by significantly reducing production and operating costs.

Over one half of the province of Alberta, or approximately 350 000 km², is covered by forests. Of the total forest area, 216 000 km² are classified as commercially productive forest land and contain both hardwood and softwood species. Alberta's sustainable development policy regarding the use of forest and other renewable resources is that the land, water, vegetation and wildlife are managed as one ecosystem. The use of these resources is strictly on a sustainable basis.

Food and beverage processing remains the largest manufacturing industry in Alberta in terms of both sales and employment. Petrochemicals and plastics, forest products, metals and machinery, and

refineries have become major success stories in contributing to Alberta's diversification efforts over the last several years. An increasing range of industrial products — including aerospace and transportation equipment, as well as industrial and specialty chemicals — is also being manufactured in Alberta.

The service sector accounts for more than 60 per cent of Alberta's gross domestic product. More than two thirds of Alberta's employment is found in such industries as business and financial services, transportation, retail trade, health and education services, and tourism. The province offers a multitude of attractions to visitors, and particularly prides itself on the magnificent Rocky Mountains, especially the celebrated Jasper and Banff national parks. 



British Columbia

The Land

British Columbia is Canada's westernmost province and one of North America's most mountainous regions. B.C. is bordered by the province of Alberta, the Yukon Territory and several U.S. states, including Alaska. Given its location, British Columbia is a gateway to the Pacific and Asia. Sometimes simply categorized as part of Canada's "West", the province is actually a distinct region both geographically and culturally.

The variety of its landscapes is the main reason for B.C.'s distinctiveness: its 947 800 km² offer remarkable topographical contrasts. Where the Pacific Ocean reaches the continent, it encounters with a chain of islands, large and small, running from north to south. Some of these islands are nestled in fiords carved in the majestic Coastal Mountains, which rise more than 2000 m above sea level.

To the east of the Coastal Mountains lies a rolling upland of forests, natural grasslands and lakes. Further east, the Rocky Mountains (with peaks more than 4000 m high) separate B.C. from neighbouring Alberta. In the north, a small corner of the province is occupied by the Great Plains.

The province's climate equals its topography for variety. For example, the mild coastal region receives abundant precipitation — from 130 to 380 cm of rain a year — while the interior has a continental climate. Other parts of the province are almost desert-like, with very hot summers followed by very cold winters.

The History

The Aboriginal peoples of British Columbia developed one of the richest and most complex cultures north of Mexico. Because of the diversity of the Pacific coast - mild to cold climate, seashore to mountains - the tribes that settled in this area developed completely different cultures and languages.

The coastal inhabitants were experts at wood sculpture, as their totem polls attest even today.

They were also famous for their skill and courage in whaling. As for their social system, it was marked by occasions such as the *pottatch* — a ceremony in which important gifts were given to guests — and by theatrical displays.

In 1774 the first Europeans, under the flag of Spain, visited what is now British Columbia. In contrast with eastern Canada, where the English and French were the two nationalities fighting over territory, Spain and Russia were the first countries to claim ownership of certain parts of British Columbia. In the 18th century, the Spanish claimed the west coast from Mexico to Vancouver Island. At the same time, the

Russians were making an overlapping claim for control of the Pacific coast from Alaska to San Francisco.

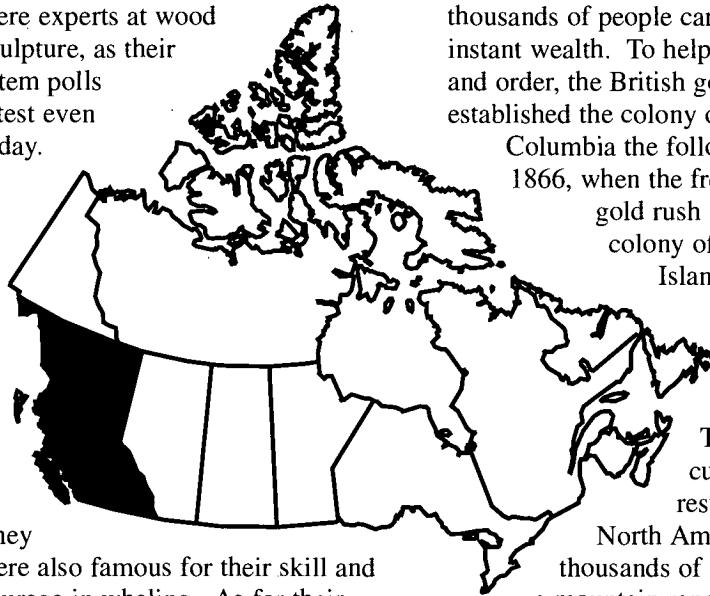
In 1778, Captain James Cook of Great Britain became the first person to chart the region. The first permanent colony, in present-day Victoria, was established by the British in 1843.

When gold was discovered in the lower Fraser Valley in 1857, thousands of people came in search of instant wealth. To help maintain law and order, the British government established the colony of British Columbia the following year. In 1866, when the frenzy of the gold rush was over, the colony of Vancouver Island joined British Columbia.

The colony was cut off from the rest of British North America by thousands of kilometres and a mountain range. The promise of a rail link between the Pacific coast and the rest of Canada convinced British Columbia to join Confederation in 1871.

The People

The majority of B.C.'s inhabitants are of British origin, but the population is enriched by immigrants and descendants of immigrants of all nationalities. More than 100 000 British Columbians are descendants of the thousands of Chinese who took part in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway in the late 19th century. The Japanese began to arrive in the 1890s,



becoming merchants and fishermen. Today, Vancouver has North America's second-largest Chinese community. More than 60 000 of B.C. inhabitants are from India, and 16 000 are from Japan. British Columbians of Asian heritage have contributed tremendously to the province's economic and cultural vitality.

The Aboriginal population of British Columbia, which began to decline with the arrival of the first European settlers, is enjoying new strength. It is growing in numbers (more than 165 000 people in 1991) and has developed strong native organizations. This new energy coincides with a renaissance in Aboriginal cultural and artistic expression.

British Columbia continues to attract Canadians and foreigners alike: 40 000 persons settle in the province each year, and its population now exceeds 3.3 million — 12 percent of Canada's total. Nearly 60 percent live in the Victoria (capital of the province) and Vancouver areas. Vancouver, the largest dry cargo port on the Pacific Coast of North America, is home to more than 1.5 million people, which makes it the third-largest Canadian city.

The Economy


The economy is based on the province's great natural resources, primarily its vast forests, which cover 56 percent of its total area. Conifers from these forests are converted into lumber, newsprint, pulp and paper products, shingles and shakes — about half the total softwood inventory of Canada.

Tourism is the next most important economic sector. Each year, about 15 million people visit British Columbia. With over five million hectares of parkland, the Rocky Mountains remain the biggest

attraction. Coastal B.C., with its beaches, hiking trails, artists' colonies, wildlife reserves, whale-sighting locales and other attractions, is not far behind. Of increasing attraction to visitors are the Queen Charlotte Islands, large parts of which have recently been set aside as parkland. The area contains untouched wilderness and unique species of flora. The abandoned Haida village of Ninstints is of such historical and cultural importance that it has been designated a world heritage site by UNESCO.

Mining is the province's third most important economic sector. Copper, gold and zinc are the leading metals extracted from B.C.; sulphur and asbestos are the leading industrial minerals. The most valuable resources, however, are coal, petroleum and natural gas.

Agriculture and fishing, especially salmon fishing, are two other key sectors of the economy of British Columbia, whose dairy cattle are among Canada's most productive. The valleys of the southern interior, principally the Okanagan Valley, are famous for cultivation of tree fruits and grapes and for their wine industry. The cooler, wetter climate of the lower Fraser Valley produces rich crops of berries and vegetables.

Manufacturing in B.C. is still largely resource-based, but is being gradually diversified by high-tech and computer-based industries related to telecommunications and the aerospace and sub-sea industries. British Columbia has the most balanced export market of all Canada's provinces, with the United States, Japan, the European Union and the Pacific Rim countries as its clientele. 



The Northwest Territories

The Land

The Northwest Territories (N.W.T.) includes all of Canada north of the 60th parallel, except the Yukon and portions of Quebec and Newfoundland. From the 60th parallel, the N.W.T. stretches 3560 km to the North Pole, and 4256 km from east to west, covering 3 426 320 km², and including the islands in Hudson, James and Ungava bays.

At some time in its history, the Northwest Territories has included all of Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Yukon, and most of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. Today, the Northwest Territories remains the largest political subdivision in Canada, with 34.1 percent of the total area of the country. The N.W.T. is divided into three districts: Keewatin, Mackenzie and Franklin.

One of the most remarkable features of the N.W.T. is the Mackenzie River, one of the world's longest at 4241 km. Like the Yukon, the N.W.T. can be divided into two broad geographical regions: the taiga, a boreal forest belt that circles the subarctic zone, and the tundra, a rocky arctic region where the cold climate has stunted vegetation.

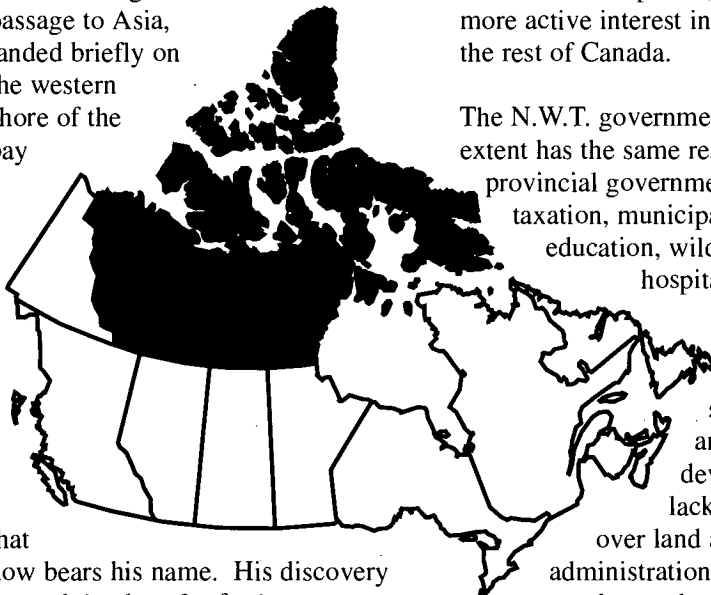
There are two major climate zones in the N.W.T.: subarctic and arctic. Average temperatures in January are -23°C (subarctic) and -26°C to -33°C (arctic), and in July 21°C (subarctic) and 10°C (arctic). As in the Yukon, the varying amounts of daylight over the year are an important influence on the climate: between 20 and 24 hours of daylight in June and up to 24 hours of darkness in December.

The History

The ancestors of the Dene Indian people lived along the

Mackenzie Valley in the N.W.T. 10 000 years ago. The first Inuit are believed to have crossed the Bering Strait about 5000 years ago, spreading east along the Arctic coast.

The first European explorers were the Vikings, who sailed to the eastern Arctic about 1000 A.D. However, Martin Frobisher's expeditions in the 1570s were the first recorded visits to the Northwest Territories by an explorer. In 1610, Henry Hudson, while looking for a passage to Asia, landed briefly on the western shore of the bay



that now bears his name. His discovery opened the door for further exploration of the interior of the continent.

With the arrival of the fur traders in the late 1700s and the whalers in the 1800s, life began to change substantially. The Europeans reshaped the North, bringing with them a new economy and way of life. Communities grew around trading posts, mission schools and Royal Canadian Mounted Police stations with the arrival of fur traders, missionaries and government officials.

In 1870, the British government transferred control of the North-Western Territory to Canada. Ten

years later the British government annexed the islands of the arctic archipelago, which also became part of the Territories. In 1905, both Alberta and Saskatchewan were created from the Territories. Finally, in 1912, the provinces of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec were enlarged and the Northwest Territories assumed its current boundaries.

By World War II, mineral exploration and the military were playing a role in northern development, prompting a more active interest in the N.W.T. by the rest of Canada.

The N.W.T. government to a large extent has the same responsibilities as provincial governments:

taxation, municipal bodies, education, wildlife, health and hospital services, forest management, housing, social services and economic development. It lacks jurisdiction over land and resource administration, including control over the pace and scale of resource development, and subsurface and water rights. A 1988 agreement to negotiate a northern energy accord, however, will lead to territorial management and control of onshore oil and gas and shared responsibility with the federal government for offshore renewable resources.

As in the Yukon, the issue of settling Aboriginal land claims in the N.W.T. emerged in the 1970s. In 1984, a final agreement was reached with the Inuvialuit of the western Arctic; it provided some 2500 people with 91 000 km² of land, financial compensation, social development funding, hunting rights and a greater role in wildlife management,

conservation and environmental protection.

In 1992, the Gwich'in settled a comprehensive land claim that provided 22 422 km² of land in the northwestern portion of the N.W.T. and 1554 km² of land in the Yukon, subsurface rights, a share in the resource royalties derived from the Mackenzie River Valley, tax-free capital transfers, hunting rights, a greater role in the management of wildlife, land and the environment, and the right of first refusal on a variety of activities related to wildlife.

In 1993, a final agreement was reached with the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut — the largest comprehensive land claim to be settled in Canada. The agreement will provide some 17 500 Inuit of the eastern Arctic with 350 000 km² of land, financial compensation, the right to share in resource royalties, hunting rights, and a greater role in the management of land and the environment. The final agreement also commits the federal government to a process that will divide the N.W.T. and create the new territory of Nunavut.

The People

The N.W.T. is the only place in Canada where most of the population are Aboriginals (30 525 out of 52 238). Most live in small communities; Yellowknife, the capital, has a population of more than 15 000.

The largest Aboriginal group is the Inuit, which means "the people" in Inuktitut.

Inuit communities are often a mixture of people from different cultural and linguistic areas. Most communities, however, have characteristic dialects. In general, the Inuit language is a

"living" language, and most Inuit children learn Inuktitut as their mother tongue.

In the western Arctic, the Dene have inhabited the forests and barrens for the past 2500 years. Once nomads, today they live in communities, many still using traditional skills of hunting, trapping and fishing. There are four major Dene cultural and linguistic groups: Chipewyan, Dogrib, Slavey (north and south) and Gwich'in (Loucheux).

