industrious farming people. The river-borne transportation of lumber and later the power of water-driven turbines were vital factors in building an industrial base. Water remains a key to Canada's development, supplying renewable energy for industrial growth, providing easy and cheap transport for raw materials and playing a vital part in their processing.

Water problems in Canada are associated with storage, distribution and pollution. Current demands for greater and more diversified water use are complicated by a need to reverse the trend toward deterioration in water quality resulting from urbanization, industrialization and agricultural developments. Pollution and water quality are of major concern since they have a direct bearing on Canada's national well-being and economic growth.

The international boundary line between Canada and the United States, including Alaska, is 8 892 km long, of which 5 063 km lie along or across water bodies. Boundary water basins are of economic importance to both countries. Natural resources of the boundary basins and transportation and hydroelectric power resources of the waterways in these basins have helped foster population concentration and industrial development in Canada along a broad band bordering the 49th parallel.

Approximate population in some selected boundary basins is summarized in the following table. (Canadian statistics are compiled from census divisions that approximate the basin boundary; US statistics were published in 1974, prepared jointly by the US departments of commerce and agriculture for the US Water Resources Council. Both give 1971 figures.)

	Canada	*United States*
Saint John–St. Croix	450,000	125,000
Chaudière	215,000	395,000
St. François	295,000	20,000
Richelieu–Lake Champlain	325,000	335,000
Lake Ontario–Upper St. Lawrence	4,430,000	4,115,000
Lake Erie–Lake St. Clair	1,580,000	9,780,000
Lake Huron–Lake Michigan	690,000	14,900,000
Lake Superior	265,000	535,000
Lake of the Woods–Rainy River	80,000	20,000
Red River	715,000	545,000
Souris River	100,000	110,000
Missouri–Milk	200,000	225,000
Pend d'Oreille–Kootenay	86,000	225,000
Columbia River	190,000	195,000
Lower Mainland	1,490,000	1,190,000
Alaska Panhandle and Yukon	80,000	315,000

In 1909 Canada and the US signed the Boundary Waters Treaty which set out clear limitations on either country's freedom to act if such action might affect the other country. Under the treaty, the International Joint Commission was created to deal with problems that could arise along the boundary. Since then the commission has handled problems in international basins from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean, from small streams to the St. Lawrence River. More recently, the commission was given responsibility for overseeing implementation of the Canada–US agreement on Great Lakes water quality, with goals of improving water quality in polluted areas and ensuring future protection of water quality. Table 1.5 lists the principal rivers of Canada and their tributaries.

The accompanying map shows major drainage basins of Canada. The Atlantic drainage basin is dominated by the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence system which drains an area of approximately 1 756 012 km² and forms a navigable inland waterway through a region rich in natural and industrial resources. From the head of Lake Superior to Belle Isle at the entrance of the Gulf of St. Lawrence is 3 669 km. The entire drainage area north of the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes is occupied by the southern fringe of the Canadian Shield, a rugged, rocky plateau with many tributaries. These rivers and the St. Lawrence provide much of the electric power for the area's industries. South of the St.