

## Section 15.—Census of the Prairie Provinces

The Census and Statistics Act of 1905 and the Statistics Act of 1918 (replaced by the Statistics Act, 1948) provided for a census of population and agriculture for the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, to be taken in 1906 and every tenth year thereafter, in addition to the nation-wide decennial census.

The latest Prairie Provinces census was taken as of June 1, 1946, and the results are summarized in the 1948-49 Year Book, pp. 162-171, and in the 1951 Year Book, pp. 130-132. More detailed information is contained in the census volumes of the 1946 Census of the Prairie Provinces.

## Section 16.—The Indians and Eskimos of Canada

**The Indians.\***—Entry of native tribes into North America probably began as early as 15,000 years ago, according to the findings of archæologists. It is believed that roving bands of hunters, driven from their lands in northeastern Asia, crossed into North America by way of Bering Strait. Ethnic origins of the Indians appear to have varied. Though differences in language were many and varied somewhat from tribe to tribe, religious background and traditions seemed to stem from practically the same source.

There are ten linguistic groups of Indians in Canada, of which four are east of the Rocky Mountains—Algonkian, Athapaskan, Iroquoian and Siouan—and six are west of the Rockies—Kootenayan, Salishan, Wakashan, Tsimshian, Haida, and Tlinkit. Indians of Algonkian stock are the most numerous and are scattered throughout the area from the Atlantic seaboard to the Rocky Mountains. Included in the Algonkian stock are such tribes as the Micmacs of the Maritimes, the Montagnais of Quebec and the Ojibwas, Crees and Blackfeet who live in the Prairie Provinces. The Iroquoian stock, which includes the Hurons, is found mainly in Ontario and Quebec, while tribes of Sioux are located in the Prairie Provinces. The Northwest and Yukon Territories are the usual homelands of the Athapaskan.

According to the 1951 Census, there were 155,874 persons of Indian origin in Canada, distributed by province and sex as follows:—

<u>Province</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Province</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Newfoundland.....	184	174	358	Saskatchewan.....	11,265	10,985	22,250
P. E. Island.....	136	121	257	Alberta.....	10,743	10,420	21,163
Nova Scotia.....	1,379	1,338	2,717	British Columbia.....	14,602	13,876	28,478
New Brunswick....	1,164	1,091	2,255	Yukon.....	734	799	1,533
Quebec.....	7,556	7,075	14,631	N.W.T.....	1,913	1,925	3,838
Ontario.....	19,025	18,345	37,370				
Manitoba.....	10,642	10,382	21,024	CANADA.....	79,343	76,531	155,874

These figures include all persons with a paternal ancestor of Indian race, many of whom have long been assimilated and have lost their identity as Indians. The number of persons considered as Indians under Indian legislation is placed (1949) at 136,407. They are divided into about 600 Bands and live on 2,200 or more reserves set aside for their use and benefit.

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