

RICH IN OPPORTUNITIES

Set in the heart of North America, Canada's keystone province has an area larger than that of California, France or Japan. More than 100,000 freshwater lakes constitute about one-sixth of Manitoba's surface. The varied terrain ranges from the rolling hills and escarpments of the Riding, Duck and Turtle mountains, to the rich soils of the Red River Valley, to the rugged Precambrian outcroppings of the Canadian Shield.

Eastern and northern Manitoba are part of the mineral-rich Precambrian Shield, characterized by coniferous forests, lakes and rivers that offer enormous forestry and hydroelectric power resources. In the south, Mesozoic and Paleozoic rocks of the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin are host to petroleum resources and underlie prairies, mixed forests and grasslands – Manitoba's agricultural breadbasket.

Outside of Agro-Manitoba, approximately 86% of the total land base is open Crown land, available for mineral exploration and development.

MANITOBA AT A GLANCE

Population

1,177,600 (July 2005)

Area

649 947 square kilometres
(250,946 square miles)

Capital City

Winnipeg

Political System

Parliamentary Democracy

Political Leader

Premier

Official Languages

English and French

Unemployment Rate (2005)

4.8%

Real GDP (% Growth) 2005

2.9%

Exports (2004)

\$9.5 billion CDN

