

# CANADA ETHNIC DIVERSITY

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Scale 1:7 500 000 or 1 centimetre represents 75 kilometres  
 75 0 75 150 225 300 375 450  
 Kilometres  
 75 0 75 150 225 300 375 450  
 Miles  
 Lambert Conformal Conic Projection, Standard Parallels at 49°N and 77°N;  
 Modified Polyconic Projection, North of Latitude 80°.

## ETHNIC DIVERSITY

The history of Canadian settlement is one of successive waves of immigrants from different cultures, and of territorial conflicts with the Aboriginal peoples who had migrated from Asia thousands of years before. In the seventeenth century, the French settled in New France. Following the conquest of 1760, the British took political control and settled in Upper Canada and in the Atlantic regions. Together with the Loyalists who followed, they gradually established numerical predominance in this part of the New World. As early as 1851, the proportion of British and French began to fall as a result of the increase in the number of immigrants from other European countries. Accordingly, at the time of Confederation, 60 percent of the population was of British origin, 31 percent of French origin, and the remainder mainly German, Scandinavian, Russian, Dutch and Italian (Dominion Bureau of Statistics 1967).

Two major waves of European immigration followed World War II. The immigrants of this period, attracted by Canada's greater economic prosperity and its growing importance on the international scene, were mainly unskilled and impoverished people from eastern Europe and the Mediterranean, who gravitated to the large urban centres. Since the 1970s, as a result of new Canadian immigration policies, there have been additional influences of Latin Americans, Caribbean, Asian and African immigrants. As a consequence, the relative demographic weight of the founding immigrant peoples—the French and British—has dropped even further.

The ethnic nature of Canada's population is manifested by a multicultural or pluralistic society in which people of varied origins, cultures, languages, and religions live together. Although multiculturalism has always existed in Canada, it was not until 1971 that it became the focus of an official policy. In 1982, the principle of multiculturalism was incorporated into the Constitution Act by its inclusion in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms (sections 15 and 27).

Ethnic diversity is represented on the map by means of two indexes of diversity: the index of concentration and the index of entropy. The index of concentration (Kulshammer, 1968) was calculated at the Census Division (CD) level of aggregation. It compares the population of a given ethnic group in a CD to the population of the same ethnic group throughout Canada. The sum of the indexes of concentration of all ethnic groups present in a CD shows the intensity of the ethnic presence in the geographical unit. The higher the sum of the indexes of concentration, the more diversified the population. The index of concentration is mapped only in the ecumene which, for the purposes of this map, is defined as that part of Canada in which there is more than one inhabitant per square kilometre. This approach gives a better representation of the population distribution and explains the absence of information in northern regions.

Generally speaking, the values of the index of concentration decrease from west to east across Canada. The index is particularly low in several CDs in Quebec and Newfoundland, reflecting the low diversity of the ethnic population in these provinces. Although immigration from France has remained almost nonexistent since the fall of the French regime that has presided since the colony's inception, Canada's population of French origin has held its own because of its consistently high birth rate and its regional concentration in Quebec (Kalbach and McVey 1979). In Newfoundland, a British colony which did not join the Canadian Confederation until 1949, British origin still predominates. In contrast, high values of the index of ethnic concentration in the Prairies and British Columbia reflect the first waves of continental European immigrants to these regions. Finally, it would appear that post-war immigration was responsible for the ethnic diversification of large urban centres, which also have high indexes of concentration.

The index of relative entropy (Thomas 1983) was calculated at the level of aggregation of the Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) because of the attraction these areas hold for ethnic groups and because of their demographic importance in Canada's urban system. This index is a measure of the heterogeneity of the population: when the population of a CMA is heterogeneous, the index of entropy tends toward 1.0; when it is homogeneous, the index tends toward 0. For example, the index of entropy is 0.64 for Toronto where the ethnic population is highly diversified, but only 0.07 for Trois-Rivières where few ethnic groups are represented.