The Economy


Mining, with mineral production valued at over \$800 million, is by far the largest private sector of the N.W.T. economy. Oil and gas exploration and development are also important, but the industry is open to wide fluctuations in world markets.

The Aboriginal peoples' traditional subsistence activities — fishing, hunting and trapping — also have an impact on the N.W.T. economy. Sports fishing and big-game hunting also play a small role. Commercial fishery development in the N.W.T. — freshwater and saltwater — is being encouraged. Fur harvesting continues to be very important, supplementing the income of many Aboriginal families.

Inuit arts and crafts distribute a greater amount of income more widely than any other economic activity. One in 14 people of working age in the N.W.T. earns some income by this means.

Recently, tourism has become increasingly important. The N.W.T. offers a variety of landscapes of great natural beauty, conducive to fishing, wildlife observation and other outdoor activities.

The settling of northern land claims sets the stage for increased economic activity in which all can share and have a voice. However, development, which is welcome and necessary for economic prosperity, must be managed so as not to threaten the fragile arctic ecosystem and the traditional lifestyles of the northern peoples.

The Arctic Environmental Strategy introduced by the federal government in 1991 as part of its Green Plan, involves northerners in projects to protect the arctic environment. It also supports communities in the development of their own plans to deal with environmental issues. 



Yukon

The Land

The Yukon Territory in Canada's northwest covers 483 450 km². The perimeters of this mountainous territory form a rough triangle bordered on the south by British Columbia, on the west by the U.S. state of Alaska and on the east by the Northwest Territories. The northern tip of the triangle meets the chilly waters of the Beaufort Sea. Mount Logan, Canada's highest peak at 6000 m, is located in southwestern Yukon.

The Yukon can be divided into two broad geographical regions: taiga and tundra. Taiga is the boreal forest belt that circles the world in the subarctic zone, including most of the Yukon. Tundra is the vast, rocky plain in the arctic regions, where the extreme climate has stunted vegetation.

The Yukon has a subarctic climate. The high altitude of much of the territory and the semi-arid climate provide relatively warm summers with temperatures frequently reaching 25°C or more during the long summer days. In winter the temperature ranges between +4 and -50° C in the south and slightly colder farther north.

Above the Arctic Circle (latitude 66° north), the Yukon is known as "the land of the midnight sun" because for three months in summer, sunlight is almost continuous. In winter, however, darkness sets in, and the light of day is not seen for a quarter of the year.

The History

The name Yukon was first used by the Hudson's Bay Company trader John Bell in 1846. He called it "Yucon," derived from the Loucheux Indian word "Yuchoo," meaning the greatest

river. The Yukon River is the fifth-longest in North America.

The Yukon was the first area in Canada to be settled by people. Anthropologists believe the ancestors of the Amerindians may have inhabited the Yukon 10 000 to 25 000 years ago when they migrated from Asia across a Bering Sea land bridge.

The first modern European visitors were Russian explorers who travelled along the coast in the 18th century and traded with the area's Indians.

Sir John Franklin anchored off the Yukon's arctic coastline in 1825, and the Hudson's Bay Company moved into the interior in the 1840s.

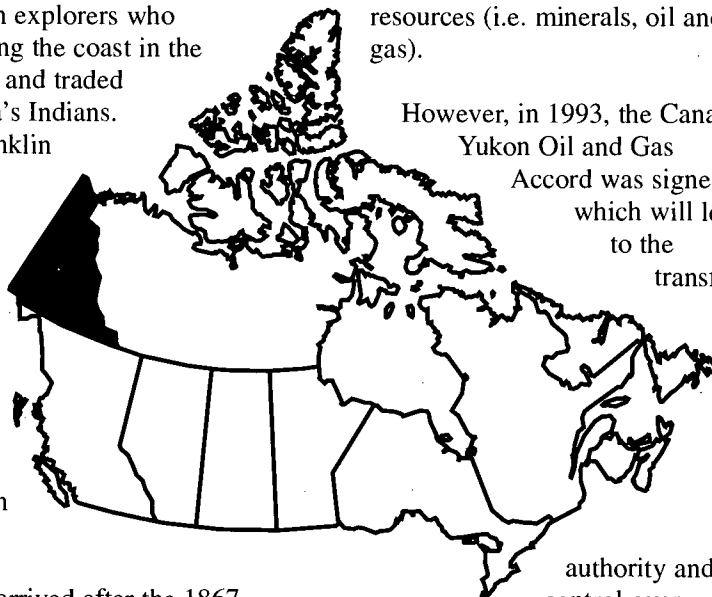
U.S. traders arrived after the 1867 Russian sale of Alaska to the United States. With the discovery of gold near Dawson City in 1896, the Klondike became one of the most populous regions in northwestern Canada. The sudden increase in population during the Klondike gold rush prompted the federal government to give the Yukon more control over its affairs. In 1898, the Yukon Territory was officially established to ensure Canadian jurisdiction; the Yukon Act provided for a commissioner and an elected legislative assembly.

Some 40 years later, during the Second World War, the United States built the Alaska Highway, creating a new overland transportation route. In

1979, the Canadian government opened the Dempster Highway, Canada's first all-weather road to cross the Arctic Circle.

As a territory, the Yukon does not have full provincial status, although it achieved a style of government similar to that of the provinces in 1979. The Canadian government retains administrative control over water, land and forestry, and over the development of all non-renewable resources (i.e. minerals, oil and gas).

However, in 1993, the Canada-Yukon Oil and Gas Accord was signed, which will lead to the transfer of



authority and control over

onshore oil and gas resources from the federal to the Yukon government. The agreement provides a commitment to negotiate shared management of oil and gas resources in the Beaufort Sea and ensures that the Yukon is a beneficiary of onshore and offshore oil and gas revenues. Other agreements have been signed for transfer of authority and control in forestry, fishery and transportation.

The federal government operates nursing stations in all the larger centres. All other government programs — police services, social services, transportation, economic development, human resource programs, taxation, community services, tourism, housing, justice and

FACTS



CANADA

education — are administered by the Yukon government.

The 1970s saw the emergence of the Yukon Indian land claims negotiations. In 1993, the Council for Yukon Indians, the Government of Canada and the Yukon territorial government signed an Umbrella Final Agreement that sets out the terms for final land claim settlements in the Territory. Final land claim agreements were also reached with the Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation, the Champagne and Aishihik First Nation, the Teslin Tlingit Council and the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun. These agreements contribute to certainty of land title, and benefits include cash, land and participation in wildlife and other management boards.

In addition to their land claim settlements, the four First Nations also negotiated self-government agreements that give them more control over land use on settlement lands and greater authority in areas such as language, health care, social services and education.

The People

The Yukon's vast interior forests were occupied by the Athapaskans, whose cultural and linguistic traditions go back more than 1000 years. Today, there are six distinct groups of Athapaskan Indians: Kutchin, Han, Tutchone, Inland Tlingit, Kaska and Tagish.


At present, 27 797 people live in the Yukon; 23 percent of the population is Aboriginal. Almost 60 percent of the population lives in Whitehorse, Yukon's capital city.

The Economy

Mining, the Yukon's largest industry, accounts for more than 30 percent of the economy. Tourism, offering a

wilderness experience in a unique and relatively unspoiled environment, provides a further base for jobs and services. To reduce reliance on these two industries and on government, efforts have recently been made to promote sectors such as the forest industry.

The fur trade is important for about 3 percent of the population, mainly Aboriginal. A small fishing industry operates in Dawson City to export salmon, and other commercial fisheries supply local consumers.

Agriculture — expensive by North American standards — is a small but expanding industry. Although growth of the agricultural industry is limited by climate and the availability of productive land, new research programs hold promise for the future. 



History

Aboriginals are thought to have arrived from Asia 30 000 years ago by way of a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska. Some of them settled in Canada, while others chose to continue to the south. When the European explorers arrived, Canada was populated by a diverse range of Aboriginal peoples who, depending on the environment, lived nomadic or settled lifestyles, were hunters, fishermen or farmers.

First contact between the native peoples and Europeans probably occurred about 1000 years ago when Icelandic Norsemen settled for a brief time on the island of Newfoundland. But it would be another 600 years before European exploration began in earnest.

First Colonial Outposts

Seeking a new route to the rich markets of the Orient, French and English explorers plied the waters of North America. They constructed a number of posts — the French mostly along the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes and the Mississippi River; the English around Hudson Bay and along the Atlantic coast. Although explorers such as Cabot, Cartier and Champlain never found a route to China and India, they found something just as valuable — rich fishing grounds and teeming populations of beaver, fox and bear, all of which were valued for their furs.

Permanent French and English settlement began in the early 1600s and increased throughout the century. With settlement came economic activity, but the colonies of New France and New England remained economically dependent on the fur trade and politically and militarily dependent on their mother countries.

Inevitably, North America became the focal point for the bitter rivalry between England and France. After the fall of Quebec City in 1759, the Treaty of Paris assigned all French territory east of the Mississippi to Britain, except for the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, off the island of Newfoundland.

Now under British rule, the 65 000 French-speaking inhabitants of Canada had a single aim — to retain their traditions, language and culture. Britain passed the Quebec Act (1774), which granted official recognition to French civil laws and guaranteed religious and linguistic freedoms.

Large numbers of English-speaking colonists, called Loyalists because they wished to remain faithful to the British Empire, sought refuge in Canada after the United States of America won its independence in 1776. They settled mainly in the colonies of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and along the Great Lakes.

The increase in population led to the creation in 1791 of Upper Canada (now Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec). Both were granted their own representative governing institutions. Rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada in 1837 and 1838 prompted the British to join the two colonies, forming the united Province of Canada. In 1848 the joint colony was granted responsible government except in matters of foreign affairs. Canada gained a further measure of autonomy but remained part of the British Empire.

A Country Is Born

Britain's North American colonies — Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and

Newfoundland — grew and prospered independently. But with the emergence of a more powerful United States after the American Civil War, some politicians felt a union of the British colonies was the only way to fend off eventual annexation. On July 1, 1867, Canada East, Canada West, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick joined together under the terms of the British North America Act to become the Dominion of Canada.

The government of the new country was based on the British parliamentary system, with a governor general (the Crown's representative) and a Parliament consisting of the House of Commons and the Senate. Parliament received the power to legislate over matters of national interest (such as taxes and national defence), while the provinces were given legislative powers over matters of "particular" interest (such as property, civil rights and education).

Westward Expansion

Soon after Confederation, Canada expanded into the northwest. Rupert's Land — an area extending south and west for thousands of kilometres from Hudson Bay — was purchased by Canada from the Hudson's Bay Company, which had been granted the vast territory by King Charles of England in 1670.

Westward expansion did not happen without stress. In 1869, Louis Riel led an uprising of the Métis in an attempt to defend their ancestral rights to the land. A compromise was reached in 1870 and a new province, Manitoba, was carved from Rupert's Land.

British Columbia, already a Crown colony since 1858, decided to join the

Dominion in 1871 on the promise of a rail link with the rest of the country; Prince Edward Island followed suit in 1873. In 1898, the northern territory of Yukon was officially established to ensure Canadian jurisdiction over that area during the Klondike gold rush. In 1905, two new provinces were carved from Rupert's Land: Alberta and Saskatchewan; the residual land became the Northwest Territories. Newfoundland preferred to remain a British colony until 1949, when it became Canada's 10th province.

The creation of new provinces coincided with an increase of immigration to Canada, particularly to the west. Immigration peaked in 1913 with 400 000 coming to Canada. During the prewar period, Canada profited from the prosperous world economy and established itself as an industrial as well as an agricultural power.

A Nation Matures

Canada's substantial role in the First World War won it representation distinct from Britain in the League of Nations after the war. Its independent voice became more and more pronounced, and in 1931 Canada's constitutional autonomy from Britain was confirmed with the passing of the Statute of Westminster.

In Canada as elsewhere, the onset of the Great Depression in 1929 brought hardship. As many as one out of every four workers was without a job and the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were laid waste by drought. Ironically, it was the need to supply the Allied armies during the Second World War that boosted Canada out of the Depression. The country emerged from the war as the fourth-largest industrialized power.

Since World War II, Canada's economy has continued to expand. This growth, combined with

government social programs such as family allowances, old-age security, universal medicare and unemployment insurance has given Canadians a high standard of living and desirable quality of life.

Noticeable changes have occurred in Canada's immigration trends. Before World War II, most immigrants came from the British Isles or eastern Europe. Since 1945, increasing numbers of southern Europeans, Asians, South Americans and people from the Caribbean islands have enriched Canada's multicultural mosaic.

On the international scene, as the nation has developed and matured, so has its reputation and influence. Canada has participated in the United Nations since its inception and is the only nation to have taken part in all of the UN's major peacekeeping operations. It is also a member of the Commonwealth, la Francophonie, the Group of Seven industrialized nations, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and NORAD (North American Aerospace Defence Agreement) defence pacts.


A New Federation in the Making

The last quarter of a century has seen Canadians grapple once more with fundamental questions of national identity. Discontent among many French-speaking Quebecers led to a referendum in that province in 1980 on whether Quebec should become more politically autonomous from Canada, but a majority voted to maintain the status quo.

In 1982, the process toward major constitutional reform culminated in the signing of the Constitution Act. Under this Act, the British North America Act of 1867 and its various amendments became the Constitution Acts, 1867-1975. The Constitution, its Charter of Rights and Freedoms,

and its general amending formula are redefining the functions and powers of the federal and provincial governments and further establishing the rights of individuals and ethnocultural groups.

Two major efforts were made to reform the constitutional system: the 1987 Meech Lake Accord — which was not implemented since it did not obtain the legislative consent of all provinces — and the 1991 Charlottetown Accord. The Charlottetown Accord would have reformed the Senate and made major changes in the Constitution. It was decisively rejected by Canadians in a national referendum held on October 26, 1992.

Established by two historically opposed peoples; enriched by various cultures, languages and religions; and marked by a geography itself highly diversified, Canada could not help but be a land of compromise. Unity in diversity could be Canada's motto. The spirit of moderation and tolerance characterizes the Canadian federation and assures its survival. 



