

### Section 3.—The Native Peoples of Canada

Two small segments of the population are given special attention because they, in point of time and origin, are the most truly Canadian of the country's citizens and because they, of all the people in the land, are the least able to cope with the changing way of life now being forced upon them.

**The Indians.\***—The Indians of Canada, the fastest-growing ethnic group in the country, live on 2,226 tracts of land that have been reserved for their use and in several outside communities. There are nearly 600 Indian "bands" scattered from Prince Edward Island in the east to the Queen Charlotte Islands in the west, from southern Ontario north to Aklavik. It is believed that when the white man arrived there were 200,000 Indians roaming in what is now Canada. Half a century ago they had dwindled to fewer than 90,000 and were considered to be a dying race, but by the end of 1959 their number was roughly 180,000 and they are now increasing at the rate of 3 p.c. a year, compared with an over-all Canadian average natural growth of 2 p.c. Since health services have drastically reduced infant mortality and prolonged life in middle age, it is estimated that by 1968 the Indian population will have reached 228,000 of whom only 35 to 40 p.c. will be living on reserves.

A census of Indian population is taken at five-year intervals. The numbers recorded at the censuses of 1949 and 1954 together with an estimate as at the end of 1958 are given in Table 25.

25.—Indian Population, by Province, Departmental Censuses 1949 and 1954, and Estimate as at Dec. 31, 1958

Province	1949	1954	1958	Province or Territory	1949	1954	1958
	No.	No.	No.		No.	No.	No.
Prince Edward Island.....	273	272	331	Saskatchewan.....	16,308	18,750	22,438
Nova Scotia.....	2,641	3,002	3,435	Alberta.....	13,805	15,715	18,632
New Brunswick.....	2,139	2,629	3,083	British Columbia.....	27,936	31,086	35,289
Quebec.....	15,970	17,574	20,127	Yukon Territory.....	1,443	1,568	1,806
Ontario.....	34,571	37,255	41,803	Northwest Territories.....	3,772	4,023	4,439
Manitoba.....	17,549	19,684	22,859	<b>Canada.....</b>	<b>136,407</b>	<b>151,558</b>	<b>174,242</b>

26.—Indian Land in Reserves and Number of Bands, by Province, Year Ended Mar. 31, 1958

Province	Reserves		Bands	Province or Territory	Reserves		Bands
	No.	Area			No.	Area	
		acres	No.		acres	No.	
Prince Edward Island.....	4	2,741	1	Alberta.....	90	1,543,867	41
Nova Scotia.....	40	19,492	11	British Columbia.....	1,629	820,915	204
New Brunswick.....	23	37,594	15	Yukon Territory.....	15	3,535	15
Quebec.....	24	178,686	41	Northwest Territories.....	10	1,924	15
Ontario.....	164	1,558,393	111				
Manitoba.....	107	524,358	50				
Saskatchewan.....	120	1,205,672	67	<b>Canada.....</b>	<b>2,226</b>	<b>5,897,177</b>	<b>571</b>

In proportion to their numbers, the Indians of today form one of the most varied populations on earth. In the southern parts of Canada many follow the essentially rural-type economy of their non-Indian neighbours. Some work in factories, in offices, or at individual trades and some are lawyers, doctors, nurses, teachers or businessmen. However, at the other end of the economic scale, the Indian who, in the course of history, has been isolated and is at present living on essentially unproductive areas, generally follows a modified, food-gathering type of existence not too different from that of his ancestors. He fishes, hunts and traps. He lives in his log cabin. Often he sets up his tent in summer. True, he wears factory-made clothes, eats dehydrated and canned food from the store,

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