



**RETREAT OF THE LAST ICE SHEET**  
**SPECULATIVE ICE-MARGINAL POSITIONS**  
**WITH APPROXIMATE TIME IN YEARS BEFORE PRESENT**

0 — Present day ice cover  
 7,000 — Successive intervening ice-marginal positions  
 10,000 — Arrows indicate direction of ice flow during a significant readvance, or a major halt in ice retreat.  
 13,000 —  
 15,000 or more — Time of outermost ice-marginal position. (Thousands of years before present).  
 18.0 —  
 500 metre bathymetric contour — 500

**NOTE:** The map shows successive stages in the retreat of the last ice sheet in North America. Ice-marginal positions are subject to revision as new information becomes available; they should therefore be regarded as speculative. Selected ice-marginal positions are shown by continuous lines and the coloured areas they enclose indicate the approximate time spans during which the receding ice sheets occupied various parts of these regions. Within the coloured areas broken lines show progressive positions of the ice sheets as recession continued. A number of glacier readvances and surges interrupted the overall pattern of retreat. The more significant of these readvances are shown by arrows. In places these readvances carried later ice beyond former ice-marginal positions, following which, recession resumed. The outer boundary includes components of several different ice lobes that were operative at different times between about 15,000 and 18,000 years ago, but in many areas the outer limit was reached at a later time as shown on the map.