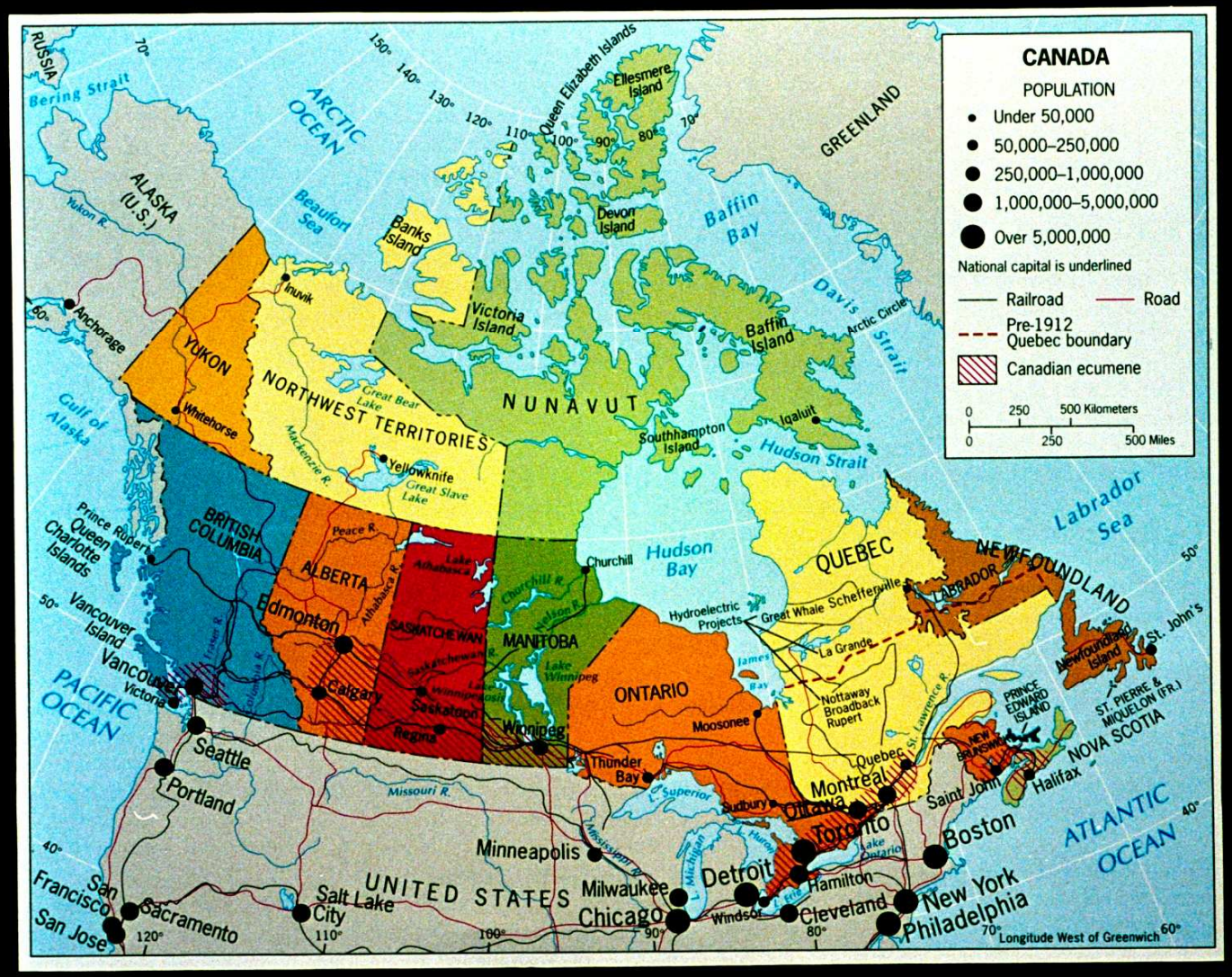

CANADA
POPULATION
Under 50,000
50,000–250,000
250,000–1,000,000
1,000,000–5,000,000
Over 5,000,000
National capital is underlined
Railroad
Road
Pre-1912 Quebec boundary
Canadian ecumene
0 250 500 Kilometers
0 250 500 Miles
RUSSIA
Bering Strait
ARCTIC OCEAN
Beaufort Sea
ALASKA (U.S.)
Yukon R.
Anchorage
Gulf of Alaska
Queen Elizabeth Islands
Ellesmere Island
GREENLAND
Baffin Bay
Davis Strait
Arctic Circle
Banks Island
Devon Island
Victoria Island
Baffin Island
Inuvik
YUKON
Whitehorse
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
Great Bear Lake
Mackenzie R.
Yellowknife
Great Slave Lake
NUNAVUT
Iqaluit
Southhampton Island
Hudson Strait
Hudson Bay
Churchill
Labrador Sea
BRITISH COLUMBIA
Prince Rupert
Queen Charlotte Islands
Vancouver Island
Vancouver
Victoria
Fraser R.
Columbia R.
PACIFIC OCEAN
ALBERTA
Peace R.
Edmonton
Athabasca R.
Calgary
Lake Athabasca
SASKATCHEWAN
Saskatchewan R.
Lake Winnipeg
Saskatoon
Regina
MANITOBA
Churchill R.
Nelson R.
Lake Winnipeg
Winnipeg
ONTARIO
Moosonee
James Bay
Thunder Bay
L. Superior
Sudbury
QUEBEC
Hydroelectric Projects
Great Whale
Schefferville
La Grande
Nottaway
Broadback
Rupert
St. Lawrence R.
Quebec
Montreal
Ottawa
Toronto
Lake Ontario
Hamilton
Saint John
Halifax
NEW BRUNSWICK
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
NOVA SCOTIA
NEWFOUNDLAND
LABRADOR
Newfoundland Island
St. John's
ST. PIERRE & MIQUELON (FR.)
ATLANTIC OCEAN
Seattle
Portland
Missouri R.
Minneapolis
Mississippi R.
Milwaukee
Chicago
L. Michigan
Detroit
Windsor
L. Huron
L. Erie
Cleveland
Boston
New York
Philadelphia
San Francisco
San Jose
Sacramento
Salt Lake City
UNITED STATES
Longitude West of Greenwich
70°
60°
50°
40°
150°
140°
130°
120°
110°
100°
90°
80°

CANADA: INTRODUCTORY NOTES

- World's 2nd largest country in area - 9,971,000 sq. km

- Comparisons to Russia
  - The two largest countries in the world in area
  - The only truly "northern" countries
  - Similar in climatic characteristics
  - Population concentrations mainly along the southern margins
  - Abundant in energy and other natural resources
  - Resources located to a significant degree in remote areas

- Population (2007): over 32 million, roughly 10 times smaller than the U.S.

- Very low and uneven population density
  - Arithmetic: 3 pers./sq. km
  - Physiological: 35 pers./sq. km
  - Agricultural: 1 pers./sq. km

- Population distribution/density largely governed by Canada's physical characteristics: topography and climate

- An immigrant country
  - Originally a European immigration
  - Late 20th century: changing nature of immigration (non-European)
  - Over 200,000 immigrants annually

- A country of two founding nations – English and French
  - Anglo-Saxon culture still dominant