Government

Canada is a constitutional monarchy, a federal state and parliamentary democracy with two official languages and two systems of law: civil law and common law. In 1982, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was entrenched in the Canadian Constitution.

Canada's Constitution was initially a British statute, the British North America Act, 1867, and until 1982, its amendment required action by the British Parliament. Since 1982 when the Constitution was "patriated" — that is, when Canadians obtained the right to amend the Constitution in Canada — this founding statute has been known as the Constitution Act, 1867.

The Monarchy

From the days of French colonization and British rule to today's self-government, Canadians have lived under a monarchy. Although Canada has been a self-governing "Dominion" in the British Empire since 1867, full independence for Canada, as for all British colonies, was only established in 1931 by the Statute of Westminster.

Elizabeth II, Queen of England, is also Canada's Queen, and sovereign of a number of realms. In her capacity as Queen of Canada, she delegates her powers to a Canadian Governor General. Canada is thus a constitutional monarchy: the Queen rules but does not govern.

The Federal Government

Canada's 33 "Fathers of Confederation" adopted a federal form of government in 1867. A federal state is one that brings together a number of different political communities under a common government for common

purposes and separate local or regional governments for the particular needs of each region.

In Canada, the responsibilities of the central, or federal, Parliament include national defence, interprovincial and international trade and commerce, immigration, the banking and monetary system, criminal law and fisheries. The courts have also awarded to the federal Parliament such powers as aeronautics, shipping, railways, telecommunications and atomic energy.

The regional or provincial legislatures are responsible for education, property and civil rights, the administration of justice, the hospital system, natural resources within their borders, social security, health and municipal institutions.

The Parliamentary System

The roots of Canada's parliamentary system lie in Britain. In keeping with traditions handed down by the British Parliament, the Canadian Parliament is composed of the Queen (who is represented in Canada by the Governor General), the Senate and the House of Commons.

The Senate, also called the Upper House, is patterned after the British House of Lords. Its 104 members are appointed, not elected, and are divided essentially among Canada's four main regions of Ontario, Quebec, the West and the Atlantic Provinces. The Senate has the same powers as the House of Commons, with a few exceptions.

The House of Commons is the major law-making body. It has 295 members, one from each of the 295 constituencies or electoral districts. The Canadian Constitution requires the election of a new House

of Commons at least every five years. As in the United Kingdom and the United States, in Canada voters simply elect a single member for their electoral constituency, in one round of balloting.

In each constituency, the candidate who gets the largest number of votes is elected, even if his or her vote is less than half the total. Candidates usually represent a recognized political party — although some run as independents — and the party that wins the largest number of seats ordinarily forms the government. Its leader is asked by the Governor General to become Prime Minister.

The real executive authority is in the hands of the Cabinet, under the direction of the Prime Minister. In general, the Prime Minister is the leader of the party with the largest number of seats in the House of Commons, and is vested with extensive powers. In general, it is the Prime Minister who chooses the ministers from among the members of Parliament in the governing party.

Strictly speaking, the Prime Minister and Cabinet are the advisers of the monarch. De facto power, however, lies with the Cabinet, and the head of state (the Governor General) acts on its advice. Cabinet develops government policy and is responsible to the House of Commons. The Government of Canada, headed by some 25 ministers, performs its duties through the intermediary of the federal departments, special boards, commissions and state-owned corporations.

Political Development

Canada, which had been a self-governing colony in 1867, rose to the status of an independent state after its participation in World War I and

achieved de jure independence with the Statute of Westminster in 1931. The Constitution of 1867 had one serious flaw: it contained no general formula for constitutional amendment. It was necessary to address the British Parliament in London each time the founding statute needed change.

An amending formula should have been included in the Constitution at the time of the coming into force of the Statute of Westminster in 1931, but it was not until November 1981, after numerous attempts, that the federal government and the provinces (except Quebec) agreed to the amending formula that is now part of the Constitution Act, 1982. Since that time, the Constitution can be amended only in Canada.


A Flexible System

The Canadian constitutional system has been changed over the years, sometimes quite extensively, but always peacefully and gradually. In the 1980s and 1990s, two major efforts were made at reform. The 1987 Meech Lake Accord sought to bring Quebec back into Canada's constitutional family by meeting five constitutional conditions set out by Quebec. The conditions centred on a provincial participation in the appointment of Supreme Court judges and senators, the Constitution's amending formula, increased powers for the provinces in immigration matters, some reduction in federal spending powers, and a constitutional declaration that Quebec is a "distinct society."

However, the Meech Lake Accord was not implemented because it did not obtain the legislative consent of all provinces and the federal government, as required under the 1982 amending formula.

In 1991-92, another round of constitutional reform was initiated,

leading to the Charlottetown Agreement. The Agreement, which was supported by the Prime Minister, the 10 provincial premiers, the two territorial leaders and four national Aboriginal leaders, provided for a reformed Senate and changes to the division of legislative powers between the federal and provincial governments. It also supported the right of Canada's Aboriginal people to inherent self-government, and recognized Quebec as a distinct society. The Agreement, however, was rejected by Canadians in a national referendum held on October 26, 1992.

Today, the parliamentary system is still the form of government that is the choice of Canadians. The federal structure, with the sharing of powers it entails, is the one formula that can take into account Canada's geographical realities, the diversity of its cultural communities and its dual legal and linguistic heritage. 



Legal System

Canada is a young country, but it has a legal system rich in tradition. The principles of common law used in most Canadian provinces were first developed in medieval England. The principles of Quebec's civil code date back even further, through France to the ancient Roman Empire.

These traditions form the base of Canada's legal heritage, but they have also been adapted to meet Canadian needs. The courts ensure that the law is interpreted and enforced in a way that reflects current conditions.

The Canadian Constitution

Canada's Constitution establishes the basic framework for the country's system of law and justice. It defines the nature of the federal and provincial governments, how these governments are elected, and the powers of each. Equally important, the Constitution sets out the basic rights and liberties of each citizen that must be respected by all governments.

The Constitution defines a federal system of government for Canada. This means the authority to make laws is divided between the Parliament of Canada and the provincial legislatures.

The provincial governments have the authority to make laws concerning such matters as education, property rights, the administration of justice, hospitals, municipalities and other matters of a local or private nature. In addition, the provinces may create local or municipal governments that can deal with matters such as parking regulations or local building standards.

The federal government deals with matters that affect all of Canada, such as trade and commerce, national defence, immigration and

criminal law. As well, the federal government has jurisdiction over .Aboriginals and lands reserved for Aboriginals.

The Charter of Rights and Freedom

In 1982, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms became a fundamental part of the Canadian Constitution. The Charter sets out the basic rights of persons who are in Canada. Anyone in Canada may appeal to the courts if he or she believes that these rights have been violated. The courts may declare any federal or provincial law invalid if it is not consistent with the Charter.

The Charter protects basic rights in the following areas:

- fundamental freedoms — including freedom of expression, religion, association and peaceful assembly;
- democratic rights — the right of every Canadian to vote in elections and run for public office;
- mobility rights — the right to travel, live and work anywhere in Canada;
- language rights — the right to receive services from the federal government in either English or French, Canada's two official languages;
- equality rights — guaranteeing protection against discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, religion, colour, sex, age, or mental or physical disability; and
- legal rights — including the right to life, liberty and security

of the person; to consult a lawyer if arrested; to stand trial within a reasonable period of time; to be presumed innocent until proven guilty; and to be protected against unreasonable searches, arbitrary imprisonment and cruel or unusual punishment.

Since 1982, the Canadian Constitution includes the specific recognition and affirmation of the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada.

Legislation and Regulation

Within the limits set out by the Constitution, laws can be made or changed by means of written statutes enacted by Parliament or a provincial or territorial legislature. Statute laws automatically take the place of any conflicting unwritten, or common law, precedents dealing with the same subjects.

Any member of Parliament or a provincial legislature may propose a new law, but most new laws are first put forward by the government in power. A proposed law must be presented for consideration by all members, who study and debate it. The proposal becomes a statute law only if it is approved by the majority.

Common Law and *Droit Civil*

Statute laws do not make up all the laws in Canada. There are many unwritten laws that are based on common law traditions. This is specially true in the area of civil law, which deals with private matters between individuals, such as property ownership, family responsibilities and business transactions.

Civil law in 9 out of Canada's 10 provinces is based on common law. Common law is a system

based on legal precedent. Whenever a judge makes a decision, this decision becomes a precedent — a rule that will guide other judges when they are considering similar cases in the future. Many of Canada's laws are made up of these precedents and customary practices that have developed over the years.

Civil law in Quebec, however, is based on a written code (the *Code civil*), which contains general principles and rules for different types of cases. Unlike common law, when a case is considered under *droit civil*, the judge first looks to this written code for guidance and then to the precedents set by earlier decisions.

Although the procedures used in common law are different from those in *droit civil*, the results often are not. Decisions made in similar cases using the two systems are usually much the same.

The Courts

Canada's laws are interpreted and applied by the courts, which are presided over by judges whose independence is guaranteed. Each province is responsible for establishing its own courts, which deal with matters arising under both federal and provincial law. In addition, the federal Parliament has established a general court of appeal for Canada and a number of courts of specialized jurisdiction.

The court system of each province is generally divided into two levels. At the first level is the Provincial Court, which deals with most criminal offences. This level may also include Small Claims courts, which deal with private disputes involving limited sums of money, and Youth and Family courts. Judges at this level are appointed by the provinces.

At the second level is the provincial Superior Court, the judges of which are appointed by the federal government. This court deals with the trial of the most serious criminal and civil cases. Above this level of court is the provincial Court of Appeal, which hears appeals from the lower courts.

The Parliament of Canada has established the Federal Court, which deals with claims against the federal government and such matters as patents, copyright and maritime law. There is also a Tax Court of Canada, which has jurisdiction in federal revenue matters.

The highest court in the country is the Supreme Court of Canada. This court hears appeals from the provincial superior courts and the federal courts. Its decision is always final.

In addition to all these courts, both the provinces and the federal government have established a number of specialized boards and tribunals that deal with administrative rules and regulations in such areas as broadcasting licences, safety standards and labour relations.

Law Enforcement

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), maintained by the federal government, is Canada's national police force. The RCMP enforces many federal statutes, with the greatest emphasis on criminal and narcotics laws.


The RCMP is the sole police force in the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. In addition, eight provinces employ the RCMP to carry out provincial policing responsibilities within their borders, such as highway patrol and assisting municipal police forces in the investigation of serious crimes.

Provinces of Ontario and Quebec have their own police forces.

Municipal forces provide general policing services locally. If no municipal force exists, these services are provided by either the federal or provincial police force.

Legal Advice

The legal profession is regulated by the provincial law societies, which determine standards for admission to practice in each province.

All provinces operate publicly funded legal aid programs, providing legal advice at little or no cost for persons of limited means. The specific requirements for using these programs differ from province to province, but in each case their purpose is the same: to ensure that everyone can have access to proper legal representation when necessary, regardless of financial circumstances. 



Education

Education in Canada comprises 10 provincial and 2 territorial systems, including public schools, "separate" schools, and private schools.

In coming together to build their country, Canadians from many cultural backgrounds discovered that tolerance and flexibility were necessary in order to unite so many different historical, geographical and ethnic elements. The education systems that evolved were designed to accommodate this diversity.

Public education in Canada is co-educational and free up to and including secondary school. The law requires children to attend school from the age of 6 or 7 until they are 15 or 16 years old. In Quebec, free education is extended to include attendance at the general and vocational colleges (CEGEPs), which charge only a minimal registration fee. The student pays tuition for most other post-secondary education.

In 1993, Canada spent \$54.2 billion on education, which represents 8 percent of its gross domestic product. This percentage is among the highest of the industrialized countries.

A Provincial Responsibility

There is no federal educational system in Canada: the Constitution vested the exclusive responsibility for education to the provinces. Each provincial system, while similar to the others, reflects its specific regional concerns and historical and cultural heritage. The provincial departments of education — headed by an elected minister — set standards, draw up curriculums and give grants to educational institutions.

Responsibility for the administration of elementary and secondary (or high) schools is delegated to local elected school boards or commissions. The boards set local budgets, hire and negotiate with teachers, and shape school curriculums within provincial guidelines.

The federal government has an indirect involvement in education. It provides financial support for post-secondary education, adult occupational training and the teaching of the two official languages — especially second-language training. In addition, it is responsible for the education of Aborigines, armed forces personnel and their dependants, and inmates of federal penal institutions.

The federal government, through its Canada Student Loans Program, assists students who do not have sufficient resources to pursue their studies. It provides loan guarantees and, in the case of full-time students, interest subsidies to help meet the cost of studies at the post-secondary level. Provinces have complementary programs of loans and bursaries. In 1991-92, provincial and federal government expenditures for student aid amounted to just over \$794 million.

Elementary and Secondary Schools

About five million children in Canada received a free education during the 1990-91 school year. In some provinces, children can enter kindergarten at the age of four before starting the elementary grades at age six. General and fundamental, the elementary curriculum emphasizes the basic subjects of language, math, social studies, introductory arts and science.

In some provinces, enriched or accelerated programs are available for academically gifted children. Slow learners and disabled students can be placed in special programs, classes or institutions. Increasingly, however, some disabled students are being integrated into the regular system.

In general, high school programs consist of two streams. The first prepares students for university, the second for post-secondary education at a community college or institute of technology, or for the workplace. There are also special programs for students unable to complete the regular programs.

In most provinces, individual schools now set, conduct and mark their own examinations. In some provinces, however, students need to succeed a graduation examination in certain key subjects in order to access to the post-secondary level. University entrance thus depends on course selection and marks in high school; requirements vary from province to province.

Other Schools

For parents seeking alternatives to the public system, there are separate as well as private schools. Provincial legislation permits the establishment of separate schools by religious groups. Mostly Roman Catholic, separate schools offer a complete parochial curriculum from kindergarten through the secondary level in some provinces.

Private or independent schools offer a great variety of curriculum options based on religion, language, or social or academic status.

Teacher Training

Canada's elementary and secondary education systems employed close to



297 000 full-time teachers in 1991-92. Their professional training includes at least four or five years of study combining a university degree with at least one year to complete the Bachelor of Education degree. Teachers are licensed by the provincial departments of education.

