



MUSEUM OF FRENCH EMIGRATION TO CANADA



PRESS KIT

Les Muséales de Tourouvre – Museum of French Emigration to Canada
15, rue Mondrel – 61190 Tourouvre – Tel. 02 33 25 55 55 – Fax 02 33 25 55 56
musealesdetourouvre@wanadoo.fr – www.musealesdetourouvre.com



PRESS RELEASE

INAUGURATION OF THE MUSEUM OF FRENCH EMIGRATION TO CANADA

On Saturday, September 30, 2006, Canada's Ambassador to France, Claude Laverdure, and the President of the Communauté de Communes du Haut Perche, Guy Monhée, will inaugurate the *Museum of French Emigration to Canada*.

An illustration of the special historical ties between Canada and France, this Museum was built in the small town of Tourouvre, in the Perche region of Normandy. In the early 17th century, Perche was the point of departure for many French emigrants going to settle in "New France." A number of major families in Canada—such as the Pelletiers, Gagnons, Tremblays, Rivards, Fortins, Bouchards and Drouins—can trace their roots back to this particular region. In the 21st century, these families from the Perche region can claim some illustrious descendants on the other side of the Atlantic: Céline Dion, Lynda Lemay, Isabelle Boulay, even Madonna.

The Museum is an interpretation centre for emigration from France and the Perche region to Canada, and aims to be the latest in scientific expertise on the phenomenon of French emigration prior to 1760, a gathering place, and a gateway to the future and to the forging of new relationships.

The *Museum of French Emigration to Canada* is a site of memories, but its mission is also to develop ties between French citizens—be they from Perche or elsewhere—and their North American descendants, through exhibits, meetings, genealogical exchanges, cultural events and youth activities. Demographic and genealogical data available at the Museum will allow visitors to piece history together and gain a better understanding of the social and individual context of the French emigrants who left their country to build a new one.

The *Museum of French Emigration to Canada* had a total construction budget of €2,950,000 and was built under a partnership between the Government of Canada, the Communauté de Communes du Haut Perche, the European Union, the Government of France, the Basse-Normandie region and the Orne General Council.

- 30 -

Information

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EMIGRATION FROM THE PERCHE REGION AND FRANCE TO CANADA

Perche was selected as the site of the *Museum of French Emigration to Canada*.

Between 1634 and 1666, 246 inhabitants of Perche left their native land to settle in New France. Many of them came from the parish of Tourouvre. They were among the first inhabitants to build their houses and clear the immense land. Thousands of emigrants from all regions of France joined them. Thus developed the country that Jacques Cartier, on his second expedition in 1535, had named “Canada.”

Men and women, alone or with their families, artisans, lumberjacks, labourers, “filles du roi” (young women sent to New France under royal auspices), monks, nuns, soldiers, mariners... all arrived in the 17th century and were the first to populate Canada. They left France, confronted the ocean, defied difficult winters, cleared the land and built the first houses on the banks of the St. Lawrence River. With great courage, they faced the challenges of the New World, and they succeeded. They settled in Quebec City (1608), on the Beaupré Coast, on the isle of Orleans (1634), and in Montreal (1642).



Stained glass window in Tourouvre's church depicting the departure of its citizens for Canada

Under the influence of the apothecary Robert Giffard and the Juchereau brothers, rich merchants from the Perche region, Tourouvre was one of the most active emigration centres. It was not the only one: Mortagne-au-Perche, Saint-Cosme-en-Vairais (now in



the département of Sarthe) and some thirty other parishes of the region (today situated in the département of Orne for the most part) were also very active.

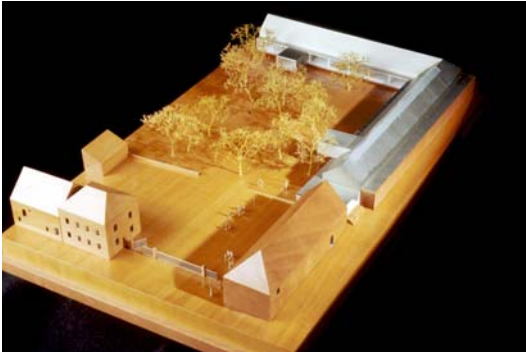
The legacy of the adventure of these men and women is still apparent in modern-day Canada: it is a bilingual country, with French being one of its official languages.