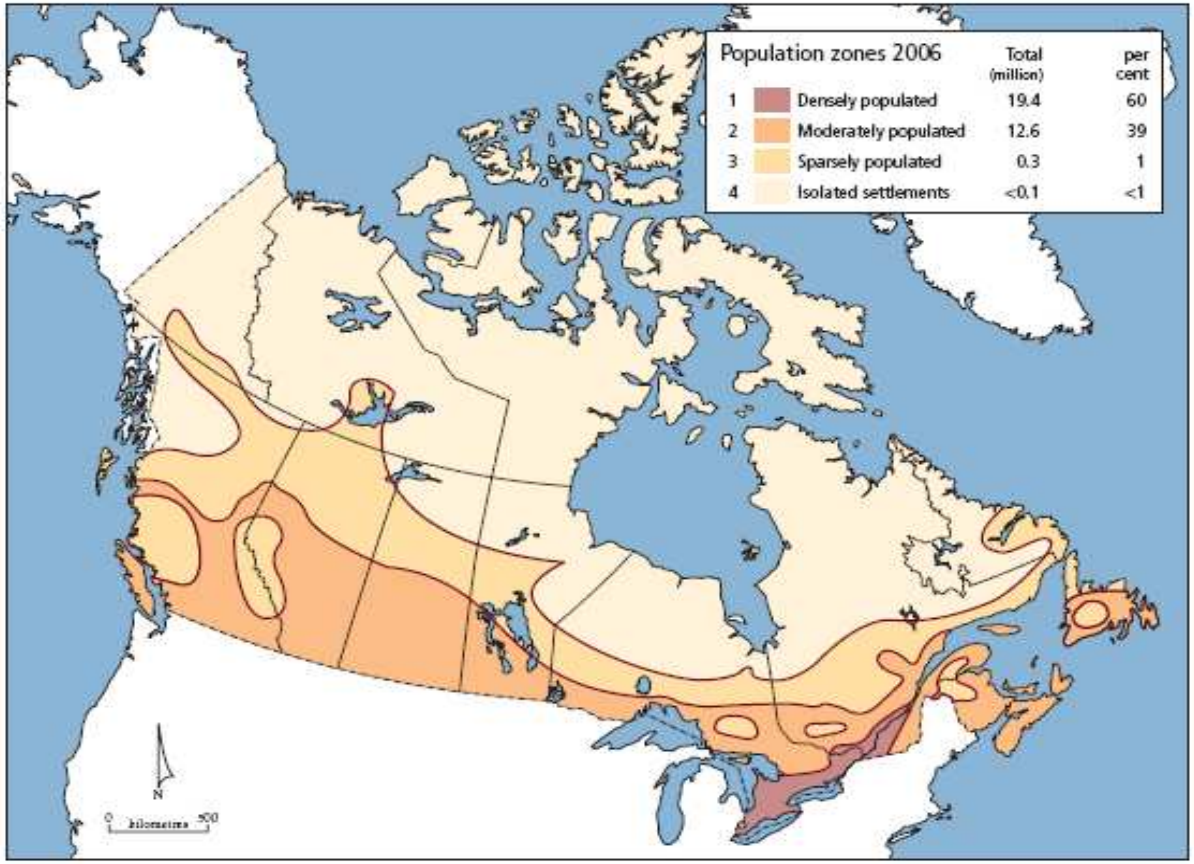


Figure 4.1 Canada's population zones. Canada's population is heavily concentrated in southern Ontario and southern Québec, where a favourable physical geography and an advantageous geographic location have resulted in a dense population. A secondary belt of population spans a southern strip of Canada. Together the densely and moderately populated zones account for 99 per cent of Canada's population. (Further resources: Student website, National Atlas section, Map 16. Website instructions are found on p. xx.)

Figure 4.1
Canada's population zones

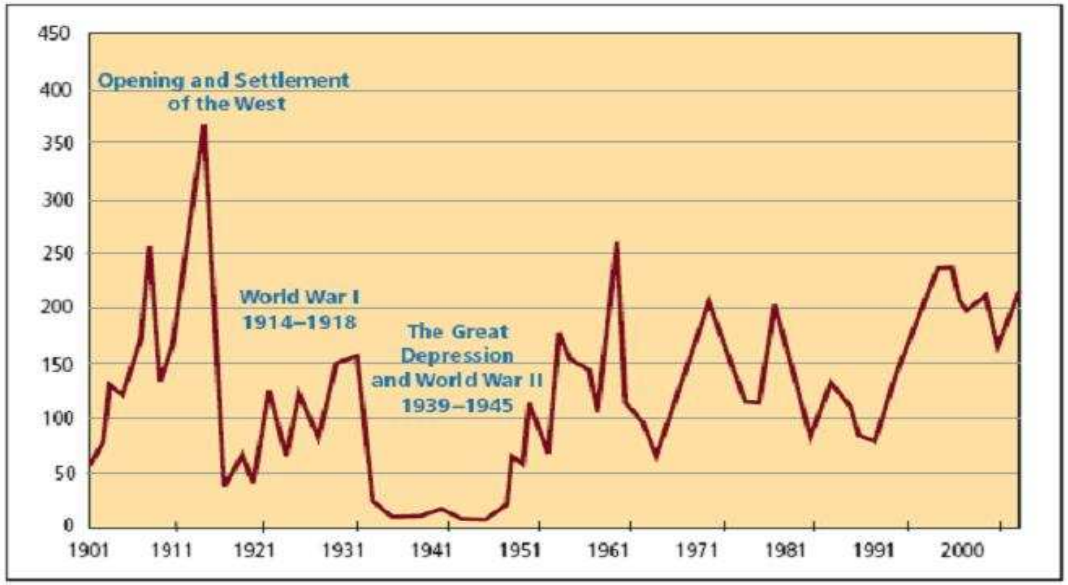


Figure 4.4 Annual number of immigrants admitted to Canada, 1901–2001
Source: Adapted from Statistic Canada (2003c: 2). Adapted from Statistic Canada *Canada's Ethnocultural Portrait: The Changing Mosaic, 2001 Census*, Catalogue 96F0030XIE2001008, Released 21 January 2003, Searched 28 January 2003, http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/analytic/companion/etoimm/canada.cfm.

Figure 4.4 Annual number of immigrants admitted to Canada, 1901-2001

- Comparisons to the U.S., Australia, New Zealand
- The Aboriginal factor – dominant in Northern Canada
- A high degree of regional differentiation
- A “Core-Periphery” model of regionalization – the basis of Canada’s regional geography

- Six distinct regions of Canada
    1. Atlantic Canada
    2. Quebec
    3. Ontario
    4. Western Canada (the Prairies)
    5. British Columbia
    6. The Territorial North

Figure 1.2 The six geographic regions of Canada. The coastal boundaries of Canada are recognized by other nations except for the 'sector' boundary in the Arctic Ocean. For a fuller discussion, see the subsection 'Arctic Sovereignty' in Chapter 10.

Figure 1.2
The six geographic regions of Canada

CANADA'S TOPOGRAPHY

- Complex and varied topography
  - Largely shaped by a history of glaciation

- Seven distinct physiographic regions

  1. Canadian Shield
  2. Cordillera mountain system
  3. Interior plains
  4. Arctic lands
  5. Hudson Bay Lowland
  6. Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Lowland
  7. Appalachian Uplands

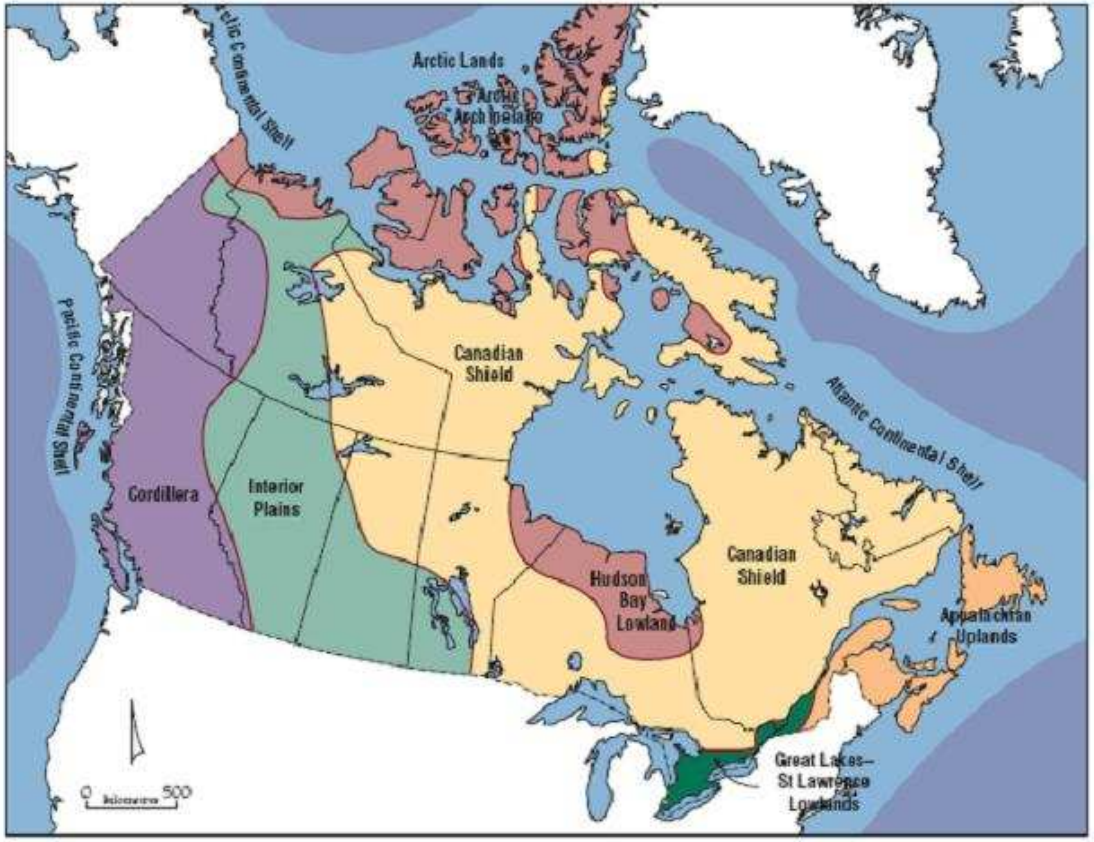


Figure 2.1 Physiographic regions and continental shelves in Canada. The Arctic Lands consist of a dozen large islands and numerous small islands that together are known as the Arctic Archipelago. The Canadian Shield is the largest physiographic region and extends beneath the Interior Plains, the Hudson Bay Lowland, and the Great Lakes–St Lawrence Lowlands. (Further resources: Student website, National Atlas section, Maps 2 and 3. Website instructions are found on p. xx.)

