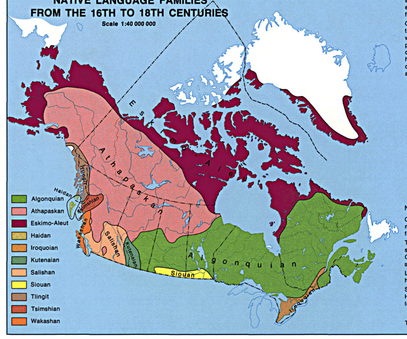
NATIVE CULTURE AREAS OF CANADA

Scale 1:40 000 000

NATIVE LANGUAGE FAMILIES FROM THE 16TH TO 18TH CENTURIES

Scale 1:40 000 000



NATIVE CULTURE AREAS OF CANADA

Canada may be divided into six native culture areas on the basis of major geographic regions. Tribes located in each area show greater cultural similarity to one another than they do to tribes located in other areas, even though they may speak languages belonging to unrelated families and have different origins. The disparity between linguistic and cultural areas, which can be readily seen on the two maps, arises because historically tribes have moved from one area to another, retaining their language but adapting to a new set of environmental conditions. The Sarcee of Alberta are a typical example of this movement. Their language, which belongs to the Athapaskan family, indicates a probable origin in the western Subarctic, but for a long time they lived in the Plains in intimate association with the Algonquian-speaking Blackfoot. Their culture strongly resembles that of the Blackfoot. The Blackfoot themselves are relative latecomers to the Plains, their language suggesting central Subarctic origins.

In the far north lies the ARCTIC, an area of treeless tundra fringing the North American continent from Alaska to Labrador. A harsh environment of scarce resources has resulted in a culture that is narrowly, if ingeniously specialized, centring on the hunting of sea mammals - particularly the seal - in coastal regions and the caribou in the central inland region west of Hudson's Bay. Traditionally, small widely dispersed bands moved in seasonal pursuit of these animals. Only in the Arctic do the lines of geography, language and culture coincide at all closely. Aleut is spoken in the Aleutians; Eskimo is spoken throughout the rest of the territory.

South of the Arctic, coinciding partly with the Canadian Shield, is the SUBARCTIC, an area of coniferous forest, innumerable lakes, hummocky terrain and significant climatic differences. Food resources are not dependable. A similar lifestyle has developed through much of this area which embraces Canada's two largest and farthest-flung language families, Athapaskan in the west and Algonquian in the centre and east. The common social-ecological unit is the seasonally shifting hunting band whose principal quarry are moose, caribou, sheep and elk. Political organization of the bands traditionally was loose. Major modes of transport were the toboggan, the snowshoe and the bark canoe.

South of the Eastern Subarctic lies the NORTHEAST, an area of geographic transitions and highly varied flora and fauna. Unlike the Subarctic, food resources are relatively plentiful and dependable. The northern coniferous forest here gives way to deciduous cover which is crossed by large lakes and river systems. Climate and soils are favourable to agriculture. Indeed agriculture developed aboriginally in Canada only in this area. Corn, beans and squash agriculture was practiced primarily by Iroquoian tribes, though to a lesser extent by Eastern Algonquians who depended mainly on hunting, fishing and gathering of a great variety of species. Conditions supported sedentary village life and relatively dense concentrations of people. Tribal confederacies and complex political institutions were common.

To the south of the Western Subarctic are the GREAT PLAINS, occupied in Canada by speakers of Athapaskan, Algonquian and Siouan languages. Following the acquisition of the horse in historic times the lifestyle of the famed tipi dwellers became nomadic. The buffalo supplied most material wants, from food to clothing and housing. Small mobile bands dispersed in the fall for the buffalo hunt and then regrouped in loosely organized tribes in the spring and summer.

Between the Rockies and the Coastal Range is the raised intermontane PLATEAU. An area of geographic extremes ranging from arid semi-desert to moist coniferous forest, the Plateau is something of a cultural crossroads, an amalgam of influences from the Plains, the Subarctic and especially the Northwest Coast. The food quest revolves around gathering and fishing. Languages from three families are spoken in this area: Salishan, Athapaskan and Kutenaian.

Occupying rugged mountainous slopes between the Coastal Range and the Pacific are the sedentary tribes of the NORTHWEST COAST. The lifestyle is oriented toward the sea and the rivers which are the home of the salmon. Although agriculture is not practiced, plentiful resources have permitted dense concentrations of population, the formation of villages and the development of complex institutions. Unlike the other areas where societies function truly democratically, societies here are stratified into ranked classes. The area is famous for monumental uses of wood in the construction of large plank houses, slender boats and totem poles. Languages from five families are spoken: Tlingit, Tsimshian, Haidan, Wakashan, Salishan.