The distribution of the 7,135,000 Canadians whose mother tongue is French (24% of the population) varies widely from one end of the country to the other. In Quebec, more than 80% of the population is Francophone; in New Brunswick, approximately one third. After Quebec, Ontario has the largest number of residents whose mother tongue is French (530,000), followed by New Brunswick (240,000). These two provinces are home to more than three quarters of the Francophones living outside Quebec. Manitoba's French-speaking population numbers around 50,000; Alberta and British Columbia have 65,000 Francophones each; Saskatchewan has 20,000; Nova Scotia, 35,000. The other provinces and the three territories have a smaller number of Francophones.

Canada's French-speaking community also includes all people who have mastered the "language of Molière" and who, alongside those who count French as their mother tongue, bring Canada's Francophone community to life. There are 850,000 such people in Ontario, 215,000 in British Columbia, 145,000 in Alberta, 70,000 in New Brunswick—in all, there are more than nine million people in Canada who speak French.

It is estimated that there are 23 million people with French lineage in North America.

ONE SPACE, ONE SIGNATURE



The *Museum of French Emigration to Canada* is an open space. Open to knowledge. Open to the world.

With its clean lines and zinc and glass construction, the Museum, designed by Jacques Ferrier, seems to carry on a dialogue with its surroundings, with other elements.

Born in Limoux in 1959, Jacques Ferrier earned an architecture degree in 1985, after receiving a degree from the École Centrale de Paris in 1981. He founded his own architecture firm in Paris in 1990, after working for Norman Foster & Associates in London. He has been teaching drafting at Bretagne's school of architecture since 1996. His achievements include public and cultural buildings, offices, university buildings, research centres, housing units and urban studies.

He is the force behind some prestigious architectural projects: the *Cité de la Voile-Eric Tabarly* in Lorient, Lyon's *Musée des Confluences*, the *New Changsha Railway Station* in China, the *French Embassy* in Beijing, the *Airbus A380 Delivery Centre* in Toulouse, the renovation of the *Collège de France* in Paris, and the proposed *Hypergreen* ecological tower capable of producing the energy it needs to sustain itself, destined to be built in the world's megacities: Shanghai, Tokyo, Sao Paulo, Hong Kong, etc.

Jacques Ferrier is a member of the Board of Directors of the *Bâtiment Énergie* foundation, created in 2005 to promote European sustainable development research projects. He has received various awards and nominations, including the *Prix de la Première œuvre*, three nominations for the *Équerre d'argent* and two nominations for the *Grand Prix national d'Architecture* (2004 and 2006). He is a Knight of the *Ordre des Arts et Lettres*. He has written several books and articles on architecture, and has been the subject of various monographs, notably *Concept Office* (Architecture prototype, AAM, Brussels / Ante Prima, Paris, 2005) and *Useful, The Poetry of Useful Things* (Birkhäuser-Basel, Boston, Berlin / Ante Prima, Paris, 2004).



www.jacques-ferrier.com

PERMANENT EXHIBIT “NEW FRANCE, NEW LIFE”

Produced by CULTURA, a Canadian agency, in cooperation with Caen’s COM&GRAPH, the permanent exhibit at the *Museum of French Emigration to Canada*, entitled “New France, New Life,” charts a course that incorporates diverse elements to explain the phenomenon of emigration from the Perche region, and more broadly from France, to Canada. It takes visitors on a journey through time, from the 17th century to the present.

Visitors will cover 375 m² to learn about French emigration, encountering virtual characters and listening to them recount their experiences. Each stage throughout the visit has a theme: meeting the peoples of America, creating a new vocabulary, genealogy, etc.



Kleedinge Van Canada, [Costumes of Canada],
ca. 1650.

CA ANC Peter Winkworth Collection R9266-2428

The movement through space and the presentation methods are in keeping with this approach: different settings and an array of complementary media give rhythm and life to the route. The design of each theme area is influenced by its subject matter: the hold of a ship evokes the voyage from one continent to the other; elsewhere, various soils symbolize the diversity of the surroundings; further on, projections of vistas bear witness to the immensity of Canada’s landscape. The scenic artists have chosen to create a place of active discovery where visitors will be able to “feel” in order to gain a better understanding.

This journey of discovery of French emigration to Canada centres on six themes:

“Leaving France”

Emigrants left for a variety of reasons, but generally it was done voluntarily and in the hopes of a better life. Temporary or permanent, these migrations were well organized and each person had to go through an administrative process before leaving. Here, visitors can identify with and place themselves in a far-off historical context as they meet symbolic virtual characters who speak of their dreams, their fears, their hopes, and so on.