Figure 2.1 Physiographic regions and continental shelves in Canada

THE CANADIAN CLIMATE

- Climate versus weather
  - Climate: average weather conditions for an area over very long periods
  - Weather: climatic conditions at a given time
- Governed primarily by:
  - The northern geographical position – high latitude
  - Availability of solar energy
  - Topography: orientation of mountain systems and plains
  - Distance from the oceans
  - Global circulation of air masses
- Generally: warmer/moister in the south, colder/drier in the north

- Maritime influence versus continentality
- Continental climates prevail across most of Canada
- Maritime influences relatively limited to the Pacific coast & Atlantic Canada
- Relationships to natural vegetation and soils

- Seven basic climatic zones
    1. Pacific
    2. Cordillera
    3. Prairies
    4. Great lakes/St. Lawrence
    5. Atlantic
    6. Sub-Arctic
    6. Arctic
- Each zone represents average climatic conditions for the region

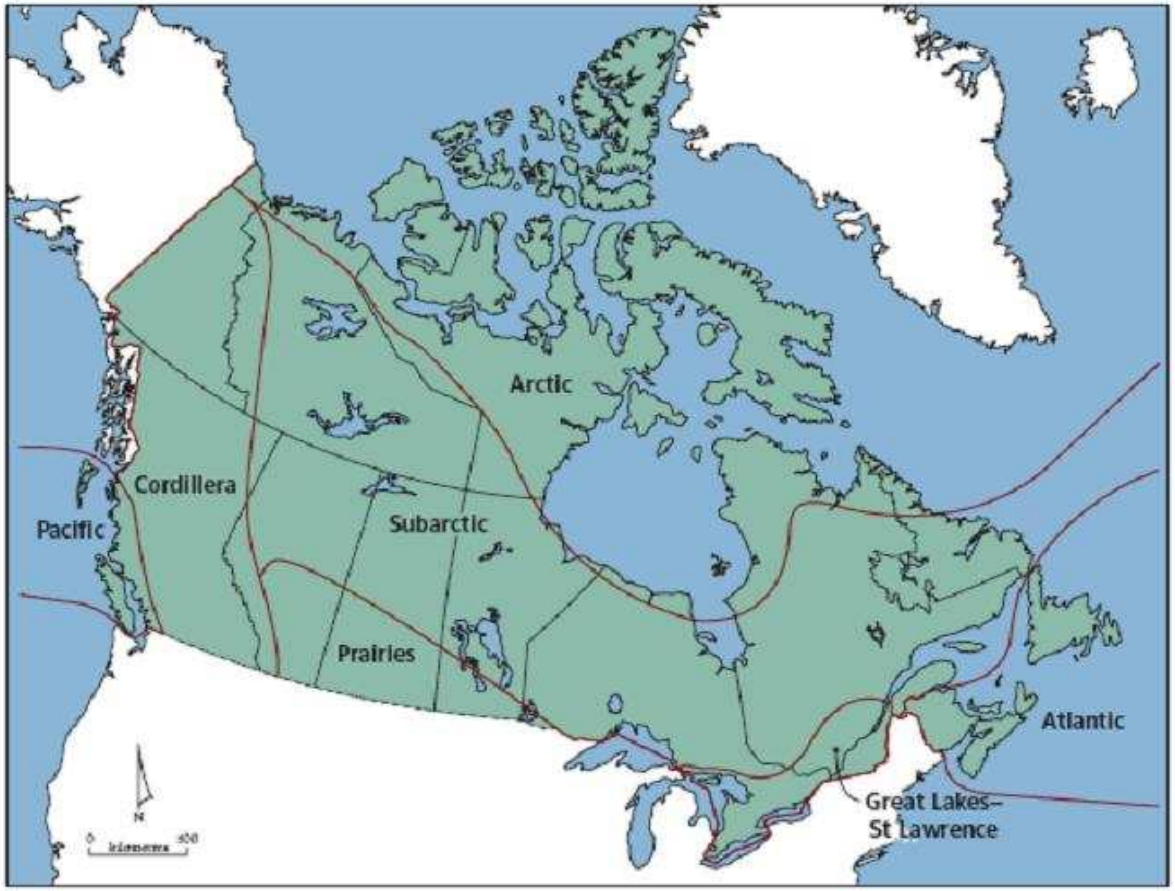


Figure 2.6 Climatic zones of Canada. Each climatic zone represents average climatic conditions in that area. Canada's most extensive climatic zone, the Subarctic, is associated with the boreal forest and podzolic soils. (Further resources: Student website, National Atlas section, Map 7. Website instructions are found on p. xx.)

Figure 2.6 Climactic zones of Canada

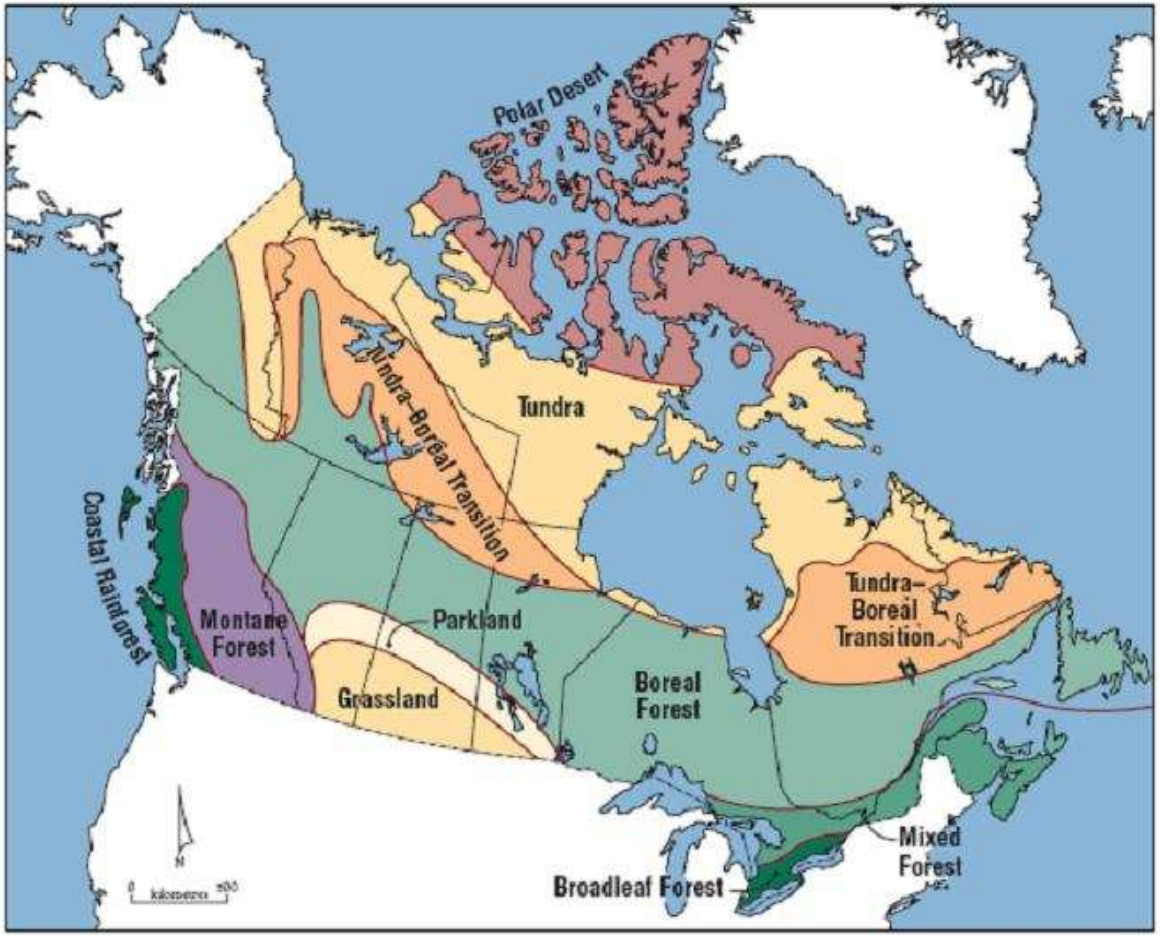


Figure 2.7 Natural vegetation zones. These natural vegetation zones have 'core' characteristics, which diminish towards their edges. Transitions exist between natural vegetation zones. Two major transition zones shown here are the Tundra–Boreal Transition and the Parkland. (Further resources: Student website, National Atlas section, Map 8. Website instructions are found on p. xx.)

Figure 2.7 Natural vegetation zones

Table 2.5 Canadian Climatic Zones

Canadian Climatic Zone	Natural Vegetation Type	Soil Order
Pacific	Coastal rain forest	Podzolic
Cordillera	Montane and boreal forests	Mountain complex
Prairies	Grassland and parkland	Chernozemic
Great Lakes–St Lawrence	Broadleaf and mixed forests	Luvisolic
Atlantic	Mixed and boreal forests	Podzolic
Subarctic	Boreal forest	Podzolic
Arctic	Tundra and polar desert	Cryosolic

Note: See Figures 2.6, 2.7, and 2.8. Also see Key Terms at end of chapter for definitions of soil orders.