Post-Secondary Education

Until the mid-1960s, post-secondary education in Canada was provided almost exclusively by its universities. These were mainly private institutions, many with a religious affiliation. During the 1960s, however, as the demand for greater variety in post-secondary education rose sharply and enrolment mushroomed, systems of publicly operated post-secondary non-university institutions began to develop.

Today, university and other post-secondary education is subsidized by the provincial and federal governments. University student fees only account for an average 17.8 percent of operating revenues of \$6.6 billion.

The post-secondary non-university institutions are known under a variety of names, including CEGEPs, institutes of technology and community colleges. They are funded by the provinces (some fully) and offer training in para-professional, technical and business occupations. Some offer university transfer programs as well.

Not all their programs are post-secondary, since some do not require high school graduation. For example, training in the trades, such as carpentry, plumbing or bricklaying, which takes one year to complete, requires completion of Grade 10 for admission.


Virtually all these institutions, including the universities, offer both full and part-time adult education. In

1992-93, an estimated 551 300 students in Canada were studying at the college level and 867 300 were at the university level, with just 60 percent in each category enrolled in full-time studies. Over the past 20 years, with the emphasis on lifelong learning, there has been a marked increase in the number of students from outside the usual 18-to-24-year-old age group; in 1990, 24 percent of university students were over the age of 24 compared with almost 18 percent in 1970-71.

Currently, more than 55 percent of all university students are women, and more women receive university qualifications than men. Similarly, over 53 percent of full-time college students, and nearly 63 percent of part-time students at this level, are women.

It is worth noting that adult education at all levels, from university to trades, is a fast-growing sector. In 1990, for example, 3.4 million adults — 20 percent of Canadians — were taking part-time courses.

A Highly Rated Systems

Canadian provinces and territories have developed comprehensive, diversified systems of education, designed to be universally accessible and to respond to the bilingual and multicultural character of Canadian society. 



Women

Women have a long history of active involvement in all aspects of Canadian life. In 1918, after a long struggle, they won the right to vote in federal elections. In 1929, they helped overturn a previous court ruling that barred women from appointments to the Senate on the grounds that they were not "persons" within the meaning of the law.

There have been remarkable changes to society and to the lives of Canadian women since then. In 1929, less than 4 percent of women worked outside the home; in 1991, 60 percent were in the labour force. That trend alone has meant considerable changes in family life.

Women and Their Families

The past 25 years have seen the demise of the "traditional" family, with father the only breadwinner and mother working unpaid in the home, looking after the children and shouldering the responsibility for household tasks. In 1992, only 16 percent of all Canadian families were still of this type. While the predominant family type is now the dual-earner couple, with or without children, 16 percent of families are headed by a female-lone parent.

Perhaps the most remarkable change in recent years has been the increased number of mothers who have young children and work outside their homes. A record 69 percent of mothers in two-parent families with children under age six are now in the paid labour force, while 47 percent of lone-parent mothers with young children are in the same situation.

Not surprisingly, these rapid changes in family life have focussed attention on child care and the balancing of work and family responsibilities. It is

estimated that 60 percent of families with children younger than 13 need some supplemental child care while the parents are at work. The federal government provides approximately \$1 billion a year in support of child care through tax deductions and allowances.

All jurisdictions in Canada give women a statutory right to take maternity leave without penalty, usually for a period of 17 weeks. An additional period of 24 weeks' parental leave, which may be taken by either parent, is available to certain workers, mostly in the federal public service, banks, and transportation and communications companies.

While these rights are for unpaid leave, the Unemployment Insurance Program provides 15 weeks of maternity benefits for mothers, and 10 weeks of parental benefits for natural or adoptive parents.

Women and the Economy

Women now account for 45 percent of the Canadian labour force, compared with 36 percent in 1975. In fact, women accounted for almost three quarters of all growth in employment between 1975 and 1991. However, women still tend to be concentrated in lower-paying occupations often labelled "women's work": clerical, sales, services, teaching and nursing. On the other hand, the number of women who are employed in their own businesses has increased 172 percent since 1975. Women now comprise 30 percent of all self-employed persons in Canada.

A wage gap persists between women and men in the labour force: women working full-time for a full year in 1993 earned on average 72 percent of what men earned. Equal pay for work

of equal-value laws have been in place at the federal level for more than a decade, and several provinces are also trying to integrate pay equity legislation in their jurisdictions, to which most Canadian workers are subject. The laws are based on an evaluation of jobs that takes into account the skill, effort and responsibility required to do a job, and the conditions under which the work is performed.

Employers with more than 100 employees and those who want to do business with the federal government also fall under a program of employment equity. Employers are required to report annually on their progress in integrating women and other target groups into their workforces.

About one quarter of employed women work part-time, and the percentage has not changed much over the past 10 years. The situation reflects a growing trend to part-time work in the Canadian economy, particularly in the service sector, where the majority of women work.

Increasingly, in Canada as elsewhere, a "feminization of poverty" particularly affects female lone-parents and their children, as well as elderly women. Women who head lone-parent families are now among the poorest of the poor: almost 62 percent of families living in poverty are headed by female lone-parents.

While poverty rates among the elderly have been declining, thanks to government programs such as the Old Age Security benefit and the Guaranteed Income Supplement, elderly women, especially those who have never been in the labour force, are still disadvantaged.

One of the keys to women's economic equality is improved access for women and girls to education and training opportunities. Of all women aged 15 and over, 40 percent have a high school diploma or better. Over 10 percent of women hold a university degree. Women comprise more than 53 percent of full-time undergraduate students at Canadian universities. Federal, provincial and territorial governments have been working together to eliminate sexual stereotyping in school curriculums, textbooks and career counselling. They also encourage greater participation by women and girls in mathematics, science and technology.

Women and Government

Since 1985, the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, part of Canada's Constitution, has guaranteed equal rights to women and men as well as special measures to correct past discrimination on the basis of sex. Discrimination is also prohibited in the human rights acts of the federal government and all 10 provinces.

The federal government, 10 provinces and 2 territories each have a cabinet minister responsible for the status of women and supporting women's offices in the public service. Most jurisdictions also have advisory councils. There is ongoing co-operation among the different levels of government.

Canada is also committed to several international agreements, especially the 1985 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies. Gender equality is also being sought through work with other international organizations such as the Commonwealth and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Women are increasingly becoming active in politics at all levels. In June 1993, the Right Honourable Kim Campbell became Canada's first woman Prime Minister. In the federal election later the same year, 53 women were elected to the 295-seats House of Commons — the highest number in Canada's history. Women are also party leaders, premiers and members of provincial/territorial governments. They have extensive representation at the municipal level on city councils and school boards.

Women as Activists


The achievement of basic political rights in the early part of this century set the stage for the much larger, more organized women's movement of today. In the 1960s, individual women and women's organizations convinced the federal government to establish the Royal Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission's landmark report, published in 1970, was a blueprint for policy and legislation to ensure equality for Canadian women.

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women, a non-governmental organization, was originally established to make sure the Royal Commission's recommendations were implemented. It now acts as an umbrella organization for more than 560 groups representing more than three million women.

There are almost 70 national women's organizations in Canada, and thousands of provincial, regional and local women's groups.

Ongoing Role

Progress has been made. But true equality for women has yet to be achieved. Improved policies to help women as well as men balance their paid employment with family

responsibilities and measures to address the needs of lone-parent families and violence against women and children are priority issues. For Canadian women, the task ahead is clear: to continue initiating change and ensure that policy makers at all levels maintain their efforts to advance the situation of women on both a national and international level. 



Geography

Occupying the northern half of the North American continent, Canada has a land mass of 9 970 610 km², making it the second-largest country in the world after Russia. From east to west, Canada encompasses six time zones.

Canada's motto, "From Sea to Sea," is geographically inaccurate. In addition to its coastlines on the Atlantic and Pacific, Canada has a third sea coast on the Arctic Ocean, giving it the longest coastline of any country.

To the south, Canada shares a 8892-km boundary with the United States. To the north, the arctic islands come within 800 km of the North Pole. Canada's neighbour across the Arctic Ocean is Russia.

Because of the harsh northern climate, only 12 percent of the land is suitable for agriculture. Thus, most of the population of 27 million live within a few hundred kilometres of the southern border, where the climate is milder, in a long thin band stretching between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans.

If you fly over Manitoba or northern Ontario in summer, you will see more water than land: lakes, big and small, so many that they could not possibly be counted. It has been estimated that Canada has one seventh of the world's fresh water. In addition to the Great Lakes, which it shares with the United States, Canada has many large rivers and lakes.

Canada is divided into seven regions, each with a very different landscape and climate.

1. The Pacific Coast

Bathed by warm, moist Pacific air currents, the British Columbia coast,

indented by deep fiords and shielded from the Pacific storms by Vancouver Island, has the most moderate climate of Canada's regions.

Vancouver Island's west coast receives an exceptional amount of rain, giving it a temperate rain forest climate. Although it does not contain the diversity of species of a tropical rain forest, the island's west coast does have the oldest and tallest trees in Canada: western red cedars 1300 years old and Douglas firs 90 m high.

2. The Cordillera

From British Columbia to just east of the Alberta border the land is young, with rugged mountains and high plateaus. Signs of geologically recent volcanic activity can be seen in Garibaldi Provincial Park in southern British Columbia and at Mount Edziza in the north.

The Rocky Mountains, the Coast Mountains and other ranges, running north to south, posed major engineering problems for the builders of the transcontinental railways and highways. Canada's highest peaks, however, are not in the Rockies, but in the St. Elias Mountains, an extension of the Cordillera stretching north into the Yukon and Alaska. The highest point in Canada, mount Logan (6050 m), rises amid a huge icefield in the southwest corner of Yukon, the largest icecap south of the Arctic Circle.

The British Columbia interior varies from alpine snowfields to deep valleys where desert-like conditions prevail. On the leeward side of the mountains, for example, a rain-shadow effect is created, forcing Okanagan Valley farmers to irrigate their orchards and vineyards.

3. The Prairies

To drive across the Prairies is to see endless fields of wheat and canola ripening under a sky that seems to go on forever. The plains of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are among the richest grain-producing regions in the world.

Yet even here are surprises. If you leave the road at Brooks, Alberta, and drive north, you descend into the Red Deer River valley. Here, in desert-like conditions, water and wind have created strange shapes in the sandstone called "hoodoos." The same forces of erosion have uncovered some of the largest concentrations of dinosaur fossils in the world.

Alberta is Canada's leading producer of petroleum. The sedimentary rocks underlying the Prairies have important deposits of oil, natural gas and potash.

4. The Canadian Shield

A huge inland sea called Hudson Bay extends into the heart of Canada, and wrapped around this bay is a rocky region called the Canadian Shield. Canada's largest geographical feature, it stretches east to Labrador, south to Kingston on Lake Ontario and northwest as far as the Arctic Ocean.

The Shield is considered to be the nucleus of the North American continent and is made up of roots of ancient mountains. Its gneiss and granite rocks are 3.5 billion years old, three quarters the age of the Earth. Scraped by the advance and retreat of glaciers, the Shield has only a thin layer of soil that supports a boreal forest of spruce, fir, tamarack and pine.

The region is a storehouse of minerals, including gold, silver, zinc, copper and uranium, and Canada's great mining towns are located there: Sudbury and Timmins in Ontario, Val-d'Or in Quebec, and Flin Flon and Thompson in Manitoba.

5. The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Lowlands

Southern Quebec and Ontario, the industrial heartland of Canada, contain Canada's two largest cities, Montreal and Toronto. In this small region, 50 percent of Canadians live and 70 percent of Canada's manufactured goods are produced.

The region also has prime agricultural land, for example the Niagara Peninsula. The large expanses of lakes Erie and Ontario extend the number of frost-free days, permitting the cultivation of grapes, peaches, pears and other fruits.

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence region is sugar maple country. In the autumn, the tree's leaves, Canada's national symbol, are ablaze in red, orange and gold. The sap is collected in spring and evaporated to make maple syrup and sugar, a culinary delicacy first prepared and used by the Aboriginal North American peoples.

6. The Atlantic Provinces-Appalachian Region

New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland are the smallest Canadian provinces, and were the first to be settled by Europeans. Evidence of contact as far back as AD 1000 has been found at a Norse settlement at l'Anse aux Meadows, in Newfoundland.

The Grand Banks have been called the "wheat fields" of Newfoundland. This shallow continental shelf extends 400 km off the east coast, where the mixing of ocean currents has created

one of the richest fishing grounds in the world. Once thought to contain a virtually inexhaustible supply of fish, the Banks are now considered a vulnerable resource that must be wisely managed.

The Atlantic provinces are an extension of the Appalachians, an ancient mountain range. Much of the region has low, rugged hills and plateaus, and a deeply indented coastline. Agriculture flourishes in the fertile valleys, such as the Saint John River Valley, New Brunswick, and the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia.

Prince Edward Island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence has a gently rolling landscape with a rich, red soil. This fertile island is Canada's smallest province, making up a mere 0.1 percent of Canada's land mass.

7. The Arctic

North of the tree line is a land of harsh beauty. During the short summer, when daylight is nearly continuous and a profusion of flowers blooms on the tundra, the temperature can reach 30°C. Yet the winters are long, bitterly cold, dark and unforgiving.

The Arctic is no longer an inaccessible frontier. Inuvik, in the Mackenzie delta, can be reached by road, and every community is served by air. Most have electricity, stores and health services.


North of the mainland is a maze of islands separated by convoluted straits and sounds, the most famous of which link together to form the fabled Northwest Passage, the route to the Orient sought by so many early explorers.

Reflecting a growing autonomy, the Inuit (formerly known as Eskimos) are gradually changing place names into their language, Inuktitut. For

example, the people of Frobisher Bay on Baffin Island decided to rename their community Iqualuit, which means "place of fish."

