



long, of which 3 900 km lie along or across water bodies. Boundary basins are of economic importance to both countries. Natural resources of these basins and transportation and hydroelectric power resources of their waterways have helped to concentrate population growth and industrial development in Canada along a broad band bordering the 49th parallel.

The Atlantic drainage basin is dominated by the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence system which forms a navigable inland waterway through a region rich in natural and industrial resources. Its length from the head of Lake Superior to Belle Isle at the entrance of the Gulf of St. Lawrence is 3 700 km. Most of 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 drained by many tributaries. These rivers and the St. Lawrence provide much of the hydro power for the area's industries. In the St. Lawrence lowlands, smaller rivers are important locally. The Saint John River drains a fertile agricultural area and provides most of New Brunswick's hydro power.

The Hudson Bay drainage basin is the largest in Canada and its main river is the Nelson. The Winnipeg River, a tributary of the Nelson via Lake Winnipeg, is completely developed for hydroelectric

power but development of the Nelson itself is just beginning. The Saskatchewan River, another major tributary to the Nelson via Lake Winnipeg, drains the agricultural region of the mid-west and is a source for irrigation and hydroelectric power.

The Arctic drainage basin is dominated by the Mackenzie, one of the world's longest rivers. It flows from the head of the Finlay River to the Arctic Ocean and drains an immense area in the three western provinces and northern territories. Except for a 26 km portage in Alberta, barge navigation is possible from Fort McMurray on the Athabasca River to the mouth of the Mackenzie, a distance of 2 700 km.

The Pacific drainage basin contains rivers that rise in the mountains of the Cordilleran region and flow to the Pacific Ocean through steep canyons and over innumerable falls and rapids. They provide power for large hydroelectric developments and in season swarm with salmon returning inland to their spawning grounds. The Fraser River rises in the Rocky Mountains and, toward its mouth, flows through a rich agricultural area. The Columbia is an international river which falls 796 m during its course and thus has tremendous power potential. A considerable part of the US potential has been developed. In Canada three large reservoirs were built under the terms of the Columbia River Treaty.