NATIVE LANGUAGE FAMILIES FROM THE 16th to 18th CENTURIES

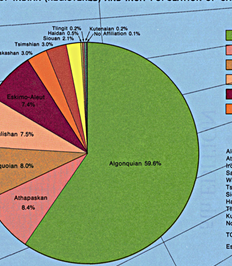
Over 50 aboriginal languages falling within 11 distinct families are still spoken in Canada. Many more than this were spoken at the time of contact. The map shows the general location of the 11 families during the first two centuries of white contact.

The boundaries between families can only be approximated for any period. They are intended to show gross distributions of speakers rather than precise borderlines between language areas. Owing to the movement of bands over time, the language of a particular group may now occur outside the area indicated on this map; a comparison with the main map shows such movements. Languages classified together in the same family have a proven relationship. They can be shown to have descended from an earlier ancestral "proto" language, or a set of closely related dialects.

Some families such as Iroquoian and Siouan, and - more speculatively - Athapaskan, Tlingit and Haidan, show possible distant affinities to one another. However, such families as Algonquian, Iroquoian, Athapaskan and Eskimo-Aleut have no known ancestral connection.

Texts prepared by Dr. M.K. Foster, Canadian Ethnology Service, National Museum of Man.

DISTRIBUTION OF INDIAN (REGISTERED) AND INUIT POPULATION OF CANADA BY MAJOR LINGUISTIC FAMILIES, 1976



Algonquian	182 145
Athapaskan	26 677
Iroquoian	24 705
Salishan	23 076
Wakashan	9 160
Tsimshian	8 961
Siouan	5 304
Haidan	1 511
Tlingit	634
Kutenaian	510
No Affiliation	99
TOTAL REGISTERED INDIANS	282 762
Eskimo-Aleut	
Inuktitut (estimated)	22 623

Energy, Mines and Resources Canada / Énergie, Mines et Ressources Canada

THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF CANADA 5th EDITION

CANADA
INDIAN AND INUIT COMMUNITIES AND LANGUAGES

Produced by the Surveys and Mapping Branch, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa, Canada. Printed 1980.

Research and cartography by the National Geographical Mapping Division, Geographical Services Directorate, Surveys and Mapping Branch.

Copies of this map may be obtained from the Canada Map Office, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Ottawa, or your nearest map dealer. Quote MCR 4001

Des exemplaires de cette carte sont disponibles en français.

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Scale 1:7 500 000

75 0 75 150 225 300 375 450 Kilometres

Lambert Conformal Conic Projection Standard Parallels 49°N and 77°N
Modified Polyconic North of Latitude 80°

Sources:
Canada, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, *Schedule of Indian Reserves and Settlements, 1972.*
——— *Schedule of Indian Bands and Reserves, 1976, 1977.*
——— *Occupied Indian Reserves, unpublished listing, 1976.*
——— *Registered Indian Population by sex and residence, 1976.*
Inuit Land Use and Occupancy Project, a report prepared by Milton Freeman Research Limited, 1976.
——— in co-operation with National Museum of Man, Canadian Ethnology Service, *Indian and Inuit Population by major linguistic groups and related languages, 1976, unpublished listing.*
Canada, National Museum of Man, Canadian Ethnology Service, Data for the map Major Linguistic Families 16th to 18th Centuries, 1976.
Canada, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Legal Surveys Division, Plans of Indian Reserves as of 1976.
Canada, Statistics Canada, *1971 Census, S7 Ethnic Groups by Enumeration Areas*, computer tape.
National Geographic Society, *Indians of North America*, map, scale *1:10 610 000*, 1974.