Table 2.5 Canadian Climatic Zones

DRAINAGE BASINS

- Five basins

1. The Atlantic Basin
2. The Hudson Bay Basin
3. The Arctic Basin
4. The Pacific Basin
5. The Gulf of Mexico Basin

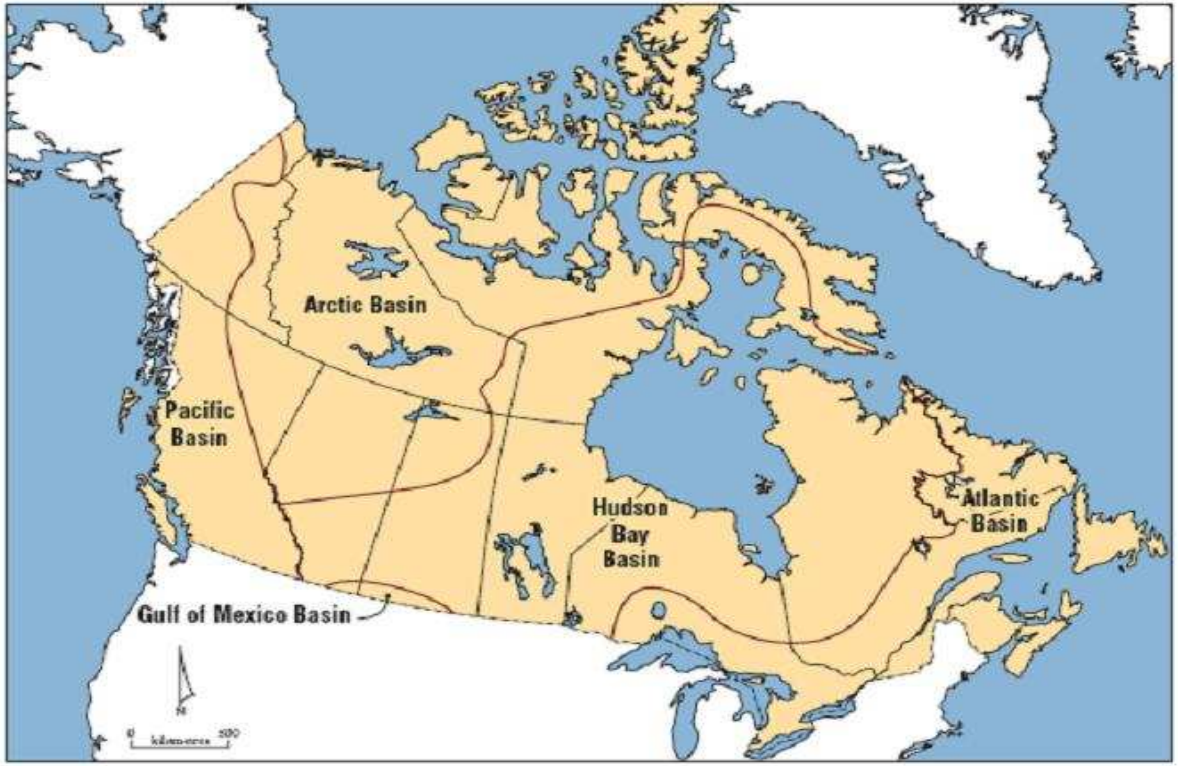


Figure 2.10 Drainage basins of Canada. The Hudson Bay drainage basin is by far the largest of the five basins in Canada. It also serves as a boundary between southern Alberta and British Columbia, and between northern Québec and Labrador. (Further resources: Student website, National Atlas section, Map 11. Website instructions are found on p. xx.)

Figure 2.10 Drainage basins of Canada

Table 2.6 Canada's Drainage Basins

Drainage Basin	Area (million km^2)	Stream-flow (m^3/second)
Hudson Bay	3.8	30,594
Arctic	3.6	20,491
Atlantic	1.6	21,890
Pacific	1.0	24,951
Gulf of Mexico	<0.1	—
Total	10.0	105,135

Sources: A.H. Laycock, 'The Amount of Canadian Water and Its Distribution', in M.C. Healey and R.R. Wallace, eds, *Canadian Aquatic Resources* (Ottawa: Department of Fisheries and Oceans, 1987), 32; Philip Dearden and Bruce Mitchell, *Environmental Change and Challenge: A Canadian Perspective*, 2nd edn (Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2005), 124.

Table 2.6 Canada's Drainage Basins

THE HISTORICAL SEQUENCE

- General historical sequence

    1. Arrival of the First people – the Aboriginals

    2. Colonization by the French and the British

    3. Settlement of the West by people from central Europe and Russia

    4. Territorial evolution and expansion

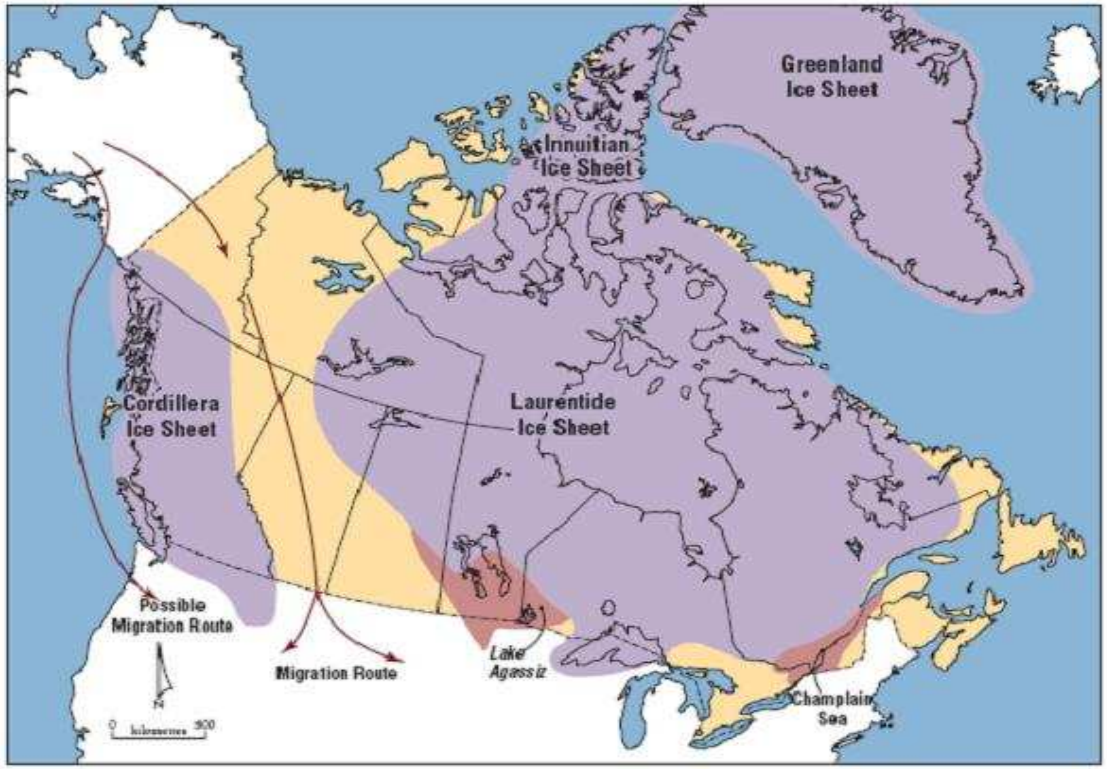


Figure 3.1 Migration routes into North America. The Wisconsin ice sheet had retreated by 12,000 BP (before present), leaving an ice-free corridor between its two remaining parts (the Cordillera and Laurentide ice sheets). In places where the meltwater could not flow to the sea, water collected in low-lying areas and created glacial lakes such as Lake Agassiz. As explained in Vignette 2.7, however, the Champlain Sea was not a glacial lake but an extension of the Atlantic Ocean.