“Crossing the Atlantic”

The political rivalries of the Old Continent were transposed in the colonization of the New World. These issues had an influence on migration locations and conditions, but also on the number of people involved. The voyage was a key aspect of the migrations, with few ships making the crossing each year and passengers having to face many perils, from storms to epidemics. And all would not arrive safely in port. Here, visitors travel from the old to the new continent...



Cross-section of a 104-gun flagship giving the main dimensions and the names of the interior compartments, from *Le Neptune français* ou *Atlas nouveau des cartes marines*, by Pène, Cassini et al., 1693. FR BNF Ge CC 1114, 1^{ère} partie, p. 7

“Forming alliances”

French emigrants arrived in a land already inhabited by Native Americans. Although there was a small number in the vast territory they occupied, the Native Americans knew their surroundings exceedingly well. Contact was made, alliances were formed, and trade began, whether it involved foodstuff, know-how or beliefs. But the arrival of the French colonists unleashed a devastating pandemic among the Native Americans, who were not immune to Europe’s microbes and viruses. Here, visitors discover the complexity of two worlds meeting.

“Living in New France”

Distinct ways of life were created. New natural surroundings, diverse climates, new products (maple syrup, furs, etc.), meeting other peoples—all this generated ways of adapting, and then a new culture, which found expression in the language (Canadianisms), agriculture or housing.



A view of the Orphan's or Ursuline Nunnery, taken from the Ramparts by Richard Short, September 1, 1761.
CA ANC C-000358

“French America”

Descendants of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century French settlers can be found in various places throughout Canada. Today, they form a significant population that has its own culture. Here, the exhibit provides visitors with an overview, using maps as support, of the descendants of French immigrants and of the French-speaking community in North America.

“Family histories”

Genealogy fascinates a good number of visitors who come to Tourouvre to learn more about their roots. This space is devoted to them. And for those whose curiosity has brought them here, this is where they can learn about some aspects of the genealogy of Canadians who came from Perche.

Six computer stations provide access to the demographic research of the Université de Montréal's *Programme de recherche en démographie historique* (PRDH). The available data is provided in the form of a computerized population register, composed of biographical files on all individuals of European ancestry who lived in the St. Lawrence Valley.



TEMPORARY EXHIBIT “CANADA GRANDEUR NATURE”

A place for exchanges and discoveries between France and Canada, the *Museum of French Emigration to Canada* presents, for its inauguration, the “Canada Grandeur Nature” [life-size Canada] photography exhibit.

Produced by Pascal Quittemelle, an Orne reporter-photographer originally from Longny-au-Perche, the 30 photographs show modern-day Canada from the perspective of a Perche-area native: its landscapes, its spaces, its gardens, forests, wooden houses. Thanks to the extraordinary light that these works have captured and reproduced, they take visitors on an exceptional journey.

A member of the *Union des Photographes Créateurs* since 1987 and member of *Saif* (Société des auteurs d’images fixes), this Canada “specialist” has a collection of over 30,000 slides of that country which are regularly exhibited in France. Notably, they have been seen at the *Journées internationales de la photo* in Arles. His photographs are published in magazines throughout the world.



Peggy's Cove, Nova Scotia - © Pascal Quittemelle

<http://www.apq-photo.fr>

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RESEARCH AND GENEALOGY

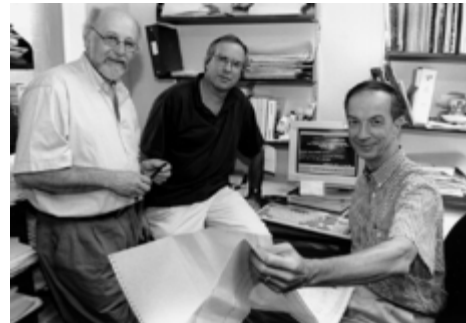
Two scientific projects are associated with the *Museum of French Emigration to Canada*: the Université de Montréal's *Programme de recherche en démographie historique* (PRDH, research program in historical demography) and the Université de Caen Basse-Normandie's *Programme de recherche sur l'Emigration des Français en Nouvelle-France* (PREFEN, research program on French emigrants to New France).

The data from the research of the PRDH and the PREFEN is available for consultation at the Museum.

