

and maintains a system of resource-based parks and related land-use areas for the enjoyment and recreation of Manitoba citizens and visitors.

Saskatchewan. In 1931 Duck Mountain, Cypress Hills and Moose Mountain became the first provincial parks. Now 17 provincial parks represent all ecological segments, classified as wilderness, natural environment or recreation. The social importance of outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation is reflected in regional and historic parks. Regional parks were designed for outdoor recreational use in 99 southern Saskatchewan communities. Nine historic parks are monuments to early trade, conflict and settlement.

Alberta provincial parks, in existence since 1932, are administered by a provincial parks branch. There are 54 provincial parks and three wilderness areas, Whitegoat, Siffleur, and Ghost River. Six natural areas and Willmore wilderness park are administered by the energy and natural resources department. Major provincial parks include Kananaskis, Cypress Hills, Dinosaur, Lesser Slave Lake and Writing-on-Stone.

British Columbia. At the end of 1978 British Columbia had 321 parks, 25 recreation areas, and one wilderness conservancy, totalling 4 481 749 ha in area. BC's park system began in 1911 with the establishment of Strathcona provincial park, 227 211 ha, in central Vancouver Island. The park system has steadily expanded to include vast wilderness areas, camping and picnicking sites, downhill and cross-country ski areas, a comprehensive marine park system, historic parks and sites, a famous canoe circuit, wildlife sanctuaries, and outstanding examples of the province's physical features. In 1978 there were 11 million visits to the parks.

The national capital region

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Canada's capital lies on the Ottawa River below the Chaudière Falls and just above the confluence of the Rideau and Gatineau rivers. Ottawa comes from Outaouac or Outaouais, an Indian tribe from Lake Huron which traded with the French in the 17th century.

The United Province of Canada, following its formation in 1841, shuttled its capital among Kingston, Toronto, Montreal and Quebec while trying to agree on a permanent site. Queen Victoria settled the dispute by choosing Ottawa in 1858. In 1866 the government of the Province of Canada moved to Ottawa. The next year the Parliament of the new Dominion of Canada met for the first time.

Little effort was made to preserve the capital's natural beauty until the Ottawa Improvement Commission was formed in 1899. The present National Capital Commission was formed in 1959 to carry out the master plan conceived for the national capital region by town planner Jacques Gréber.

Ottawa and Hull comprise the core of the national capital region, an area of about 4 662 km² in Ontario and Quebec with a population of about 660,000. Industrial development in the region is limited. A large proportion of the work force is employed by the federal government.

Although the terms of reference of the National Capital Commission are "to prepare plans for and assist in the development, conservation and improvement of the national capital region in order that the nature and character of the seat of the Government of Canada may be in accordance with its national significance," the commission does not have jurisdictional authority over any municipal or regional authorities or the two provincial governments concerned. Most matters affecting the municipalities — planning, zoning, land use, building density, public transit, parking and construction of streets, arterial roads and highways — are within their sole jurisdiction, subject only to provincial government approval. The commission, in its development efforts, depends essentially upon the co-operation of each municipality and provincial government.

In recent years, the efforts of the commission have focused on developing a unified and lively core for the capital. At a constitutional conference in Ottawa in 1969, the federal and provincial first ministers declared the cities of Ottawa and Hull and their surrounding areas to be the Canadian capital region. Almost immediately, work began to remove the economic disparity between Hull and Ottawa; land was acquired in Hull for a federal building program to house various government departments.