Figure 3.1 Migration routes into North America

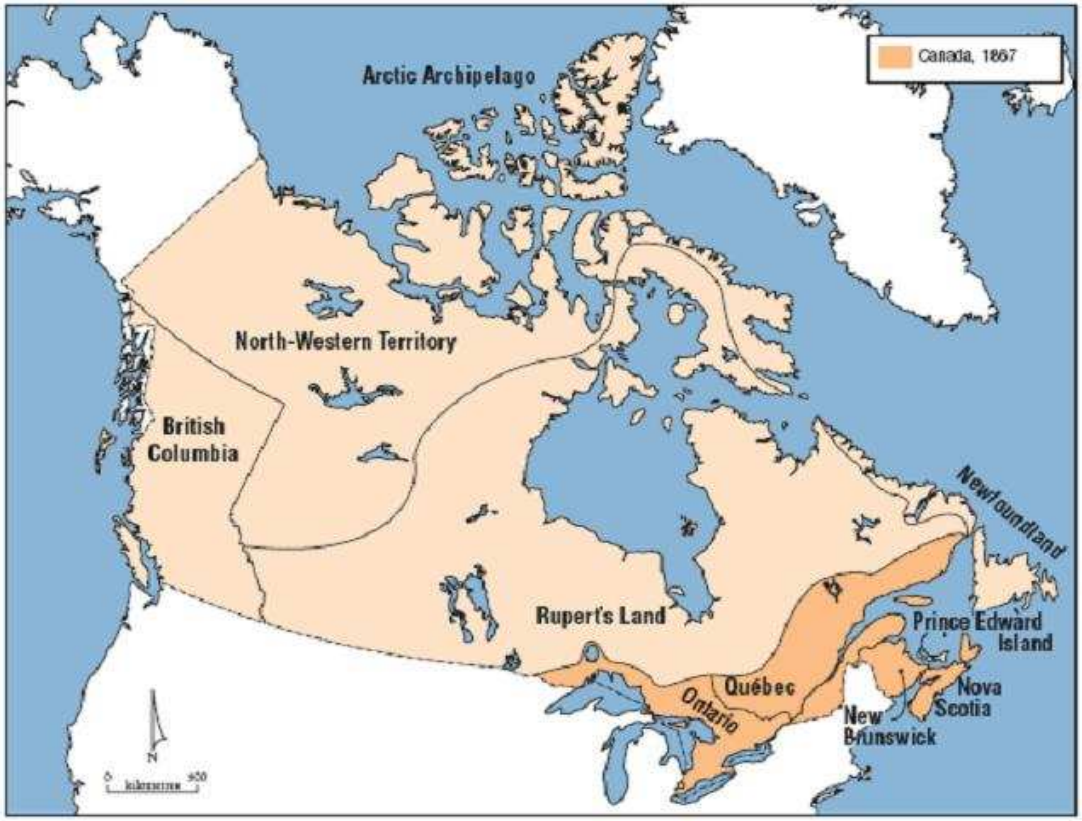


Figure 3.4 Canada, 1867. At Confederation, Canada was only a fraction of its current territorial extent. The Hudson's Bay Company controlled most of British North America, including Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory. (Further resources: Student website, National Atlas section, Map 13. Website instructions are found on p. xx.)

Figure 3.4 Canada, 1867

Figure 3.6 Canada, 1905. By 1905, two new provinces (Alberta and Saskatchewan) and one territory (Yukon) were created out of the North-West Territories. In 1905, what remained was renamed the North-west Territories, and by this time the Arctic Archipelago (District of Franklin) had been incorporated into the NWT. Ontario, Québec, and Manitoba expanded their boundaries. (Further resources: Student website, National Atlas section, Map 13. Website instructions are found on p. xx.)

Figure 3.6 Canada, 1905

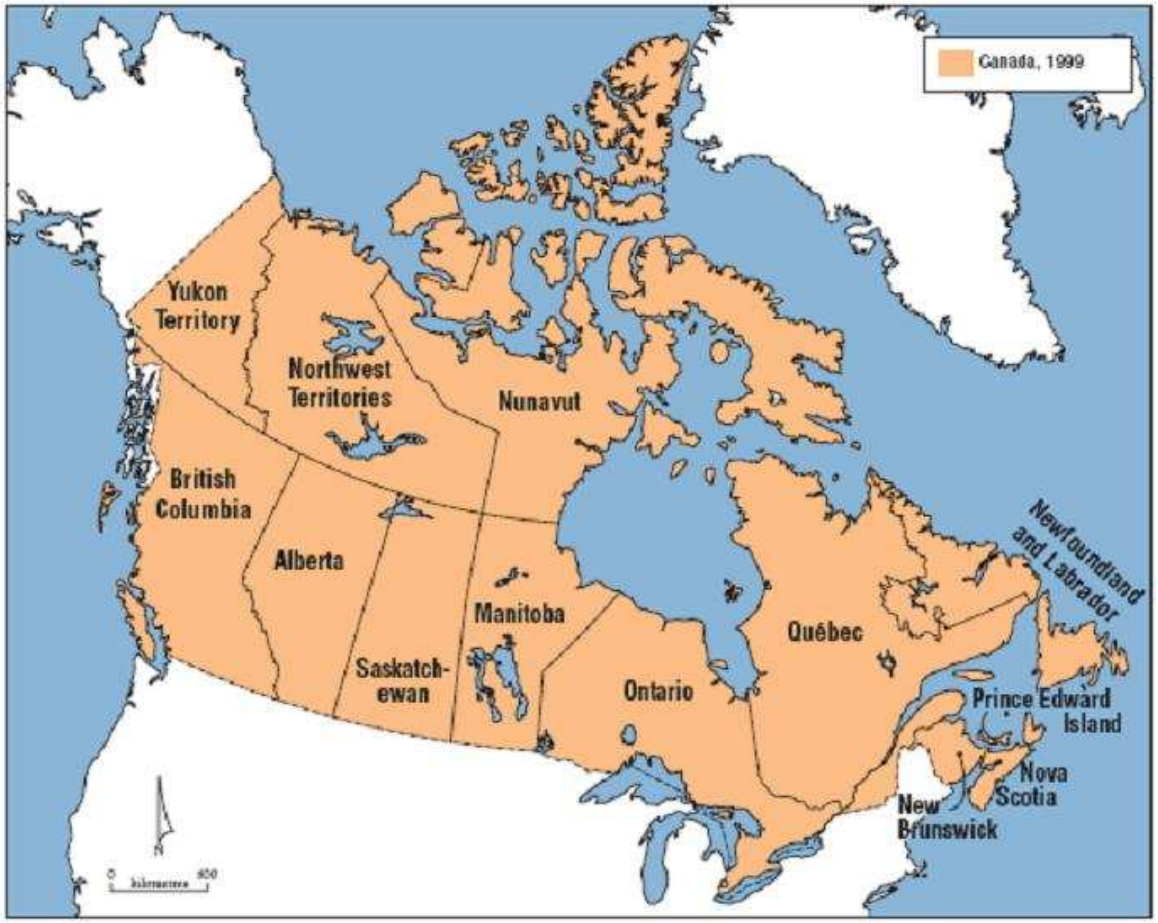


Figure 3.8 Canada, 1999. On 1 April 1999, Nunavut became a territory.

Figure 3.8 Canada, 1999

Table 3.4 Timeline: Territorial Evolution of Canada

Date	Event
1867	Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia unite to form the Dominion of Canada.
1870	The Hudson's Bay Company's lands are transferred by Britain to Canada. The Red River Colony enters Confederation as the province of Manitoba.
1871	British Columbia joins Canada.
1873	Prince Edward Island becomes the seventh province of Canada.
1880	Great Britain transfers its claim to the Arctic Archipelago to Canada.
1949	Newfoundland and Labrador joins Canada to become the tenth province.

Table 3.4
Timeline: Territorial Evolution of Canada

- Contemporary Canada and the four “faultlines”

    1. English versus French

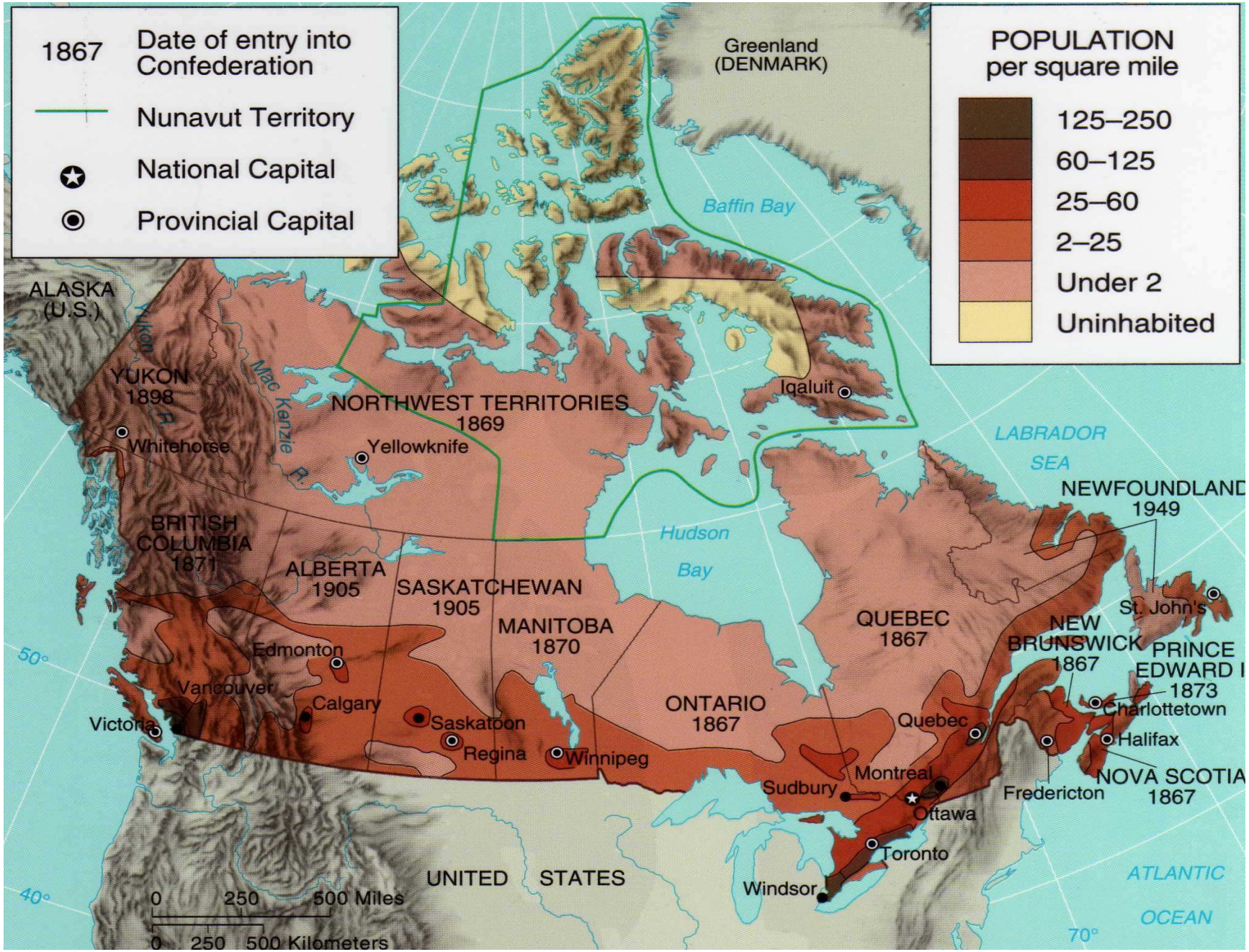
    2. Centralists versus de-centralists