PROGRAMME DE RECHERCHE EN DÉMOGRAPHIE HISTORIQUE, UNIVERSITÉ DE MONTRÉAL

<http://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca>

In 1966, the *Programme de recherche en démographie historique* (PRDH) at the Université de Montréal undertook the exhaustive reconstruction of the population of Quebec from the beginnings of French colonization in the 17th century. This objective has been realized in the form of a computerized population register, composed of biographical files on all individuals of European ancestry who lived in the St. Lawrence Valley.



Jacques Légaré, Bertrand Desjardins
and Hubert Charbonneau

The file for each individual gives the date and place of birth, marriage(s), and death, as well as family and conjugal ties with other individuals. This basic information is complemented by various socio-demographic characteristics drawn from documents: socio-professional status and occupation, ability to sign his or her name, place of residence, and, for immigrants, place of origin.

Over the years, the PRDH register has become an evolutionary and multi-purpose database, available for queries about various human populations in general and that of Quebec in particular. It is a truly interdisciplinary information system. Created to provide



demographic data, this remarkable tool has been used for a wide variety of research projects involving scholars from many disciplines—history, medicine, linguistics, anthropology, biology, genetics, and genealogy—as can be seen in the more than 200 titles in the PRDH’s bibliography.

The project primarily relies on the exhaustive gathering of data from the parish registers of old Quebec. By systematic attribution of baptism, marriage, and burial certificates to their respective individuals—a “family reconstruction” based on names and family ties—people are identified and their biographies established. The PRDH’s database, covering the 17th and 18th centuries, thus contains the personal history of the Quebec ancestors of all French-Canadians.

In this regard, the PRDH’s genealogical information has long been of interest to a broad public. Sales of various products spun off from its activities have, over the years, provided the PRDH with revenues that have always been reinvested in the project. In fact, the project probably could not have been maintained without these contributions, given the difficulties of funding university research. Now, the project is culminating in the opening of a site offering comprehensive and unprecedented information. The fee charged is very reasonable and should enable the PRDH to continue with its scholarly research. We therefore truly have “Genealogy serving science, and science serving genealogy”!

PROGRAMME DE RECHERCHE SUR L’EMIGRATION DES FRANÇAIS EN NOUVELLE-FRANCE,
UNIVERSITÉ DE CAEN BASSE-NORMANDIE

<http://www.unicaen.fr/mrsh/prefen>

Though the *Museum of French Emigration to Canada* is aimed at all audiences—French, North American, adult, academic, etc.—it seemed essential for the creation of this establishment to be accompanied by a suitable scientific endeavour aimed at advancing our fundamental knowledge of the French immigrants who settled in the St. Lawrence Valley and Acadia in the 17th and 18th centuries.



Therefore, the Government of Canada took the opportunity, in September 2001, to begin original research in the French archives, based on a methodological assessment developed in Canada some thirty years before. A significant research grant for 2001 to 2006 was awarded to the *Université de Caen Basse-Normandie*; its *Centre de recherche d’histoire quantitative* is the seat of the research, which is directed by Professor Yves Landry.

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Les Muséales de Tourouvre

The *Programme de recherche sur l'émigration des Français en Nouvelle-France* (PREFEN) draws its inspiration from challenges associated primarily with four disciplines: history, demography, anthropology and genetics. The main objective of the research is to answer the questions that several generations of researchers have asked themselves. Who were these emigrants? What were their family and social backgrounds? How did their departure for Canada fit into a familial or socio-professional culture of mobility? What role was played in this process by local and family interdependencies with other men and women who had already left for the New World? Was the act of migrating from France to New France linked to a social reproduction mechanism, meaning a system where, in every generation, one was faced with the problem of available family resources to support one's children? In the end, in order to answer these diverse questions, and many others, one must identify the emigrant's place in his or her family and the family's place in the local French society; in other words, one must attempt a better social and genealogical reconstruction of emigrants based on French sources, primarily parish registers and notarial acts. Achieving this goal will not only serve historical purposes, but demographic and genetic ones as well, because the reconstruction of emigrants' families will make it possible to compare the demographic state of the colonists' destination with that of the point of origin, and because research on the diversity of the French-Canadian gene pool should take into consideration kinship between emigrants, which can only be more accurately identified with the help of French civil status archives.