Living Museums

It is much better to explore first-hand the geography of Canada than to read about it. The country's national and provincial parks represent every landform and preserve the wildlife native to those regions: from the bird watchers' paradise of Point Pelée, a stopping-off point for migratory birds crossing Lake Erie, to the glaciers and fiords of Auyuittuq ("the land that never melts") on Baffin Island in the Arctic; from the rain forest of Vancouver Island to the stark cliffs and highlands of Gros Morne in western Newfoundland.

Whether tiny or enormous, Canadian parks are living museums, as diverse, vast and fascinating as Canada itself. 



Environment

Around the world, people are recognizing that economic growth and environmental protection must go hand in hand. This is the message of sustainable development, a concept that received the backing of the world community at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development — the Earth Summit — held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

It is a message that Canadians take very seriously. They are fortunate to have a high standard of living and a rich environmental heritage. But they know that they must act wisely so that future generations may enjoy the same benefits.

For this reason, Canada strongly supported the Earth Summit and signed major international conventions and agreements to protect the global environment. For this reason as well, Canada takes initiatives to integrate domestic economic and environmental policies, and to make pollution prevention a priority in all sectors.

A Shared Responsibility

Under Canada's federal system, responsibility for the environment is shared by the federal and the provincial governments.

Interprovincial or international issues are under the jurisdiction of the federal government; natural resources are the responsibility of the provinces and territories. Collaboration between the various levels of government, therefore, is vital. At the federal level, primary responsibility for environmental matters rests with the Department of the Environment.

Moreover, municipalities have an important role to play in supporting the implementation of Canadian environmental legislation. Non-governmental organizations work to heighten public awareness of environmental issues, and promote action on these issues. Canadian business is rising to the challenge

by adopting environmentally sound practices and exploring the economic opportunities opened by the rising demand for environmental products and services. Finally, thousands of individual Canadians are changing their day-to-day behaviour, doing their part for the environment.

Water, Air and Land

Canada has nearly 9 percent of the earth's fresh water, and its coastline, the longest in the world, extends over 244 000 km. However, urbanization and industrial development have placed severe stresses on these precious water resources, and Canada is working to remedy this situation.

Canada has developed a national water policy to guide the use of fresh water resources. At present, there are drinking water treatment plants for nearly 80 percent of Canadians. Action plans are building partnerships to clean up the Fraser River basin, Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River and Atlantic harbours. Canada and the United States are co-ordinating their efforts to address pollution problems, for example by working to eliminate emissions that cause acid rain and to improve water quality in the Great Lakes.

Work is under way for assessing the effect of commercial chemicals, industrial contaminants and industrial effluents; those that are judged to be toxic are subject to strict controls, such as in the pulp and paper industry where regulations are helping to reduce the environmental impact of effluents from mills.

A federal-provincial National Air Pollution Monitoring Network was set up in 1989 to monitor the air quality in Canadian cities, and joint agreements in this area are targeting the problem of urban smog.

By the year 2000, the National Waste Reduction Plan seeks to cut by 50 percent the volume of packaging waste generated in Canada. For example, in 1988 the volume of packaging waste generated in Canada was 5.41 million tonnes annually. By 1990, Canadians had reduced the volume of packaging waste by 14 percent and by 1992 had achieved a reduction of 21 percent. The National Contaminated Sites Remediation Program has started cleaning up 31 abandoned hazardous waste sites in Canada.

Finally, a broad action plan for health and environment contains measures for identifying and addressing human health problems associated with environmental pollution.

Renewable Resources

In a global context, Canada's dominant characteristic is its abundance of land. Of a total land mass of about 9,970,610 km², 24 percent is used for forestry, and 7 percent for agriculture. In these resource-based economic sectors, Canada is introducing sustainable practices. In 1992 forestry ministers, Aboriginal groups, industry, labour and environmental groups endorsed a new national forest strategy, which supports a shift from sustained yield to sustainable development in forest management. This includes the establishment of 10 model forests and tree-planting programs across the country. Canada strongly supported the Statement on Forestry Principles adopted at the Earth Summit, and sees this as the basis for an eventual global forestry convention.

To foster sustainability in Canada's agri-food industry, Canada's Sustainable Agriculture Initiative provides research, technology transfer, development assistance and education. The federal government addresses issues of national concern, including protecting genetic

resources, limiting greenhouse gas emissions and developing alternative pest management strategies. Issues of regional concern — including soil and water conservation, wildlife habitat preservation, and pollution and waste management — are addressed under bilateral agreements with the provinces and territories.

Canada is a major exporter of fish: it ranks fifth in the world in the value of fish exports. However, in the early 1990s, a number of groundfish stocks on Canada's Atlantic coast drastically declined, including the northern cod stock, the single most important groundfish stock on Canada's Atlantic coast. In response, Canada declared a moratorium on fishing for northern cod in 1992, and on certain other groundfish stocks in 1993.

The causes for these declines could include harsh environmental conditions, overfishing and, possibly, increased predation by seals. Overfishing by foreign vessels outside the Canadian 200-mile fishing zone has been identified as a key factor for the decline of "straddling" stocks of flatfish, those that are both inside Canada's 200-mile fishing zone and outside on the high seas.

At the Earth Summit, Canada successfully called for a United Nations conference to recommend measures to control high-seas fishing. At the first session of the conference in 1993, Canada and other coastal states tabled a draft convention designed to promote enhanced rights for coastal states over stocks straddling their 200-mile fishing zones.

Special Spaces and Species

Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments are publicly committed to completing by the year 2000 the networks of protected areas representative of the country's terrestrial regions. They are also committed to accelerating the protection of the country's marine regions and its wildlife habitat

considered critical to the survival of wildlife species. The achievement of these goals should result in the setting aside of at least 12 percent of Canada as protected space. The national parks system, begun by the federal government in 1885, is now approximately 60 percent complete, requiring the representation of the remaining 16 terrestrial regions by the end of this century.

In support of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Significance, the Canadian government adopted the Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation in 1992. As well, Canada has protected 32 Ramsar sites whose combined area is the largest of all signatories to the Ramsar Convention. Others are currently being considered. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan, agreed to by Canada and the United States in 1986, is bringing together government and non-government partners in the conservation of habitat for migrating waterfowl. A new federal act protects threatened and endangered species of wild animals and plants, and regulates trade in wild fauna and flora. Canada was one of the first countries to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity adopted at the Earth Summit.

The Arctic

Canada's northland accounts for 40 percent of the country's land mass, two thirds of its marine coastline, and 30 percent of its freshwater resources. This is a highly fragile environment, and despite its remoteness, it is increasingly exposed to threats such as airborne pollutants originating hundreds or thousands of kilometres away.

To preserve the integrity of the North, the federal government launched an Arctic Environmental Strategy, developed in partnership with the territorial governments, native organizations and northern residents. The Strategy focusses on four areas: contaminants, waste, water, and


environment-economy integration. Canada is also working with its Arctic neighbours to protect the region, through the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy.

The Global Environment

The increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the thinning of the ozone layer and acid rain are issues of great international concern. Canada seeks to ensure a place for the environment on the agenda of international trade negotiations. Environmental factors were given close attention in the negotiations on the North American Free Trade Agreement between Mexico, the United States and Canada, and an environmental side agreement, the North American Agreement on Environmental Co-operation, was developed and signed by the three countries. In fact, the North American Commission for Environmental Co-operation, established under the Agreement, will be based in Montreal.

Following the Earth Summit in Rio, the Commission on Sustainable Development was established by the United Nations to monitor progress toward achieving the goals of sustainable development. Along with other member nations of the Commission, Canada will provide information on activities undertaken to implement Agenda 21 — a global plan of action on environment and development achieved in Rio. These reports, which are to be submitted periodically over the next four years, will help prepare members of the Commission for the 1997 General Review of Agenda 21.

Conclusion

In environmental matters, Canada is committed to protecting the long-term health and diversity of species, promoting energy efficiency and clean technologies to wisely manage and conserve its renewable resources for the benefit of future generations. 



Climate

Canada's climate is characterized by its diversity, as temperature and precipitation differ from region to region and from season to season. While it is true that in the extreme north temperatures climb above 0°C for only a few months a year, most Canadians live within 300 km of the country's southern border where mild springs, hot summers and pleasantly crisp autumns prevail at least 7 months out of 12. The seasons dictate the look of the land: according to whether the natural environment is in a state of dormancy or growth, Canadians will be alpine skiing... or water skiing.

While seasonal change signals fluctuations in temperature and number of hours of sunshine, the shifting position of air masses also plays a part. The usual air flow from west to east is disrupted in winter when cold, dry air moves down from the Arctic, and in summer when warm, tropical air moves up from the southeast. Added to these factors are the effect of mountain ranges, plains and large bodies of water.

The West Coast

The coast of British Columbia has the most temperate climate in Canada, thanks to warm, moist Pacific Ocean airstreams. The province's most populous cities, Vancouver and Victoria, enjoy comfortable and relatively dry summers and mild, wet winters. Snow seldom falls in low-lying areas, and when it does, it usually melts the same day.

The Cordilleran mountain system, which includes the Coastal Range and the Rocky Mountains, blocks the warm, moist Pacific air from the interior plains of the Prairie provinces. As the moist air is forced to rise over the mountains, it cools and falls on the western slopes in heavy amounts of precipitation, as rain at lower altitudes and snow at higher ones. The valleys between the mountain ranges receive much less precipitation and experience warm, even scorching, summers.

The Prairies

Part of the vast central plains of North America, the Canadian Prairies extend east from the Rocky Mountains to the Great Lakes. Here, cold winters and hot summers are the norm, with relatively light precipitation. For instance, in the dry southern portion of Saskatchewan, annual precipitation averages less than 300 mm. Manitoba, the wettest of the Prairie provinces, receives about 500 mm each year.

Spring rains and dry autumn conditions have helped make the Prairies one of the top grain-growing areas of the world. Farming is not without its risk, however, in the form of wind erosion, drought, thunderstorms and hailstorms, and unreasonably early autumn frosts.

Among the most remarkable features of the Prairie winter is the "chinook," a warm, usually dry winter wind that affects much of southern Alberta. The chinook sweeps down from the Rocky Mountains and has been known to raise temperatures as much as 16°C in a single day.

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region

More than half the Canadian population lives close to the Great Lakes or along the St. Lawrence River. Here, winter brings heavy snowfalls. Summers tend to be longer and more humid than elsewhere in Canada. Rainfall varies little year to year and is ample enough to sustain some of the best farming areas in Canada. Mean daily temperatures reach close to 20°C from mid-June to mid-September, with week-long heat waves in the 30s a not uncommon occurrence. Warm, sunny days and crisp, cool nights make the fall season popular.

Atlantic Canada

The combined influence of continental air masses with air currents off the ocean give this region one of the most rugged and most variable climates anywhere in the country. In winter, mean temperatures can vary markedly as arctic air is replaced by maritime air from passing storms. Snowfall is relatively heavy, and fog is common in spring and early summer. The warmest month is July, when mean temperatures are in the 16 to 18°C range.

The North

Spanning the entire country north of the Prairies and the populated Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region is the boreal forest. This area is usually snow-covered more than half the year; its "summer"—the frost-free period—lasts barely two months. Precipitation is light, except along the coast of Labrador where the influence of Atlantic storms is felt.

Further north, above the tree-line, lies the Arctic. Here, temperatures rise above freezing only a few weeks a year. Just a metre below the delicate but tenacious vegetation that grows in summer, the ground remains permanently frozen.

Adapting to Climatic Change

Over the centuries, Canadians have learned to pay attention to their variable climate and to secure themselves against climatic vagaries. Despite modern innovations that afford protection from the extreme heat and cold (advanced snow removal, heated and air-conditioned shopping centres, indoor recreation facilities and office complexes connected by indoor passageways), a feeling of healthy respect for Mother Nature persists in the national psyche. On the whole, Canadians tend to enjoy the changing seasons and the beauty that each distinct season brings. 🍁

Temperature and Precipitation Averages in Canada

		January	April	July	October	Yearly
Vancouver (British Columbia)						
Temperature						
	Daily Maximum (°C)	5.7	12.7	21.7	13.5	13.5
	Daily Minimum (°C)	0.1	4.9	12.7	6.4	6.1
	Daily Mean (°C)	3.0	8.8	17.2	10.0	9.9
Precipitation						
	Rainfall (mm)	131.6	74.9	36.1	115.3	1117.2
	Snowfall (cm)	20.6	0.5	0.0	0.0	54.9
	Total (mm)	149.8	75.4	36.1	115.3	1167.4
Regina (Saskatchewan)						
Temperature						
	Daily Maximum (°C)	-11.0	10.5	26.3	11.9	8.9
	Daily Minimum (°C)	-22.1	-2.4	11.9	-1.7	-3.8
	Daily Mean (°C)	-16.5	4.1	19.1	5.1	2.6
Precipitation						
	Rainfall (mm)	0.5	13.2	58.9	13.6	280.5
	Snowfall (cm)	19.2	8.8	0.0	7.6	107.4
	Total (mm)	14.7	20.4	58.9	20.3	364.0
Toronto (Ontario)						
Temperature						
	Daily Maximum (°C)	-2.5	11.5	26.8	14.1	12.3
	Daily Minimum (°C)	-11.1	0.6	14.2	3.6	1.9
	Daily Mean (°C)	-6.7	6.0	20.5	8.9	7.2
Precipitation						
	Rainfall (mm)	18.5	56.0	76.6	62.0	664.7
	Snowfall (cm)	32.3	7.3	0.0	1.1	124.2
	Total (mm)	45.6	64.0	76.6	63.0	780.8
Montreal (Quebec)						
Temperature						
	Daily Maximum (°C)	-5.8	10.7	26.2	13.0	10.9
	Daily Minimum (°C)	-14.9	0.6	15.4	3.6	1.2
	Daily Mean (°C)	-10.3	5.7	20.8	8.3	6.1
Precipitation						
	Rainfall (mm)	20.8	62.6	85.6	72.8	736.3
	Snowfall (cm)	47.7	10.9	0.0	2.6	214.2
	Total (mm)	63.3	74.8	85.6	75.4	939.7
Halifax (Nova Scotia)						
Temperature						
	Daily Maximum (°C)	-0.3	7.8	21.8	13.3	10.6
	Daily Minimum (°C)	-8.9	-0.2	13.1	5.2	2.3
	Daily Mean (°C)	-4.6	3.9	17.5	9.3	6.5
Precipitation						
	Rainfall (mm)	81.5	94.5	97.8	119.8	1178.1
	Snowfall (cm)	48.9	14.1	0.0	1.8	192.6
	Total (mm)	128.9	110.1	97.8	121.7	1370.7
St. John's (Newfoundland)						
Temperature						
	Daily Maximum (°C)	-0.7	4.8	20.2	10.6	8.6
	Daily Minimum (°C)	-7.9	-2.2	10.5	3.4	0.8
	Daily Mean (°C)	-4.3	1.3	15.4	7.0	4.7
Precipitation						
	Rainfall (mm)	69.3	79.6	77.9	147.4	1163.1
	Snowfall (cm)	83.0	26.8	0.0	4.0	322.1
	Total (mm)	147.8	110.4	77.9	151.7	1481.7

Data from *Canadian Climate Normals/ Normales Climatiques au Canada 1961-1990*, published by the Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment Canada, 1993.