    3. “New” and “Old” Canadians

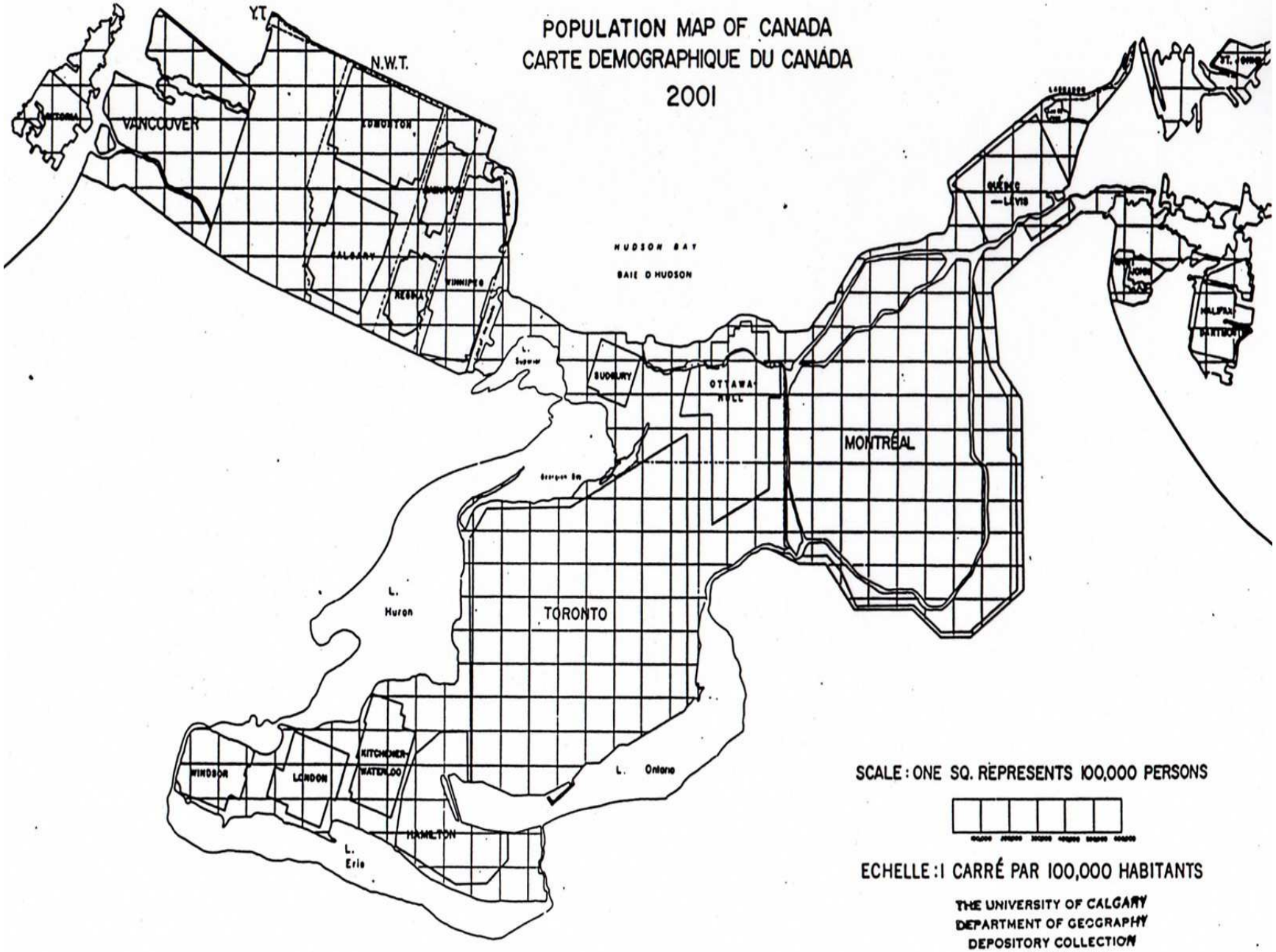
    4. Aboriginals versus non-Aboriginals

POPULATION OF CANADA

- The Canadian Confederation of 1867: 3.4 million
- Presently over 32 million
- Main reasons for the growth
    1. Natural increase
    2. Territorial expansion
    3. Immigration
- Globally: a medium-sized country – 75% of the world's countries smaller in population
- Population density patterns: similar to Russia
- Distribution highly uneven – governed by environmental factors


1867 Date of entry into Confederation
Nunavut Territory
National Capital
Provincial Capital
POPULATION per square mile
125–250
60–125
25–60
2–25
Under 2
Uninhabited
Greenland (DENMARK)
Baffin Bay
ALASKA (U.S.)
Yukon R.
YUKON 1898
Whitehorse
Mac Kenzie R.
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES 1869
Yellowknife
Iqaluit
LABRADOR SEA
NEWFOUNDLAND 1949
BRITISH COLUMBIA 1871
ALBERTA 1905
SASKATCHEWAN 1905
MANITOBA 1870
Hudson Bay
QUEBEC 1867
St. John's
NEW BRUNSWICK 1867
PRINCE EDWARD I 1873
Charlottetown
Halifax
NOVA SCOTIA 1867
Fredericton
Edmonton
Vancouver
Calgary
Victoria
Saskatoon
Regina
Winnipeg
ONTARIO 1867
Quebec
Montreal
Sudbury
Ottawa
Toronto
Windsor
UNITED STATES
ATLANTIC OCEAN
50°
40°
70°
0 250 500 Miles
0 250 500 Kilometers

POPULATION MAP OF CANADA
CARTE DEMOGRAPHIQUE DU CANADA
2001



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
DEPOSITORY COLLECTION
DO NOT REMOVE

- The core: S Ontario and S Quebec (the “Main Street”)
- Southern Prairies & SW B.C.: a rapid population growth

