

eight Dominion Decennial Censuses since Confederation, and include some thousands of persons of Indian racial origin who are not on the reserves but are living as ordinary citizens of Canada.

2.—Indian Population of Canada at the Decennial Censuses of 1871-1941

Province or Territory	1871 ¹	1881 ¹	1891 ²	1901	1911	1921	1931	1941
Prince Edward Island.....	323	281	314	258	248	235	233	258
Nova Scotia.....	1,666	2,125	2,076	1,629	1,915	2,048	2,191	2,063
New Brunswick.....	1,403	1,401	1,521	1,465	1,541	1,331	1,685	1,939
Quebec.....	6,988	7,515	13,361	10,142	9,993	11,566	12,312	11,863
Ontario.....	12,978	15,325	17,915	24,674	23,044	26,436	30,368	30,336
British Columbia.....	23,000	25,661	34,202	28,949	20,134	22,377	24,599	24,875
Manitoba.....	56,000	56,239	51,249	16,277	7,876	13,869	15,417	15,473
Saskatchewan.....				26,304	11,718	12,914	15,268	13,384
Alberta.....				11,630	14,557	15,258	12,565	
Yukon.....				3,322	1,489	1,390	1,543	
Northwest Territories.....				14,921	15,904	3,873 ³	4,046	4,052
Canada.....	102,358	108,547	120,638	127,941⁴	105,492	110,596	122,920	118,316

¹ Census figures in the organized provinces and estimates for the rest of Canada. ² Racial origin not taken in 1891; the figures have been taken from the report of the Department of Indian Affairs for that year. ³ The decrease in the Indian population of the Northwest Territories is due to the extension of the boundaries of Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba in 1912. This also accounts for the increase in the 1921 Indian population of these provinces. ⁴ Includes 34,481 'half-breeds'.

Administration.—After Confederation the administration of Indian Affairs, which had been under the management of the several provinces, came under the control of the Dominion of Canada. Pursuant to this authority the Dominion Parliament enacted various legislation concerning Indians, which was first consolidated in the Indian Act, in 1876. That Dominion statute under which Indian administration is still conducted, contains nearly all the Canadian law dealing expressly with Indians. Probably there is no other legislation that deals with so many and such varied subjects in a single Act. It may be said to deal with the whole life of a people. The present Act was consolidated in 1880 and has not been completely revised since that year, although it has been changed and amplified by amendments from time to time. It is the subject of a complete review and investigation by a Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons.

Immediately following Confederation, Indian Affairs was attached to the Department of the Secretary of State. In 1873, when the Department of the Interior was created, Indian Affairs was transferred to it, as the Indian Affairs Branch. In 1880, under the provisions of the Indian Act, the Indian Affairs Branch became a separate Department and remained so until Dec. 1, 1936, when, by the Mines and Resources Act, it became a Branch of the newly created Department of Mines and Resources.

The activities of the Indian Affairs Branch include: management of Indian lands and reserves; trust funds; welfare projects; relief; family allowances; education; descent of property; rehabilitation of Indian veterans on reserves; Indian treaty obligations; enfranchisement of Indians; and a variety of other matters. The organization consists of a headquarters office at Ottawa, with about one hundred local agencies in the field, each agency being responsible for one or more reserves and bands.