Multiculturalism

History

The groundwork for a multicultural Canada was laid early in the country's history. Aboriginal society was multicultural and multilingual. The first French and British explorers who came to Canada in the 16th and 17th centuries interacted with the First Nations to build a unique Canadian heritage.

During the final decades of the 19th century and the early years of the 20th, many eastern and northern Europeans immigrated to Canada in search of land and freedom. During this same period, large numbers of Chinese and South Asians also came to Canada as labourers to work in the mines, on the railroad or in service industries.

Individuals from all over the world have settled in Canada, making it a truly multicultural country. In 1991, over 11 million Canadians (including Aboriginals), or 42 percent of the Canadian population, reported having a least some ethnic origin other than British or French. Among the larger groups are German, Italian, Ukrainian, Dutch, Polish, Chinese, South Asian, Jewish, Caribbean, Portuguese and Scandinavian.

Education

Canada's education system has had to respond creatively to the cultural diversity of the people. Over 60 languages are spoken by more than 70 ethnocultural groups across the country. Many schools have students from 20 or more distinct ethnocultural groups. In Toronto and Vancouver, over half the students in public schools can speak languages other than English or French.

Multicultural and anti-racist education programs challenge the educational system at all levels to adapt itself

to the diversity of its clientele to ensure equity and inclusiveness. At school, teachers bring their students to an understanding and appreciation of other cultures.

Heritage language instruction is available in many communities. In some provinces and communities, heritage language classes are available in the schools. The federal government funds projects designed to promote innovative approaches to the teaching of heritage languages. It also supports the development of Canadian resources, expertise and educational materials for heritage language schools.

In addition, the Government has programs to promote institutional change in the educational system, multicultural research, ethnic histories and other documentary resources, and the development of courses and the creation of chairs of study on multiculturalism at Canadian universities.

Media

Active for more than 80 years, ethnic newspapers flourish across Canada. In Toronto alone, there are more than 100 daily, weekly, monthly or quarterly ethnic-language publications. More than 40 cultures are represented in Canada's ethnic press; many of these publications are national in scope.

Ethnic radio and television broadcasting in Canada is also thriving. Nine radio stations in five cities broadcast a large percentage of their weekly programming to specific ethnic groups, notably Italian, Ukrainian, German, Greek, Portuguese and Chinese. Toronto has a full-time ethnic television station. Three ethnic specialty television services are licensed, and more than

60 radio stations include ethnic broadcasting in their schedules. Numerous cable companies carry programming in a variety of languages on community channels.

Canada's Broadcasting Act, which obtained royal assent in 1991, enshrined the concept of access by minorities. The legislation affirms that the Canadian broadcasting system should, through its programming and the employment opportunities arising out of its operations, serve the need of a diverse society and reflect the multicultural and multiracial nature of Canada.

Business

Canada's diversity is increasingly recognized as an asset in both the domestic and international market, and as a major contributing factor to Canadian economic prosperity. Canadians who came here as immigrants have gained international acclaim in the business world and continue to make decisive contributions to Canada's wealth. According to data compiled by Canadian Heritage:

- in 1988, they brought some \$6 billion to Canada;
- they are 50 percent more likely to be self-employed than other Canadians;
- they save more, thereby expanding the pool of investment capital available in the country;
- they tend to consume less in public services, and few of them receive social assistance;
- immigrants have higher than average incomes and higher wages, therefore they pay more in taxes.

As a result of these contributions, the average immigrant-headed household effectively transfers about \$210 annually to the Canadian born population.

Aware of the potential opportunities of diversity in the business world, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce interacts with international commerce organizations. The Government's Federal Business Development Bank consults regularly with ethnocultural business associations in major centres.

The Department of Canadian Heritage has published a directory of contacts for businesses and governments wishing to network with the Canadian ethnocultural business community on domestic or international business matters.

The Arts

Artists with origins in all parts of the world now enrich the Canadian cultural scene. For example, an increasing number of writers of various ethnocultural origins have received national and international recognition, including the Governor General's and Booker prizes. Similarly, Canadians of diverse ethnocultural background are making significant contributions to film, video, performance and visual arts in Canada.

Multicultural Programs

Community-based organizations and coalitions, as well as institutions, play a major role in the promotion of racial equity, cross-cultural understanding and civic spirit. Their efforts are supported by the Government's multiculturalism programs, which provide financial help and advice to ethnocultural community groups, agencies serving immigrants, immigrant women's groups and race relations coalitions, among others, as well as Canadian institutions and, in some cases, individuals.

Services to first-generation Canadians (citizens born elsewhere) providing information about Canada are a large part of many community-based programs. In partnership with the Canadian government, various institutions, including the police, the media, health and social services, unions and municipal governments, also participate in education programs designed to improve race relations and help people adapt to cultural diversity.

Law and Policy

While Canada's history contains examples of injustices toward minority groups, Canada's citizens, institutions and governments are actively working toward eliminating discrimination.

To enable all members of Canadian society to exercise fully, and with equity, their citizenship rights, responsibilities and privileges, Canada has developed concrete, forward-looking programs and laws.

In July 1988, the Government of Canada acknowledged and honoured the changing face of the country in ground-breaking legislation, the *Canadian Multiculturalism Act*. The Act states that every citizen, regardless of origin, has an equal chance to participate in all aspects of the country's collective life. The legislation is designed to "encourage and assist the social, cultural, economic and political institutions of Canada to be both respectful and inclusive of Canada's multicultural character." The Act also gave the federal government responsibility for promoting multiculturalism throughout its departments and agencies.

The *Canadian Multiculturalism Act* is the culmination of a series of developments over the past two decades.


- When multiculturalism became official government policy in

1971, a modest grants program was set up to assist community groups, coalitions, immigrant support networks and citizen advocacy groups.

- In 1972, a minister of state for multiculturalism was appointed.
- In 1977, the *Canadian Human Rights Act* was passed. It provides legal safeguards against discrimination based on several grounds including race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion or sex.
- In 1981, the multiculturalism mandate was expanded to include race relations.
- In 1982, multiculturalism and equality rights were enshrined in Canada's Constitution in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.
- In 1986, employment equity legislation was passed.
- In 1989, the Government launched an annual anti-racism campaign.

As well as federal government initiatives, since 1971 most provinces have established their own formal multiculturalism policies and programs.

Commitment

Canada's commitment to multiculturalism is more than words on paper or laws in Parliament. Multiculturalism is woven into the very fabric of Canadian life. By recognizing multiculturalism as a fundamental characteristic of the country's identity and heritage, Canadians of all cultural origins have the opportunity to contribute to the common goals of equality, national unity, social harmony and economic prosperity. 



Arts

Long-celebrated as a place of natural beauty and wide-open spaces, Canada today has also become known as a centre of contemporary artistic creation. This may be due in part to the country's relatively short history — as if, unshackled by the past, Canadian artists have undertaken to create their own classics. Today, in literature, dance, cinema and other forms of artistic expression, Canadians are in high demand at the world's major cultural events.

Music

Music, be it classical, rock, jazz or opera, has always held a place of prominence in Canada, and Canadians have made their mark beyond ethnic and cultural barriers.

Bryan Adams, Céline Dion and Leonard Cohen are popular with rock fans all over the world, while Roch Voisine and Daniel Lavoie have won the hearts of Francophone audiences worldwide.

Montreal's world-renowned annual jazz festival is a must on the itinerary of all jazz fans. Such groups as UZEB have taken their place among the world's best jazz ensembles. Oscar Peterson is one of the all-time greats, while others, including Lorraine Desmarais, Oliver Jones, Karen Young, Michel Donato and Ed Bickert, are building solid reputations for themselves.

Classical music is also appreciated in Canada. A number of cities have their own symphony orchestra. Many ensembles, such as I Musici and Taffelmusik, are commonly featured at major international festivals and on quality labels. Of all the symphony orchestras in Canada, Montreal's is probably the best known. Under the baton of Charles Dutoit, it has earned an impressive list of prizes and distinctions.

The name Glenn Gould is foremost among performers of classical music: his musical genius and originality brought a new coloration to classical music. Such rising young artists as Angela Hewitt, Ofra Harnoy and Louis Lortie are also renowned worldwide.

Opera lovers are well served by the Vancouver Opera Association, the Canadian Opera Company and others, known for their originality and the quality of their performances. Maureen Forrester, Jon Vickers and Louis and Gino Quilico are among Canada's many talented performers.

Dance

When the subject of modern dance in Canada is raised, La La La Human Steps and the Desrosiers Dance Theatre are names that immediately come to the minds of dance aficionados. All are on the leading edge of experimentation in the field of dance.

Three large ballet companies perform regularly on the international circuit — the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, the Grands Ballets Canadiens and the National Ballet of Canada — receiving praise wherever they perform.

Every year, a growing number of independent choreographers and dancers mount performances in Canada and abroad. Among this group of more than 150, Margie Gillis, Marie Chouinard, Ginette Laurin, Peggy Baker and Jean-Pierre Perrault continue to embody a uniquely Canadian approach to dance.

Literature

Canadian literature is a mirror of the country's linguistic dualism. English-Canadian and French-

Canadian literature are themselves subdivided into regional voices, which in turn mirror the concerns of their own varied communities. Although short on tradition, "Canlit" is increasingly read, translated and acclaimed the world over.

Canadian novelists, essayists and poets such as Robertson Davies, Margaret Atwood, Gabrielle Roy, Jacques Ferron, Alice Munro, Anne Hébert, Jacques Godbout, Northrop Frye, Hubert Aquin, Gaston Miron, Michael Ondaatje and Mordecai Richler have given voice to the deepest thoughts and feelings of Canadians.

Theatre

Canadian theatre is an excellent reflection of the country's cultural diversity. Quebec theatre, for example, has become increasingly popular both at home and abroad in recent years, thanks mainly to the plays of Michel Tremblay, which have now been translated into more than 20 languages.

Canadian theatre is known for its innovative spirit and search for new forms. Companies such as Carbone 14, Repère and One Yellow Rabbit tour the world and receive critical acclaim wherever they go. Others, like Green Thumb, Les Deux Mondes and Mermaid have channelled their energies into creating children's theatre with the refinement and quality of adult theatre.

The Cirque du Soleil has been revolutionizing entertainment under its yellow and blue big top since 1984. Millions of people in audiences around the world have marvelled at its spectacular productions combining theater, acrobatics and music.

The reputation enjoyed by these companies both at home and abroad attests to their professionalism and originality.

Cinema

Although relatively new, Canadian cinema has spawned some extremely profound works in recent years whose quality, universality and relevance have attracted the attention of critics.

International acclaim has been received by film-maker David Cronenberg's *Naked Lunch*, Denys Arcand's *Decline of the American Empire* and *Jesus of Montreal*, producer Léa Pool's *Anne Trister* and Jean-Claude Lauzon's *Léolo* and *Night Zoo*.

The National Film Board, and Norman McLaren in particular, have made Canada a force to be reckoned with in the world of animation. Frederick Back's 1987 Oscar-winning *The Man Who Planted Trees* is a brilliant continuation of this tradition. Computer image animation is now the imaginative focus of Canada's artists in this field.

Visual Arts

From the landscapes of Cornelius Krieghoff and the portraits of Théophile Hamel, which marked the beginning of Canada's artistic tradition, to the multidisciplinary works of Michael Snow, visual arts in Canada have undergone numerous metamorphoses, which in turn attest to those undergone by Canadian society at large.

"Let there be room for magic, room for hope, room for imaginativeness," proclaimed French-Canadian painter Paul-Émile Borduas in 1948, introducing his *Refus global*. This manifesto, signed by 14 artists, called for the abandonment of academicism and the advent of a new social order; Borduas and his group, the


Automatists, advocated non-objectivity in art. The paintings of Jean-Paul Lemieux and Alfred Pellan nonetheless feature some figurative allusions, especially when depicting nature.

During the 1960s another style, leaning toward geometrical abstraction, was introduced by Canadian artists Guido Molinari, Yves Gaucher and Claude Tousignant. In Toronto, Painters Eleven was formed by Jock MacDonald, Jack Bush, William Ronald and eight other abstract painters. Earlier in the century, the Group of Seven had adopted nature as its primary theme, endeavouring to express on canvas the vastness and majesty of Canada's landscapes.

More recently, artists such as Paterson Ewen, "General Idea" and Jeff Wall have drawn international attention to Canadian art. These artists use various modern techniques, such as electronics and video, to relay their message. Today, new trails are being blazed by Canadian artists such as Geneviève Cadieux, Melvin Charney, Stan Douglas and Jana Sterbak who are advocating a new pictorial language in their art.

Conclusion

Artistic expression in all its facets has long played a leading role in Canadian cultural life. Cultural activities are supported extensively by the various levels of government and by private businesses.

The originality of Canadian art stems from a variety of sources: the geography of Canada, its climate and its ethnocultural diversity, as well as its history, written by men and women from all over the world who have joined together determined to build a society based on freedom and respect for individual values. 



Sports

Think of sports in Canada and you'll likely think of hockey. Some of the world's best-known hockey players are Canadian. And hockey is by far Canada's favourite spectator sport and one of its most widely played recreational sports.