- Four population zones

    1. Densely populated zone (18 million, 60%)

    2. Moderately populated zone (12 million, 39%)

    3. Sparsely populated zone (0.3 million, 1%)

    4. Isolated settlements (0.01 million, less than 1%)

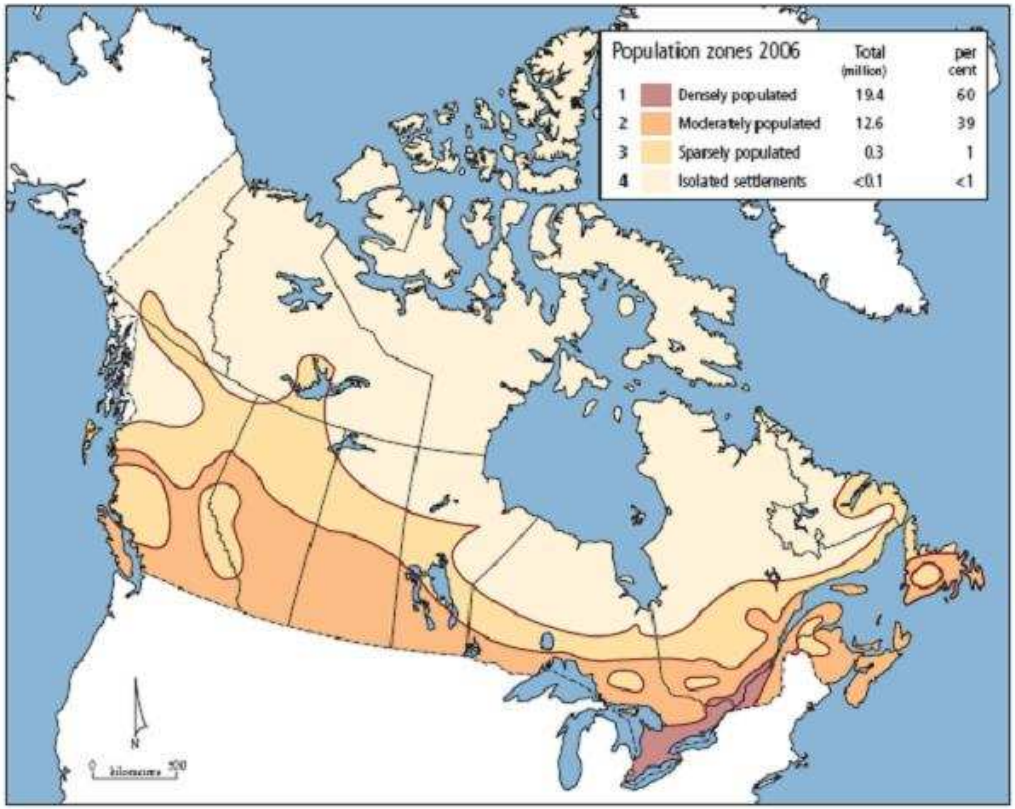


Figure 4.1 Canada's population zones. Canada's population is heavily concentrated in southern Ontario and southern Québec, where a favourable physical geography and an advantageous geographic location have resulted in a dense population. A secondary belt of population spans a southern strip of Canada. Together the densely and moderately populated zones account for 99 per cent of Canada's population. (Further resources: Student website, National Atlas section, Map 16. Website instructions are found on p. xx.)

Figure 4.1
Canada's population zones

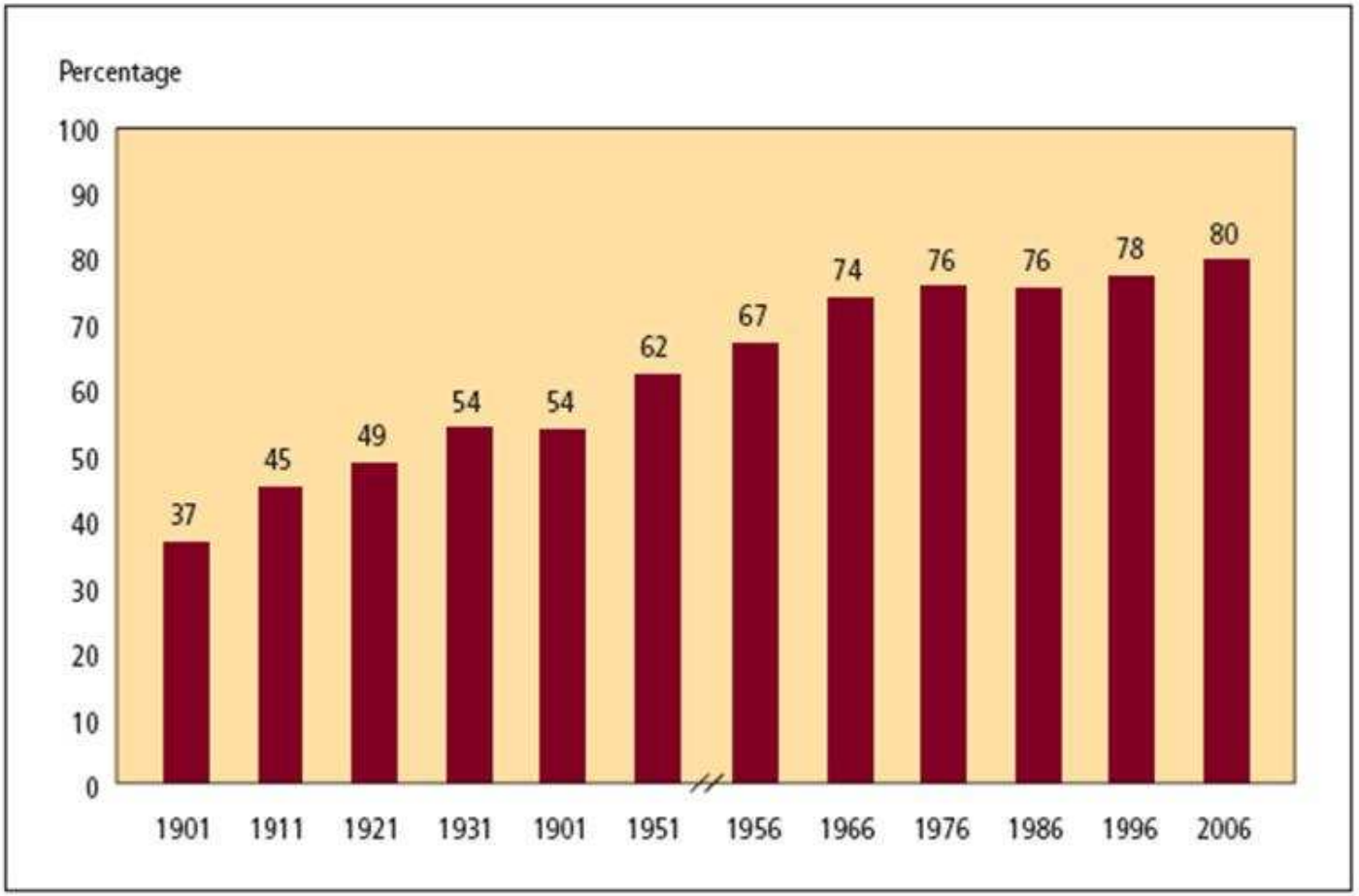


Figure 4.3 Percentage of Canadian population in urban regions, 1901–2006
Source: Adapted from Statistics Canada (2007c).

Figure 4.3 Percentage of Canadian population in urban regions, 1901-2006

The Aboriginal Population

- Early 1500s: around ½ million – a very rough estimate
- Consequences of initial European contacts: a rapid population decline of all Aboriginal peoples
- Reasons for the decline
    1. Loss of hunting grounds – food shortages
    2. Increased warfare
    3. Spread of European diseases (smallpox, typhoid)

- By 1867: about 100, 000 Aboriginals in Canada
- A demographic rebound: beginning in the 1940s
- Currently: about 1.3 million Aboriginal people
- Almost 5% of Canadian total (2006)
- Natural increase much greater than that of Canada as a whole (since World War II)
- Demographic characteristics resemble that of the developing world

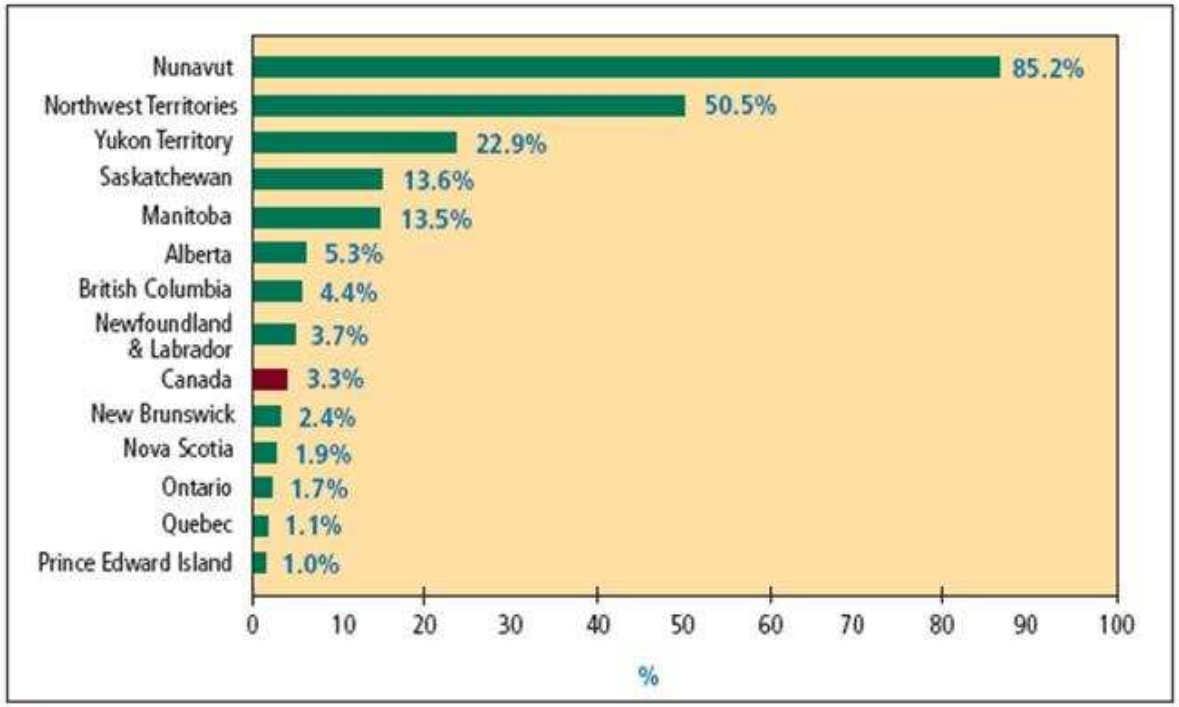


Figure 4.9 Percentage of Aboriginal population by Aboriginal identity, provinces and territories, 2001

Source: Statistics Canada (2003h). Adapted from Statistics Canada publication *Aboriginal peoples of Canada: A demographic profile, 2001 Census*, Analysis series 96F0030XIE2001007, Released 21 January 2003, Searched 28 January 2003, http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/analytic/companion/abor/contents.cfm.