Two kinds of tools have been developed to carry out this research program. First, development of a computerized databank on the approximately 14,000 emigrants who settled in Canada before 1760 should continue. Begun in 1998 based on Quebec data, this databank is gradually expanding as information from the parish registers and notarial acts from a sample of French communities is added. The methodology used in the dozen or so monographic tests that are being or have been conducted thus far—totalling nearly 700 biographical files of emigrants—has several steps: identifying emigrants who declared the same place of origin in the Canadian sources; systematically studying parish registers in the selected community to extract all the acts related to emigrants' families and reconstruct as best one can the emigrant's own family and his or her lineage and collateral family; similarly studying notarial acts; developing family files added to the databank; making an analysis that hypothesizes the key factors underlying the migration, particularly as relates to the evolution of the family patrimony and migratory backgrounds. Collaborative efforts to pursue this work, which have already begun, are expected to grow in number over the coming years with the French centres for Canadian and Quebec studies and French genealogical communities.



Les Muséales de Tourouvre

The work strategy used in this first research component thus depends on the selective search for acts pertaining to the emigrants' families. This approach, though necessary in light of the diversity of the places of origin, is still limited since it does not allow for the reconstruction of an entire community, which is the only thing likely to accurately situate emigrants' families in their overall point of origin. This is why it seemed timely to develop a second component devoted to the comprehensive study of one particular region, namely Perche. Since emigrants from the Perche region originally come from a relatively limited number of parishes, the analysis is focusing on the forty or so communes of the cantons of Tourouvre, Mortagne and Bellême, approximately one quarter of the 150 or so communes of Grand Perche, for the pre-1700 period. So the systematic study of the parish registers and notarial acts preserved for that area and that time period—approximately 166,000 baptism, marriage and burial certificates and 300,000 notarial acts—was begun. Combining data from these two sources—itself an unparalleled, large-scale challenge being tackled with the help of a computerized tool—brings hope of a population reconstruction that minimizes the effects of archival gaps, which are inevitable for the era in question.



A PARTNERSHIP PROJECT



Canada 





MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The *Museum of French Emigration to Canada* is managed and administered by the **Association pour la Gestion des Muséales de Tourouvre** (Loi 1901). The following entities sit on its board:

- The Communauté de Communes du Haut Perche
- The Canadian Embassy in France
- The Orne General Council
- The Alençon Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- The Orne Tourism Board
- The Perche Regional Nature Park
- The Perche Intercommunal Land Development Union
- The Perche-Canada Association
- The Université de Caen Basse-Normandie's Centre de Recherche d'Histoire Quantitative

The *Association pour la Gestion des Muséales de Tourouvre* is chaired by **Katherine BRY**.

In June 2006, the Board of Directors of the *Association pour la Gestion des Muséales de Tourouvre* appointed **Anne GRIOT** as the Museum's director.



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

HOURS OF OPERATION

Opens October 1, 2006

October 1 to December 31, 2006

Open Saturdays, Sundays and holidays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(other days by reservation for groups)

February 16 to May 31, 2007

Open Wednesday to Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
(by reservation for groups)

June 1 to September 30, 2007

Open every day except Monday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

October 1 to December 31, 2007

Open Wednesday to Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.
(by reservation for groups)
Closed on December 25 and 26

Closed for annual holidays from January 1 to February 15

ADMISSION

Adults	€4.00
Academics and students	€3.50

VIRTUAL EXHIBITS AND CANADIAN INTERPRETATION CENTRES IN FRANCE

New France, New Horizons

Virtual exhibit

<http://www.archivescanadafrance.org>

During the 16th century, following the discovery of the rich fishing banks off Newfoundland, France became the first European nation active in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In 1604, France created a permanent settlement there, laying the foundations of a country that would develop its own culture—a blend of French roots, Aboriginal customs, and adaptations to the new land. After 1763, under English rule, Canadians continued to maintain their customs, ensuring a French presence in North America.



A View of the Taking of Quebec by the English Forces Commanded by Gen. Wolfe Sep 13th 1759, for the London Mag, 1760, 1760. CA ANC C-41082

To mark the 400th anniversary of French presence in North America in 2004, France and Canada have re-created their singular adventure and sparked new interest in their shared history by putting documents online, reproduced in their entirety using the latest digitization technologies, and making them accessible to a broad public.

With enthusiasm and determination that reflect the scope of the project, the Direction des Archives de France, Library and Archives Canada, and the



Canadian Embassy in Paris set up work teams, whose members ensured a constant and effective liaison between the two continents. This portal provides access to a virtual exhibit and a database containing more than one million images. It will continue to grow and be enriched through contributions from national and local institutions that conserve archives related to the history of Canada.