But ask young Canadians to list their favourite sports activities and a much broader picture emerges. Those aged 13 to 24 cite swimming, downhill and cross-country skiing, baseball, tennis, basketball. . . Canadians view sports as an integral part of a well-rounded, healthy life.

Sports on Ice and Snow

More than 450 000 youngsters participate in organized hockey leagues. . . and many more play on streets, lakes and outdoor rinks. Many dream of joining the National Hockey League (NHL), a professional league comprising 23 North American teams, including 8 Canadian-based teams in Calgary, Edmonton, Montreal, Ottawa, Quebec City, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg.

Although many teams are located in the United States, the majority of the NHL players are Canadian. The NHL hockey season runs from October to June and is concluded by a playoff among the top teams for the Stanley Cup, a trophy symbolic of hockey supremacy in North America. The 1992-93 season marked the 100th awarding of the Stanley Cup.

Canadians have fared extremely well in international hockey competition: from 1990 to 1994, the Men's Junior National Team won the World Junior Championships four out of five times; the Men's National Team captured silver medals in the 1992 and 1994 Winter Olympic Games; and the Women's National Team won world

championships in 1990, 1992 and 1994.

Skiing — downhill or cross-country — is a sport that has captured the hearts of Canadians. The country boasts hundreds of ski areas, including world-renowned resorts in Banff, Alberta, and Whistler, British Columbia, as well as an abundance of cross-country ski trails. In international competition, Canadian skiers have excelled in recent years on the World Cup circuit and at the Winter Olympic Games. In 1992, Kerrin Lee-Gartner had the performance of her career as she captured a gold medal at the Albertville Olympics. Kate Pace continued the streak of success by winning a gold medal at the 1993 World Championships and coming second in the overall World Cup downhill standings in 1994.

Canada also excels in figure skating. A vast network of figure-skating clubs throughout the country has produced a long line of world and Olympic medalists, from Barbara Ann Scott and Elizabeth Manley to Toller Cranston and Kurt Browning. Among the latest group of Canadians to excel in international figure skating are Elvis Stojko, who won a silver medal at the Lillehammer Games and a gold medal at the World Championships in 1994; and the pairs team of Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler, who won a gold medal in 1993 and a silver in 1994 at the World Championships along with bronze medals at the Albertville and Lillehammer Winter Olympics. As a spectator sport, figure skating has steadily increased in popularity over the last several years.

Although not practised as widely as figure skating, speed skating has produced Canada's greatest Winter

Olympian, Gaétan Boucher, the winner of two gold medals and a bronze at the 1984 Olympics. Canadian speed skaters showed their prowess at the 1994 Lillehammer Olympics where they captured one bronze and three silver medals.

A relatively new sport that has attracted a large following in Canada is ringette: more than 50 000 ringette competitors play on about 2500 teams. Played mostly by women, ringette is similar to hockey, taking place on ice with skates, sticks and a rubber ring.

Biathlon is a demanding sport that integrates the disciplines of cross-country skiing and shooting. Canadian Myriam Bédard dominated the women's 7.5-km and 15-km events at the Lillehammer Olympics, where she won two gold medals.

Sports Variety

The myth of Canadians being ice- and snow-bound for most of the year is quickly shattered when one looks at the variety of warm-weather sports played in Canada. These include swimming, sailing, windsurfing, rowing, track and field, tennis, football (called "soccer"), rugby, field hockey, golf. . . the list goes on.

Swimming is not only one of the most popular recreational sports in Canada, it is also a powerhouse event for Canadian athletes in international competition. Canadians have won more than 50 Olympic medals since the 1912 Summer Games in Stockholm and have held numerous world records. At the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympic Games, swimmer Mark Tewksbury won a gold medal in the 100-metre backstroke event while setting an Olympic record.

Canada has also been a world leader in synchronized swimming since the sport began more than 50 years ago. Synchronized swimming reached full medal status at the 1988 Summer Olympic Games, where Carolyn Waldo won two gold medals for Canada. At the Barcelona Games in 1992, Sylvie Fréchette won the gold while the duo of Penny and Vicky Vilagos captured the silver.

Rowing has also enjoyed a recent upsurge in popularity in Canada following tremendous success on the international circuit. Canada won four golds and one bronze in rowing at the 1992 Barcelona Summer Games, marking its best Olympic performance ever.

Football, the world's most popular sport (it is called "soccer" in Canada), is now entrenched in Canada with a large base of young competitors and a professional league.

In terms of spectator appeal, professional baseball and American football rank with hockey at the top of the list. The Canadian Football League (CFL) has teams in Calgary, Edmonton, Hamilton, Ottawa, Regina, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg. The annual Grey Cup game, with the league's top two teams vying for the championship, is traditionally one of the most watched sports events in Canada.

Major-league baseball teams in Montreal and Toronto attract millions of spectators every season. In 1992, the Toronto Blue Jays captured the World Series title for the first time which also marked the first time the World Series had been won by a team outside the United States. The Blue Jays added to their fame by winning the World Series again in 1993. Baseball and softball are popular recreational sports in Canada, with countless local teams and leagues in operation in the summer and autumn.


International Role

With more than 60 national teams participating in international competition, Canada has a wealth of technical and administrative sports expertise that it shares with other countries through various programs and exchanges.

Canada has hosted almost every major international sports competition: the Summer and Winter Olympics, Commonwealth Games, Pan-American Games and World University Games. The city of Winnipeg will host the 1999 Pan-American Games, and Québec City is competing to host the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

Canada also plays an important role in the Paralympics Games: the summer 1976 edition of the Paralympics were held in Toronto. At Barcelona's Paralympics of 1992, Canadian athletes obtained remarkable results, participating in 11 out of 15 sports and ranking sixth out of 96 countries.

The federal government supports sport around the world through financial aid for international competitions held in Canada and through programs promoting international sports relations as a means of strengthening global ties.

Canada continues to promote the contribution of sport for the personal and community well-being and international sport endeavours as a means of transcending political, cultural and religious differences abroad. 

The Future

Sport has always played an important role in the life of Canadians, but only recently has Canada come into its own as a sporting nation, ranking among the top 15 countries. Its first-rate competitors and international sports initiatives, such as participation in the movement to improve opportunities for athletes with disabilities and the drive to fight against doping in sport, have earned the country a leadership role.



The Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Immortalized by Hollywood movies, the red-coated, broad-hatted Mountie has become one of the most widely recognized symbols of Canada. The colourful RCMP musical ride, an exhibition of horseback set to music, is a popular attraction in Canada and abroad.

But the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is not simply a part of the Canadian mythology, and its activities are not confined to equestrian displays. The RCMP is Canada's national police force, and it has earned an international reputation as one of the best in the world.

Origins

The RCMP was established more than a century ago as the North-West Mounted Police, a "temporary" experiment in rural policing.

In the early days of Canada's settlement, there was no major police force. At the time of Canada's Confederation in 1867, the largest cities of Montreal and Toronto had few full-time constables. Only the small Dominion Police force upheld federal laws. Small towns and rural areas, however, had no police: laws were enforced by temporary court-appointed constables or soldiers.

In 1870, when Canada bought the land north of the U.S. border between the Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountains, the Canadian government decided a law enforcement agency was needed. In this vast, sparsely populated area, the sudden large influx of settlers into traditional Indian lands could lead to violence, if not handled properly. The Canadian government wanted a better way to deal with land settlement and was concerned that the Aboriginal peoples should be treated fairly.

The Government decided to create a para-military police force to maintain order until the western lands were occupied by settlers who respected traditional institutions. This force, established in 1873, came to be called the North-West Mounted Police (NWMP). It was intended that it be disbanded once the territory was settled peacefully.

At first there were 150 recruits to the force, but this was soon increased to 300. The NWMP officers covered their territory on horseback and wore their now-famous red tunics.

Transition

Over the years, the NWMP established close relations with the Indians, preparing them for treaty negotiations and mediating conflicts with the settlers.

The force was increased to 500 in 1883 and given new responsibilities, including the duty of preserving the peace during the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. After the 1885 Métis uprising led by Louis Riel, the NWMP increased again to a 1000-member force.

A full-scale gold rush in the Yukon at the turn of the century carried the potential for violence as prospectors converged from all over the world into the territory. The presence of the NWMP ensured the gold rush was orderly.

After that, the NWMP turned its attention to the Arctic; the force opened detachments aimed at stemming reported abuse of natives as well as countering threats to Canadian sovereignty by expansionist European nations.

By this time, the NWMP was tacitly accepted as a permanent institution. In 1904, King Edward VII added the term "Royal" to the force's name in recognition of its services to the Crown. In 1920, the RNWMP became the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and was officially expanded into a national police force. In the same year, its headquarters was moved from Regina (in the province of Saskatchewan) to Canada's capital, Ottawa.

In 1928, the RCMP began performing police duties in areas beyond federal jurisdiction on contract with different provinces and municipalities. Canada's Constitution defines law enforcement as a provincial responsibility. But a majority of provinces decided they could meet this responsibility most effectively through the services of the RCMP.

The RCMP's role is essentially that of "keeping the peace," but it has made important contributions to Canada's efforts in times of war. Members served overseas in the Boer War in South Africa and during both world wars.

The RCMP Today


Today the Royal Canadian Mounted Police is commanded by a commissioner who reports to the federal government and to the attorneys-general of those provinces where the RCMP provides provincial police services.

With more than 16 000 peace officers and about 5000 civilian employees, the force maintains six crime detection laboratories across Canada and a computerized police information centre in Ottawa. The RCMP also maintains a training academy in Regina and the Canadian

Police College in Ottawa, which offers advance courses to members of other police forces in Canada and around the world.

The major responsibilities of the RCMP are outlined below.

- The RCMP acts as the municipal police force in about 200 Canadian cities and towns.
- The force has contract agreements to provide provincial police services in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and 8 of Canada's 10 provinces (Ontario and Quebec have their own police forces).
- The RCMP enforces about 140 federal laws and statutes dealing with narcotics, commercial crime, immigration and passport control, customs and excise, and counterfeiting.
- The RCMP represents Canada internationally as a member of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL). The force has 30 liaison agents in foreign countries.
- In 1984, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) took over the intelligence-gathering responsibilities of the RCMP. The RCMP, however, is still responsible for enforcing national security.

Over the years the RCMP has evolved from a small, temporary, rural police force to become one of international standing. Yet, throughout its history, it has always emphasized the peaceful settlement of differences, using guns only as a last resort. True to its motto — *Maintiens le droit* or "Maintain the Right" — the RCMP continues to be a distinctive symbol of Canada not only to Canadians, but to the world. 



The First Nations

With a history that dates back from time immemorial, Indians form an important and distinct part of Canadian society. Christopher Columbus misnamed them "Indians" in 1492 when he thought he had arrived in India. Today, Indians are succeeding in reminding other Canadians they were once self-sustaining nations with their own forms of government. Indeed, some traditional forms of government still exist. Canadian Indians, or First Nations — the preferred term — are in a period of transition as they pursue a cultural, social, political and economic revival.

In Canada, there are nearly 540 000 registered or status Indians (approximately 1.8 percent of the total Canadian population). When "registered," the individual is recognized under federal law as being an Indian, entitled to certain rights, privileges and benefits. About 55 percent of registered Indians live on specified areas of land, called reserves, set aside for their use and benefit. There are over 2200 reserves across Canada for some 605 First Nations. Most are in rural areas, many are isolated and some are not inhabited.

Origins

Most anthropologists believe that the North American Indian migrated over the Bering Sea from Siberia, 10 000 to 30 000 years ago. When the European explorers and settlers arrived, Canada was populated by a diverse range of Aboriginal peoples who, depending on the environment, lived nomadic or settled lifestyles, were hunters, fishermen or farmers, were warlike or peaceful. They shared — and continue to share — a deep and spiritual relationship with the land and the life it supports. Each First Nation culture had distinct spiritual beliefs and ceremonies, many of which have been carried down through the generations by elders in an oral tradition.

Early Indian Administration

Britain gained control of most of North America in 1760, and three years later issued the Royal Proclamation that reserved lands for the Indians and prescribed that only governments could deal with Indians on land matters. This prompted a series of land-cession treaties under which First Nations gave up their claims to specified tracts of land in return for lump-sum cash payments and annuities. Lands were also set aside as reserves — areas for the use and benefit of the First Nations which would not be accessible to settlers coming into Canada from Europe or the United States. Under the terms of many treaties, hunting and fishing rights for First Nations were also protected.

From 1830 on, settlement on reserves in parts of what is now eastern Canada began under government guardianship; Aboriginal people effectively became wards of the state.

Post-Confederation Period

With Confederation, the new federal government was given legislative authority over "Indians and lands reserved for Indians." Passage of the first Indian Act in 1876 gave the federal government great powers to control Indians living on reserves: it dictated who was Indian and who wasn't; it controlled movement from the reserves; it dictated when and where children would go to school; and it denied Indian people the right to vote. Sections of the Act also gave the federal government authority over Indians who had no reserve lands.

Although the Indian Act was amended on a number of occasions to do away with these injustices, many of the provisions of the 1876 Act are still in place. For instance, the Act requires that the federal government supervise elections, approve or disallow First Nations by-laws, manage moneys belonging to First Nations and individuals, oversee their estates, and manage Indian lands.

Further efforts to assimilate Indians into Western society included a process called "enfranchisement." Prior to Confederation, the Gradual Civilization Act of 1857 contained property and monetary inducements to encourage Indians to leave tribal societies and seek enfranchisement. The suggestion was that enfranchisement was a reward for adopting the lifestyle and customs of "civilized" citizens.

The year 1859 saw the passage of the Civilization and Enfranchisement Act, but few Indians relinquished their status and rights in favour of enfranchisements. Following Confederation, the Enfranchisement Act of 1869 intended to free Indians from their state of wardship under the federal government.

By the late 1940s and the 1950s, the Indian infant mortality rate was high and life expectancy was low. Several approaches in education, such as the system of residential schools, had clearly failed Indian youth. Housing standards on the reserves were poor. Problems associated with alcohol and unemployment were also widespread.

However, by the mid-1960s, there were signs of improvements in social and economic conditions. Health services were enhanced and Indian children had greatly improved access to higher education. By the end of the decade, Indians had obtained full political and legal rights.