INDIAN AND INUIT COMMUNITIES

Inhabited Indian Reserves:
- less than 809 ha (2 000 acres)
- 809 ha (2 000 acres) and over

Uninhabited Indian Reserves:
- less than 809 ha (2 000 acres)
- 809 ha (2 000 acres) and over

1:2 000 000

20 0 20 40 60 80 100 kilometres

INDIAN AND INUIT COMMUNITIES AND LANGUAGES

INDIAN AND INUIT COMMUNITIES

- Inhabited Indian Reserves:
  - less than 9 100 ha (22 500 acres)
  - 9 100 ha (22 500 acres) and over
- Uninhabited Indian Reserves:
  - less than 9 100 ha (22 500 acres)
  - 9 100 ha (22 500 acres) and over
- A² A³ ..... Number of separate Reserves represented by one symbol
- ● ..... Indian Settlement
- ■ ..... Other Indian Community
- Inuit Community
- Inuit Lake ..... Name of an Indian Band
- Cree Lake / Lynx Lake ..... Communities of Indians belonging to the same Band
- RED LAKE ..... Name of a locality with a distinct Indian Community having no formal Band affiliation

The terms Inuit and Eskimo are both used in Canada to designate the same people. In an historical or sociological context, the internationally known term Eskimo is preferred.

No definite statement on the precise legal status of Indian Reserve and Settlement land can be made without extensive enumeration of particular cases. In general terms an Indian Reserve, the legal title to which is vested in Her Majesty in right of Canada, is set apart for the use and benefit of an Indian band by an Order-in-Council and is subject to the terms of the Indian Act, R.S.C. 1970. An Indian Settlement is situated on Crown land and has not been officially set apart by legislation. Those additional Indian Communities shown on this map are simply some distinct centres of Indian population.

MAJOR LINGUISTIC FAMILIES AND RELATED LANGUAGES

MAJOR LINGUISTIC FAMILY		LANGUAGE
ALGONQUIAN	Ab	Abenaki
	Bl	Blackfoot
	Cr	Cree
	Dl	Delaware
	Ma	Malecite
	Mc	Micmac
	Mt	Montagnais
	Oj	Ojibwa
	Pt	Potawatomi
ATHAPASKAN	Be	Beaver
	Ca	Carrier
	Chl	Chilcotin
	Ch	Chipewyan
	Dr	Dogrib
	Hn	Han
	Hr	Hare
	Ka	Kaska
	Ku	Kutchin
	Sa	Sarcee
	Sk	Sekani
	Sl	Slave
	Tg	Tagish
	Ta	Tahltan
	Tt	Tutchone
HAIDAN	Ha	Haida
IROQUOIAN	Cy	Cayuga
	Mh	Mohawk
	On	Oneida
	Oo	Onondaga
	Se	Seneca
	Tu	Tuscarora

MAJOR LINGUISTIC FAMILY		LANGUAGE
KUTENAIAN	Kt	Kutenai
SALISHAN	Bc	Bella Coola
	Cx	Comox
	Ht	Halkomelem
	Ll	Lillooet
	Ok	Okanagan
	Se	Sechelt
	Sh	Shuswap
	Sq	Squamish
	St	Straits
	Th	Thompson
SIOUAN	Da	Dakota
TLINGIT	ldT	Inland Tlingit
TSIMSHIAN	CTs	Coast Tsimshian
	Na-Gi	Nass-Gitksan
WAKASHAN	Ha	Haisla
	He	Heiltsuk
	Kw	Kwakiutl
	No	Nootka
ESKIMO-ALEUT	In	Inuktitut

*All French-speaking today
*All English-speaking today
LDU Language data unavailable

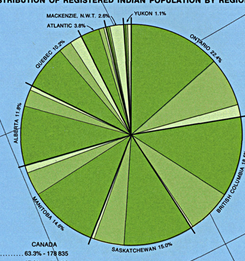
Coloured areas on the map are intended to identify the major indian and Inuit linguistic families. They do not necessarily indicate areas of habitation or travel.

The map does not show dialect divisions for the Eskimo (Inuktitut) region of Canada. This is consistent with the treatment of language families, in other regions where languages, but not the dialects they comprise, are differentiated. However, in 1975 the Inuit Language Commission, appointed by the Inuit Tapirsat of Canada, identified six broad areas of dialect variation in the region as presently perceived by the Inuit themselves. These are Inuit east to west, Labrador, Northern Quebec, Keewatin District, Baffin, Central Arctic and Western Arctic.

Source:
The Inuit Language Commission's report appeared in the Summer, 1978, issue of Aiumermat, published by the Inuit Cultural Institute, Eskimo Point, N.W.T. X0C 0G0.

This map was prepared in cooperation with the National Museum of Man and the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.
Research by I. Jost, National Geographical Mapping Division.

DISTRIBUTION OF REGISTERED INDIAN POPULATION BY REGION, 1976



CANADA		
On Reserve	63.3%	178 835
Off Reserve	27.3%	77 226
On Crown Land	9.4%	26 701
TOTAL	100.0%	282 762