Maison Champlain

Interpretation Centre, Brouage (Charente-Maritime)

In 2004, to mark the 400th anniversary of the founding of New France, the Canadian Embassy in France and the Charente-Maritime General Council wanted to celebrate Samuel Champlain's role as a pioneer and the adventure to the New World.



This transatlantic story permeates the Brouage site and, even more, the Maison Champlain. A gathering place and interpretation centre presenting the exhibit "Champlain, une aventure Saintongeaise en Amérique," this is a space where people can access and consult digitized information on Champlain and New France.

In this location steeped in history, the Maison Champlain allows its visitors to discover the richness of the ties that unite our two Atlantic coasts. From the fishery off the coast of Newfoundland to the production of salt to preserve the fish, from Champlain's achievements in New France to emigration from the Charente region to Canada, all aspects of the heritage we share with North America are presented at the Maison Champlain.

Brouage Tourist Office: 05 46 85 19 16

http://www.charente-maritime.org/charente_uk/ile_oleron/patrimoine_maritime/maison_champlain_brouage_uk.htm

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Juno Beach Centre

Interpretation Centre, Courseulles-sur-Mer (Calvados)

The Juno Beach Centre is a museum and cultural centre that opened at Courseulles-sur-Mer on June 6, 2003. The Centre presents the war effort made by all Canadians, civilian and military alike, both at home and on the various fronts during the Second World War, as well as the manifold faces of contemporary Canadian society.



The Juno Beach Centre Association was established in Canada as a non-profit organization. A Board of Directors based in Burlington, Ontario, runs the Association. The President is Garth Webb, a D-Day veteran.

The Minister of Canadian Heritage has designated Juno Beach as a site of national historic significance to Canada.

Juno Beach Centre: 02 31 37 32 17

<http://www.junobeach.org>



Les Musées
de Tourouvre

CANADA—AN OVERVIEW



POLITICAL SYSTEM OF CANADA

Capital

Ottawa, in the province Ontario

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Political system

Canada is a constitutional monarchy and a federal state with a democratic system of government. 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.

Charter of Rights and Freedoms

Canada's Constitution contains a Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which sets out certain fundamental freedoms and rights that neither Parliament nor any provincial legislature acting alone can change. These include equality rights, mobility rights and legal rights, together with freedoms such as speech, association and peaceful assembly.

Health care and social security

Basic health care, with the exception of dental services, is free at the point of delivery. Also, in most cases, prescription drugs are dispensed without charge to people over 65 and social aid recipients. Canada also has an extensive social security network, including an old age pension, a family allowance, unemployment insurance and welfare.

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. According to the 2001 census, 28% of all individuals aged 25 to 34 had university qualifications, and 21% held a college diploma. Another 12% had trade school diplomas. In all, 61% of individuals in this age group had qualifications beyond high school.

ECONOMY AND TRADE IN CANADA

Currency

The Canadian dollar is divided into 100 cents.

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.



Leading 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.

NATIONAL SYMBOLS OF CANADA

National emblem

The maple leaf has been associated with Canada for some time: in 1868, it figured in the coats of arms granted to Ontario and Quebec, and in both World Wars, it appeared on regimental badges. Since the 1965 introduction of the Canadian flag, the maple leaf has become the country's most important national symbol.

The Canadian flag

Several people participated in designing the Canadian flag. Jacques St. Cyr contributed the stylized maple leaf, George Bist the proportions, and Dr. Gunter Wyszeci the colouration. The final determination of all aspects of the new flag was made by a 15-member parliamentary committee, which is formally credited with the design. After lengthy debate, the new flag was adopted by Parliament. It officially became the national flag on February 15, 1965, now recognized as Canada's Flag Day.

National anthem

"O Canada" was composed in 1880, with music by Calixa Lavallée and words by Judge Adolphe-Basile Routhier. In 1908, Robert Stanley Weir wrote the translation on which the present English lyrics are based. On July 1, 1980, a century after being sung for the first time, "O Canada" was proclaimed the national anthem.

National sports

Ice hockey and lacrosse are Canada's national sports. Canada's most popular sports include swimming, ice hockey, cross-country and alpine skiing, baseball, tennis, basketball and golf.