Figure 4.9 Percentage of Aboriginal population by Aboriginal identity, provinces, and territories, 2001

The French – English Balance

- The most fundamental aspect of human geography of Canada
- Reason – deep historical roots
- Language: an essential element of the duality of Canadian society

- An uneven balance
  - Quebec: over 80% Francophone
  - New Brunswick: over 30% Francophone
  - Other provinces: less than 5% Francophone each, most much less than that

- The problem of French language and culture in Quebec: Language Bill 101

Immigration Trends

- Currently: about 250,000 annually
- Between 1901 and 2000: 13.5% immigrants
- The most significant changes
  - French & British – until the 1880s
  - Other European – late 1800s & early 1900s
- Non-European – late 1900s to present
  - Since 1971 – majority of immigrants from Asia
  - 1991 to 2001 – 78% of immigrants non-European
- Result: Increased pluralism and multiculturalism
- Multiculturalism as an official government policy: Pierre Trudeau, 1971

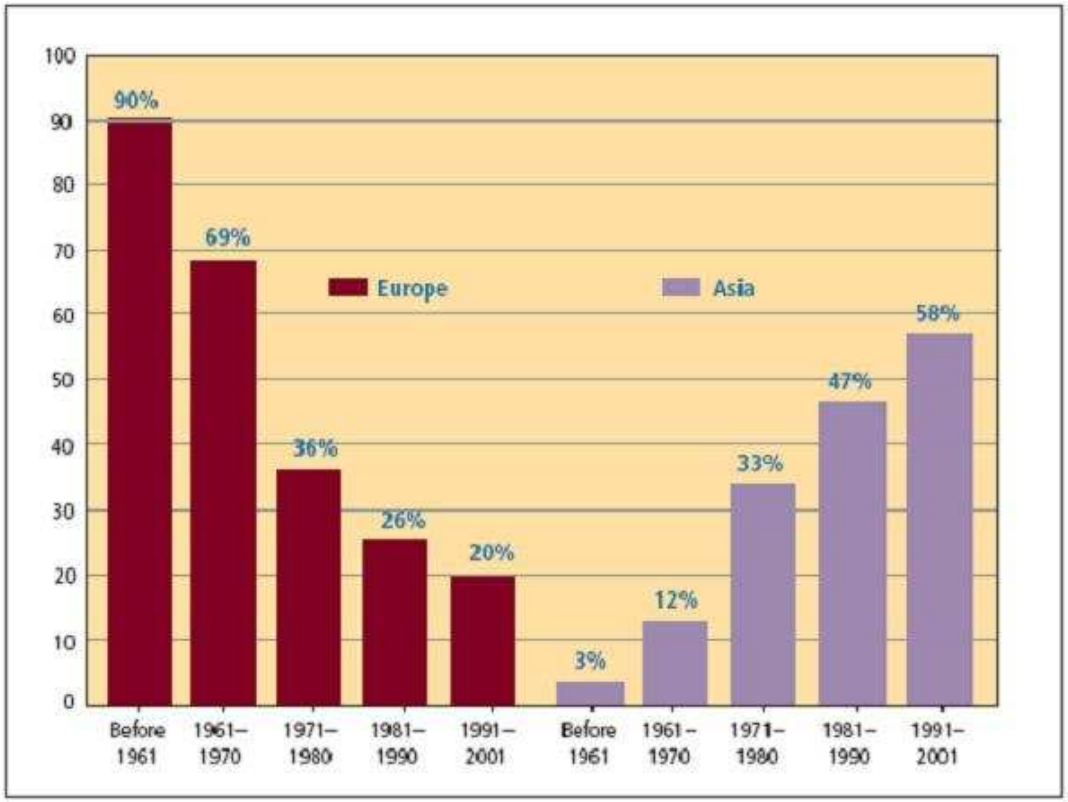


Figure 4.5 Proportion of immigrants born in Europe and Asia by period of immigration
Source: Statistic Canada (2003c: 3). Adapted from Statistic Canada publication *Canada's Ethnocultural Portrait: The Changing Mosaic, 2001 Census*, Catalogue 96F0030XIE2001008, Released 21 January 2003, Searched 28 January 2003, http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/analytic/companion/etoimm/canada.cfm.

Figure 4.5 Proportion of immigrants born in Europe and Asia by period of immigration

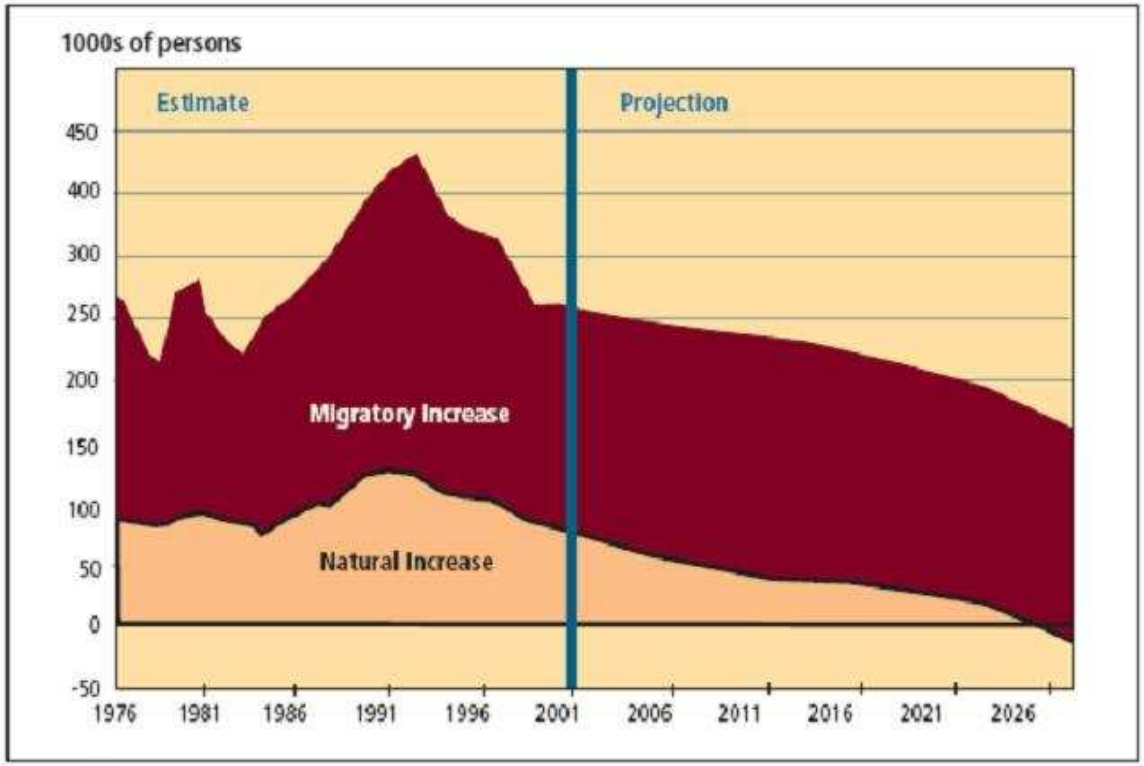


Figure 4.6 Immigration: An increasingly important component of population growth in Canada
Note: The projection is based on medium assumptions: fertility rates at 1.5; immigration at 225,000 new immigrants per year; a gradual increase in life expectancy from 77 to 80 years for men and 83 to 85 for women. The projection suggests that natural increase will be negative by 2026, with deaths exceeding births.
Source: Statistics Canada (2003k). Adapted from Statistics Canada, *Learning resources: Civics and Society – Declining birth rate and the increasing impact of immigration*, Searched 28 June 2003, http://www.statcan.ca/english/kits/issues/charts/chart3.htm.

Figure 4.6 Immigration: An increasingly important component of population growth in Canada

- Multicultural society versus a “Melting Pot”
- Destination of an overwhelming majority of immigrants: the largest urban areas
- Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal, Ottawa/Gatineau, Calgary: over 80% of all immigrants
- Currently (2002): 20% of Canadians non-European, 5.5 million (18.5%) born outside of Canada

Figure 4.4 Annual number of immigrants admitted to Canada, 1901–2001
Source: Adapted from Statistic Canada (2003c: 2). Adapted from Statistic Canada *Canada's Ethnocultural Portrait: The Changing Mosaic, 2001 Census*, Catalogue 96F0030XIE2001008, Released 21 January 2003, Searched 28 January 2003, http://www12.statcan.ca/english/census01/products/analytic/companion/etoimm/canada.cfm.

Figure 4.4 Annual number of immigrants admitted to Canada, 1901-2001