

CANADA Territorial Evolution

1867



In 1867, the colonies of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are united in a federal state, the Dominion of Canada. In the new confederation, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick retain their established boundaries and Canada is divided into the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. In 1870, Rupert's Land and the North-Western Territory are acquired to form the Northwest Territories and Manitoba joins Confederation as a province followed by British Columbia in 1871 and Prince Edward Island in 1873.

1905



In 1905, Alberta and Saskatchewan are created as provinces with the boundaries they have today and the District of Keewatin is transferred back to the Northwest Territories. In 1898, the District of Yukon is separated from the Northwest Territories to become Yukon Territory; its boundaries are changed to those of today in 1901. The boundaries of Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec are extended northward in 1912 to their present boundaries.

1949



In 1949, Newfoundland enters Confederation as the tenth province with the boundaries as delimited in 1927. Canada's long and diversified settlement history is reflected in the two distinct patterns of boundaries that differentiate between eastern and western Canada. The eastern boundaries closely conform to natural features such as drainage basins, while the boundaries of western and northern Canada reflect the administrative organisation of these lands by, first, the Hudson's Bay Company and later the Government of Canada.

1999



In 1999, Nunavut became Canada's third territory. For the first time since the entry of Newfoundland into Confederation, the internal boundaries of Canada had changed. Carved entirely out of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut covers 2 000 000 square kilometres, or approximately one-fifth of Canada's surface. On December 6, 2001, an amendment to the federal Constitution Act officially approved a name change from the province of Newfoundland to the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.