

CANADA-TERRITORIAL EVOLUTION

Produced by the Geographical Services Directorate, Surveys and Mapping Branch, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada. Printed 1982.

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Scale 1:7 500 000 or 1 centimetre represents 75 kilometres
75 0 75 150 225 300 375 450 Kilometres

Lambert Conformal Conic Projection, Standard Parallels 49°N and 77°N
Modified Pseudo-Cylindrical Projection, North of Latitude 80°



CANADA - TERRITORIAL EVOLUTION 1867-1981

On July 1, 1867 the Dominion of Canada was formed by the confederation of three provinces in British North America. This map depicts the evolution of the nation's international, provincial and territorial boundaries from this date to 1981.

BOUNDARIES

PRESENT DAY

- International
- - - Provincial or Territorial
- District
- Unsurveyed
- - - Dividing Line - Canada and Greenland

BOUNDARIES

HISTORICAL (Many Unsurveyed)

- International
- - - Provincial or Territorial
- Northwest Territories 1870
- District
- Rupert's Land 1870

CHRONOLOGY

- 1867 The colonies of CANADA, NOVA SCOTIA and NEW BRUNSWICK unite in a federal state. The provinces of NOVA SCOTIA and NEW BRUNSWICK retain their established boundaries and CANADA is divided into the provinces of ONTARIO and QUEBEC.
- 1870 RUPERT'S LAND and the NORTH-WESTERN TERRITORY are acquired to form the NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. The province of MANITOBA is created with boundaries 49°N, 50°30'N, 96°W, 99°W.
- 1871 BRITISH COLUMBIA joins Confederation as a province with the boundaries it attained in 1866.
- 1873 PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND joins Confederation as the seventh province.
- 1874 New boundaries (provisional) assigned to northern ONTARIO.
- 1876 District of KEEWATIN is formed from part of the NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.
- 1877 Boundaries of MANITOBA are adjusted to conform to the Dominion Lands Survey System.
- 1880 Canada acquires title to the ARCTIC ISLANDS which become part of the NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.
- 1881 MANITOBA is enlarged by extending its boundaries westward, northward and eastward.
- 1882 Provisional Districts of ASSINIBOIA, SASKATCHEWAN, ATHABASKA and ALBERTA are created.
- 1886 Southwestern boundary of KEEWATIN is adjusted to conform with boundaries of the Districts created in 1882.
- 1889 ONTARIO is enlarged west to Lake of the Woods and north to the Albany River.
- 1895 UNGAVA, MACKENZIE, YUKON and FRANKLIN are established as additional Districts in the NORTHWEST TERRITORIES. The Districts of ATHABASKA and KEEWATIN are enlarged.
- 1897 Boundaries are changed for the Districts of FRANKLIN, KEEWATIN, MACKENZIE, UNGAVA and YUKON.
- 1898 The District of YUKON is separated from the NORTHWEST TERRITORIES to become YUKON TERRITORY with the boundaries as assigned to the District in 1895. The boundaries of QUEBEC are extended northward to the Eastmain River.
- 1903 The boundaries of YUKON TERRITORY are changed to those of today.
- 1905 ALBERTA and SASKATCHEWAN are created as provinces with the boundaries as they are today. The District of KEEWATIN is transferred back to the NORTHWEST TERRITORIES.
- 1912 MANITOBA, ONTARIO and QUEBEC are extended northward to attain their present boundaries.
- 1920 The boundaries of the Districts within the NORTHWEST TERRITORIES are re-described as they exist today.
- 1925 CANADA'S boundaries are extended northward pursuant to provisions of international law.
- 1927 The boundary between CANADA and NEWFOUNDLAND is defined by the Imperial Privy Council.
- 1948 NEWFOUNDLAND enters Confederation as the tenth province with the boundaries as delimited in 1927.

Research for this map was carried out under contract by Dr. Norman L. Nicholson, of the Department of Geography, University of Western Ontario for Energy, Mines and Resources Canada.

Cartography by the Cartography and Toponymy Division, Surveys and Mapping Branch, Energy, Mines and Resources Canada.

Selected Sources: Extensive references were consulted during the map research, for the purposes of this map however, only a list of the most important sources is provided.
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