Although Aboriginal people are now represented in almost every sector of the workforce, serious economic and social problems remain. Unemployment rates are high compared with rates among non-Aboriginal Canadians, and housing is still inadequate on many reserves. The First Nations, with the support of the Government of Canada, are working to address these issues.

Land Claims

There has been a significant increase in Aboriginal land claim activity over the

past two decades. Many claims have been settled, and negotiations continue on others. There are two types of claims:

- the comprehensive claims are based on Aboriginal title arising from traditional use and occupancy of land not covered by treaties or other means; and
- the specific claims arise from the non-fulfilment of treaties or alleged wrongdoing on the part of the Crown related to the administration of Indian lands and other assets.

Both types of claims provide an opportunity to establish a land and economic base. In some ways, they are also important to the realization of Aboriginal self-determination, though they do not, in themselves, constitute self-government.

Political Development

Constitutional changes that would recognize Aboriginal's inherent right to self-government remain an important goal for Canada's First Nations. Some First Nations already have community self-government arrangements that provide them with control on matters related to lands and land use, resources, health and social services, education and local taxation. The decision to pursue community-based self-government agreements is made by individual First Nations, and arrangements are tailored to meet the unique circumstances of their communities.

Economy

Aboriginal entrepreneurs are participating more than ever before in the national economy and in every business sector with support from governments and the private sector.

Today, some 10 000 businesses are owned and operated by Aboriginal people. Resource development projects touch on many sectors, including commercial real estate development, forestry, tourism and mining.

Education and Jobs

Because most First Nations now have control over education programs in their communities (329 of the 363 on-reserve schools), student attendance has improved and the dropout rate has decreased. More than 63 percent of Indian and Inuit elementary and secondary students receive some instruction in their own language.

Nearly 22 000 Aboriginal students pursued post-secondary studies in 1992-93 in the fields of commerce, management and business administration, engineering, applied sciences and technology and trade. The number of Aboriginal people with post-secondary education and job skills matched to today's workforce needs is increasing. Government programs are also improving employment prospects and encouraging career progression for Aboriginal people in the federal public service and the private sector.

Social Conditions

Living conditions for Aboriginal people lag behind those of the general Canadian population in many ways. Over the last 25 years, however, efforts have been made to improve the living conditions in First Nations communities. Today, the administration of most social programs has been transferred to Indian institutions. In the 1960s, many Aboriginals lived in seriously inadequate housing with no electricity, water or sewage systems. Today, more than 80 percent of homes have adequate water and sewage facilities. Electricity is available in virtually all communities. More than 30 percent of the current housing stock has been built in the last five years and a further 35 percent has been renovated.

Because living conditions are improving, the health of Canada's First Nations has improved considerably. Better access to quality health care and greater community involvement in health education and delivery are also contributing factors. The federal government is also working with Aboriginal groups and the provinces and territories to make the current system more responsive to the culture

and traditions of Aboriginal people. Aboriginal communities also have the opportunity to develop community police services that meet their cultural values and needs.

Environment


Aboriginal people have much to offer in the effort to improve the environment. First Nations are developing their own plans to deal with environmental issues and are partners in government programs to shape policies and initiatives that will ensure the responsible management and preservation of the environment.

Culture

Today, Aboriginal culture is being reasserted as a key to community pride and self-reliance. Aboriginal languages, culture and history programs have been instituted in schools. Centres that promote Aboriginal culture, languages and traditional beliefs and practices can be found across the country and are increasingly being used to combat social problems. Elders are once again playing a vital role and linking the generations.

Numerous Aboriginal newspapers and an extensive network of Aboriginal radio and television services provide programming to their communities in their own languages. The work of Aboriginal artists is increasingly being accepted by the mainstream art community in Canada and abroad.

The Future

Aboriginal people are taking control of their future. Increasingly, they are gaining access to the same opportunities as other Canadians. The momentum for change is clear and strong, and more improvements can be expected in the years ahead. 



The Inuit

History

Much has been written about the Inuit peoples of the Arctic, some of it factual, much of it fanciful. Although their number is small among the world's five billion people, they are famous far beyond their homeland.

Perhaps this recognition stems from the uniqueness of their traditional lifestyle and culture. Or perhaps it comes from others' fascination with the Inuit's ability to survive and thrive in the harsh climate of Canada's North.

Canada is home to a quarter of the world's population of Inuit (formerly called "Eskimos"). Today, most live in some 40 small and remote communities along the northern shores of Canada's mainland and in the arctic islands that span 4000 km and five time zones.

Modern technology has made life easier for the Inuit ("the people", in the Inuktitut language), facilitating transportation and communications, and improving health care and protection against the harsh climate. The traditional dog team has largely been replaced by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, cars and trucks. The harpoon has been replaced by the rifle. And the iglu, that legendary dome-shaped snow shelter, has been replaced by houses with central heating, electricity, appliances and plumbing and is now only used out on the land when hunting.

But modern life has also brought new problems with it. In common with many Aboriginal peoples, Canada's Inuit must grapple with the challenge of adapting to life in an advanced industrialized society, while maintaining and preserving their traditional social and cultural roots.

The exact origins of the Canadian Inuit are unknown. It is generally believed, however, that their ancestors came to North America from Asia, crossing a land bridge formed between the two continents during the last ice age.

These ancestors were inland hunters, but as they moved east across the North, they adapted to coastal conditions and began to hunt seal and walrus. The culture that can properly be described as Inuit is considered to have sprung from this adaptation to marine hunting and the use of the kayak.

Hunting remains central to Inuit life. Indeed, their society was built on this activity, with the family as the basic unit. Because hunting was essentially a co-operative venture, several households would form into a group to hunt. Until well into this century, there were some 700 such groups of Inuit scattered across the North.

The Inuit adapted their lifestyle to the conditions they found. On Hudson Bay's western shores, where game was plentiful, the Caribou Inuit were inland hunters who never went to sea. In other areas, marine mammals and fish were the main diet. The food supply, although limited in variety and often difficult to obtain, was balanced nutritionally.

Contact with the Outside

For many centuries, the Canadian Inuit lived in nearly total isolation. Despite some brief and limited contact with early explorers, it was not until the advent of the 19th-century whaling fleets that the Inuit had any lasting and significant dealings with Europeans.

The growing importance of the fur trade also brought the Inuit into further contact with the outside. Because furs were always a vital part of the Inuit lifestyle, trapping soon became as important an activity as hunting.

A Period of Transition

Interaction between the Inuit and other Canadians accelerated rapidly during and following World War II. Airfields, weather stations and a radar line across Canada's North were built. Government services, mining exploration and development increased and, more recently, discoveries of large oil and gas reserves have brought thousands of southerners into the North.

It was during this latter period that the Canadian government recognized the need to provide health, education and other social services to the Inuit. This led to a greatly increased government presence and presaged the move of the Inuit to a smaller number of larger, more stable communities with schools, churches, government offices and stores.

The Inuit Today

Hunting and fishing still provide most Inuit with fresh protein. Some sealing and trapping activities continue, but anti-sealing and anti-trapping crusades have diminished the value of these once-lucrative industries. Fur harvesting, however, remains part of Inuit culture, and hunting provides most of the food supply and supplements many incomes.

The Inuit's economic base is much more diversified today than in past years. Internationally renowned Inuit carvings and prints are in great demand. Generally sold through Inuit

co-operatives, they provide a steady source of income to many communities.

Inuit community growth has provided jobs in community services, service and development industries, and government.

Many communities are too remote to allow the Inuit reasonable access to major labour markets. The problem of further diversifying the economy and providing meaningful employment for the young and growing Inuit population remains a challenge.

Political Awakening

Traditionally, the Canadian Inuit had few formal political structures. They remained largely outside the political systems that were introduced with the modernization of the North. For example, the Inuit had no vote in Canadian elections until 1962. But, concerned with regaining control over their lives and their future, the Inuit have become much more politically active. Most communities are now incorporated and governed by elected councils, similar to those in municipalities across Canada.

In the Northwest Territories, where the Inuit and other Aboriginal peoples form a majority of the population, Inuit are well represented in the Legislative Assembly and at the territorial ministerial level. In Canada's Parliament, Inuit members now sit in both the House of Commons and the Senate. Notable among the political organizations formed, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada speaks with a united voice on important economic, environmental and political issues of concern to the Inuit.

Canada's Inuit have also joined those of Greenland, Alaska and Russia to form the Inuit Circumpolar Conference, an international body addressing the key issues and

concerns of the entire arctic world.

A political accord and resulting legislation proclaimed in July 1993 will lead to a new, predominantly Inuit territory in Canada's North by 1999. The new territory, to be called Nunavut, will comprise roughly the eastern half of the present Northwest Territories (roughly three times the size of France) and will hold the same degree of political and economic sovereignty as the other northern territories.

Land Claims

As the North became more developed, conflicts over land ownership and rights inevitably emerged. Usually, land not privately owned belongs to the Government of Canada. But the Inuit have an historic claim to large tracts of land by virtue of their occupancy and use over many centuries.

Funds from the 1984 settlement of the Inuvialuit (western Arctic) land claim have also helped open up more opportunities to Inuit in that region. The final agreement provided 2 500 Inuvialuit with 91 000 km² of land, financial compensation, social development funding, hunting rights and a greater role in wildlife management, conservation and environmental protection. In 1993, a final agreement was reached with the Tungavik Federation of Nunavut — the largest comprehensive land claim to be settled in Canada. The agreement will provide some 17 500 Inuit with 350 000 km² of land, financial compensation, the right to share in resource royalties, hunting rights, and a greater role in the management of land and the environment.

Claims settlements have also been successfully reached with Inuit groups in the northern region of the province of Quebec. Negotiations are also under way with the Labrador Inuit Association, which represents

about 3800 Inuit living in the coastal, interior and offshore areas of northern Labrador (part of the province of Newfoundland).

Environmental Protection


Throughout the modern development of the Canadian North, the Inuit have been leaders in urging caution and concern for the effects of human activity on the arctic environment. They have a deeply rooted tradition of living in harmony with nature, understanding better than most the fragility of northern ecosystems.

Canadians have become aware that the North is no longer a remote, pristine area immune from the effects of industrialization. Contaminants caused by activities as far away as Europe have shown up in the environment and in the Inuit diet. In the years ahead, climate change and phenomena such as the "greenhouse effect" may profoundly change northern life.

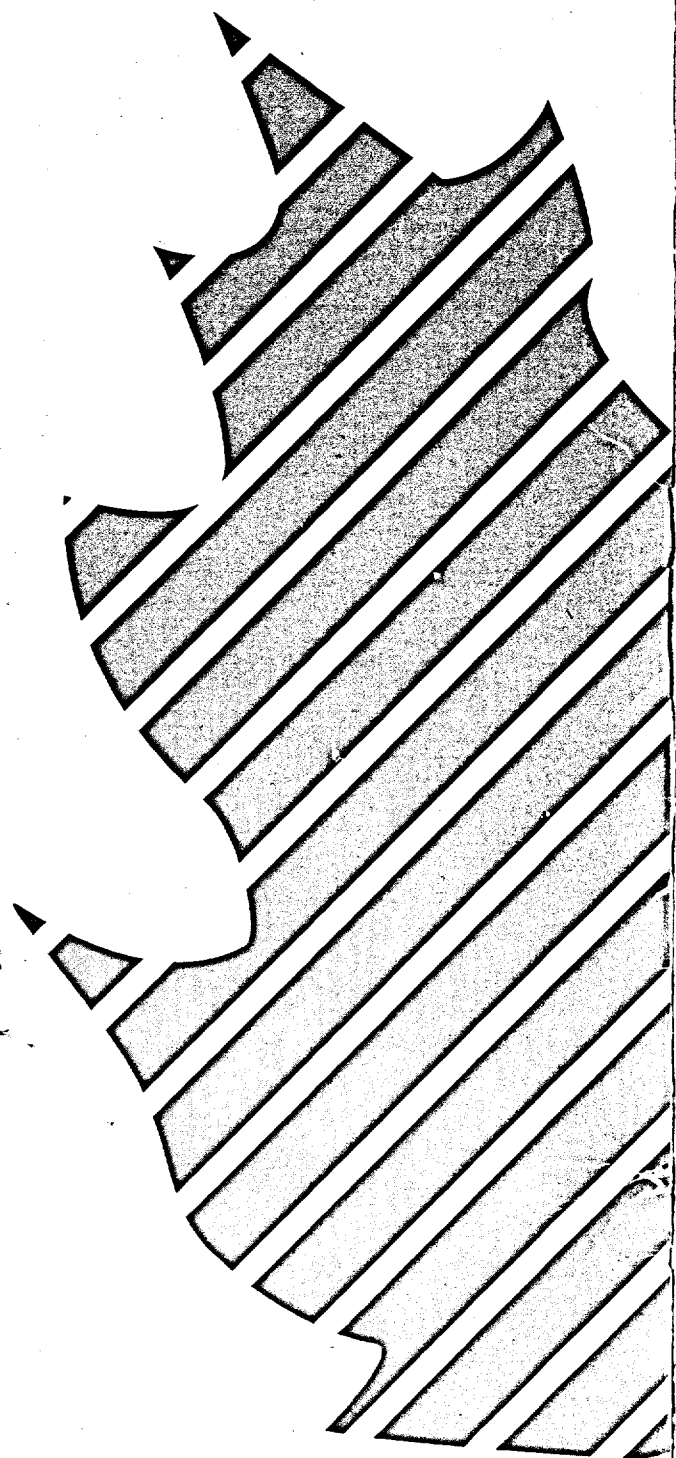
The Inuit of Canada are working with the territorial and federal governments to understand and seek solutions to environmental issues affecting their homeland.

The Future

Canada's Inuit have shown a remarkable resilience in withstanding, absorbing and adapting to a very different culture without losing either their traditional values or their desire to remain a distinct and self-reliant society.

They have, in recent years, gained an important measure of political control. The settlement of their land claims and their work to create the new territory of Nunavut will provide a more solid base from which they can plan their future. 





Department of Foreign Affairs
and International Trade

Ministère des Affaires étrangères
et du Commerce international