TERRITORY OF CANADA

Landmass

The total area of Canada is 9,984,670 km². Of this, 9,093,507 km² is land and 891,163 km² is fresh water. Canada's area is the second largest in the world (after Russia, which has a total area of 17,075,000 km²). On Canadian territory, the longest distance North to South (on land) is 4,634 kilometres from Cape Columbia on Ellesmere Island, Nunavut, to Middle Island in Lake Erie, Ontario. The longest distance East to West is 5,514 kilometres from Cape Spear, Newfoundland and Labrador, to the Yukon Territory–Alaska boundary.

Provinces and territories

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

Time zones

Canada has six time zones. The easternmost, in Newfoundland, is three hours and 30 minutes behind Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). The other time zones are Atlantic, Eastern, Central, Mountain and, farthest west, Pacific, which is eight hours behind UTC.

Main natural resources

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

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 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. Canada's most populous regions, which lie in the country's south along the U.S. border, enjoy four distinct seasons. Here, daytime summer temperatures can rise to 35°C and higher, while lows of -25°C

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are not uncommon in winter. More moderate temperatures are the norm in spring and fall.

Parks and historic sites

Canada maintains 39 national parks, which cover about 2% of the country's landmass. Banff, located on the eastern slopes of Alberta's Rocky Mountains, is the oldest, having been established in 1885; Tuktut Nogait, in the Northwest Territories, was established in 1996. There are about 850 national historic sites, designated in honour of people, places and events that figure in the country's history. Canada also has over 1,000 provincial parks and nearly 50 territorial parks.

Mountain ranges

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 5,959 metres, Mount Logan in the Yukon is Canada's tallest peak.

Main lakes

There are some two million lakes in Canada, covering about 7.6% of the Canadian landmass. 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. The largest lake situated entirely in Canada is Great Bear Lake (31,328 km²) in the Northwest Territories.

Main rivers

The St. Lawrence (3,058 kilometres long) is Canada's most important river, providing a seaway for ships from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Ocean. The longest Canadian river is the Mackenzie, which flows 4,241 kilometres through the Northwest Territories. Other large watercourses include the Yukon and the Columbia (parts of which flow through U.S. territory), the Nelson, the Churchill, and the Fraser—along with major tributaries such as the Saskatchewan, the Peace, the Ottawa, the Athabasca and the Liard.



POPULATION OF CANADA

Total population

In 2002, Statistics Canada showed Canada's population to be over 30 million (31,161,600). In April 2006, it was estimated at 32,501,147.

Main cities

According to Statistics Canada, in 2002, the largest Canadian cities were Toronto (5.03 million), Montreal (3.55 million), Vancouver (2.12 million), and Ottawa–Gatineau, the National Capital Region (1.13 million).

Distribution of population

In 2001, a large majority of Canadians, 79.7%, was living in cities and towns.

Living standard

Canada ranks sixth in the world in standard of living (measured according to GDP per capita), behind only the United States, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Germany and Japan. Canada's rank among nations tends to rise even higher in assessments that consider GDP per capita along with other factors (such as life expectancy, education) that contribute to the overall "quality of life."

Aboriginal peoples

In 2001, about 3.3% of Canadians belonged to one or more of the three Aboriginal groups recognized by the *Constitution Act, 1982*: North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit. 2.1% are North American Indian, 1% Métis, and 0.2% Inuit.

Religion

According to the 2001 census, more than four-fifths of Canadians are Christian, with Catholics accounting for about 44% of the population and Protestants about 29%. Other religions include Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. Nearly 17%, more than any single denomination except Roman Catholic, have no religious affiliation at all.

Official languages

Canada has two official languages: English, the mother tongue of about 59% of Canadians; and French, the first language of 23% of the population. A full 18% have either more than one mother tongue or a mother tongue other than English or French, such as Chinese, Italian, German, Polish, Spanish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Ukrainian, Arabic, Dutch, Tagalog, Greek, Vietnamese, Cree, Inuktitut, or other

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languages. The *Official Languages Act* makes French and English the official languages of Canada and provides for special measures aimed at enhancing the vitality and supporting the development of English and French linguistic minority communities. Canada's federal institutions reflect the equality of its two official languages by offering bilingual services.

Ethnic origin

In 2001, about 37% of the population reported "Canadian" as their single ethnic origin, with 14% reporting British Isles-only ancestry and 6% French-only ancestry. In 1996, about 10% reported a combination of British Isles, French, or Canadian origin, with another 16% reporting an ancestry of either British Isles, French or Canadian in combination with some other origin. Some 28% reported origins other than the British Isles, French or Canadian.