

Canadian Shield. Consequently, it consists of a network of rivers, lakes and swamps of great use to the Indians who still hunt, trap and fish. Transportation is provided by three widely separated railway systems—the line to Churchill with its important branch to Lynn Lake, the line to Moosonee, and the line to Schefferville. Water routes along the coasts of Labrador and Hudson Bay also provide access. The most important economic activity in this area is mining, well exemplified by the base-metal mines in western Manitoba from which nickel, copper, cobalt, zinc, gold, silver, lead and other metals are obtained, and the iron mines of Newfoundland—Quebec.

Transitional Zone

This tier of regions is transitional in nature between the under-developed regions to the north and the highly developed regions to the south.

Pacific Transition Region.—Mountains predominate in the Pacific Transition Region but dissected plateaux, narrow river valleys, a fiorded coast and offshore islands are also important features. Because of its coastal location and extreme variation in topography, various climates are experienced. The warm moist air blowing in from the sea drops most of its moisture on the seaward-facing slopes of the coast ranges, producing a maritime, humid, equable climate dominated by the polar Pacific air mass which is mild and wet in winter, cool and moist in summer. Westerly winds from the ocean keep average temperatures below 40°F. in January and between 55°F. and 60°F. in July. The annual rainfall in many of the coastal areas exceeds 100 inches with a marked winter maximum, but the deep interior valleys between the mountain ranges are considerably drier and colder. Most of the settlements are along the coast where the combination of sea, rushing rivers and forests provides the basis for fishing and fish processing, power production, lumbering and the manufacture of pulp and paper. One of the greatest pioneering efforts in Canada was the establishment of the aluminum smelting facilities and the associated settlement at Kitimat. The protected seaway to Alaska affords relatively safe coastal access and links with the south. Railways traverse the centre of the region, connecting lumbering and agricultural settlements. Mining is important in the southern part of the region, particularly for iron in northern Vancouver Island and on Texada Island and for gold on the mainland.

Prairie Transition Region.—This region is part of the Interior Plains of Canada. It is the connecting link between the almost empty slopes of the Rockies, the Mackenzie region, the Central Forest region and the fairly well settled areas of the Prairie region. In the northwest, in the Peace River country, its rolling hills and plains are dotted with lakes and waterways. The climate is sub-arctic but, although the winters are very cold, most parts have a growing season of about 160 days so that crops will ripen. Indeed, the main pioneer occupation is farming although lumbering is important and sawmills are numerous. Cattle and sheep ranching are carried on in the foothills and in the Peace River area mixed farming has become highly successful. Here the real pioneer has been the scientist who has developed new types of grain that will mature and ripen in a short growing season. The extensive network of roads and railways covering the prairies makes it possible to enter this region along a wide front as settlement advances into the forest. Oil and gas from the Peace River country are moved to market by pipeline by way of either Edmonton or Vancouver.

Eastern Transition Region.—This region is similar to the Prairie Transition Region although agriculture on the whole has been less successful because most of the region is part of the Canadian Shield. There are notable exceptions, however, in the clay belts centred on Kapuskasing, New Liskeard and Taschereau, the soils of which were deposited on the floors of old glacial lakes, and in the Lake St. John area. Lumbering is important and there are several large pulp and paper mills in the region but the economy is associated principally