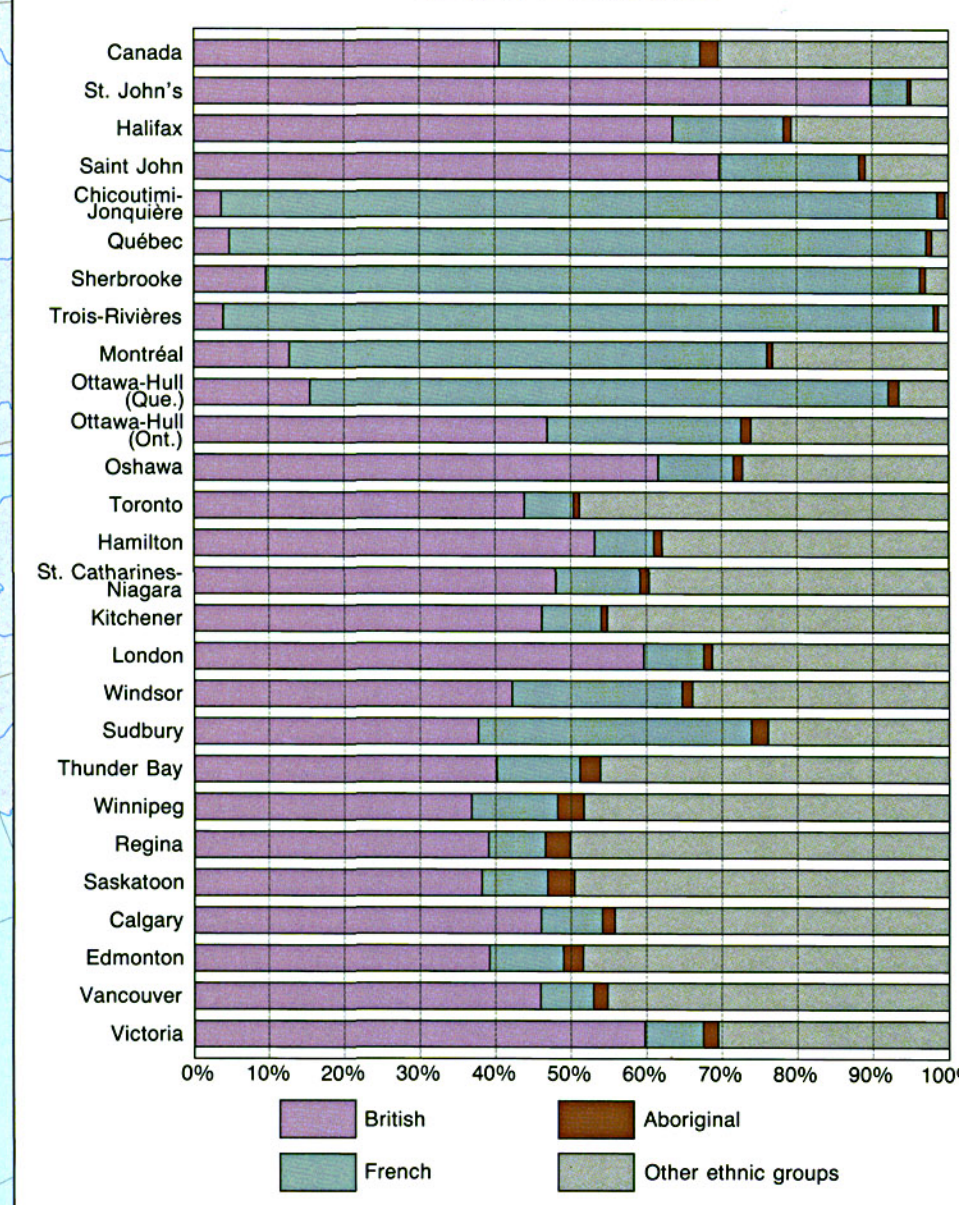
The index of entropy for each CMA is represented by a square which is divided into 25 cells that correspond to the ethnic composition of the population. Only ethnic groups making up at least 1 percent of the ethnic population of a CMA are represented on the map. Geographical factors in some cases account for the presence of certain ethnic groups in a CMA. For example, some French-speaking ethnic groups tend to settle in Montreal, whereas Asians arriving from Pacific nations gravitate toward British Columbia and Alberta.

Indexes of entropy and concentration were calculated for the forty main ethnic groups in Canada. For the purposes of this map, the calculations exclude descendants and immigrants of the First Nations (Aboriginal peoples). These groups are considered to be the founding peoples and accordingly were not treated as ethnic groups. Moreover, if the French and British groups had been consistently included in the calculations, the small proportions of individual ethnic groups in CMAs would be obscured by the dominant group. The graph Distribution of the Ethnic Population by Census Metropolitan Area shows the percentages of these three groups in the CMAs as the Canadian population as a whole.

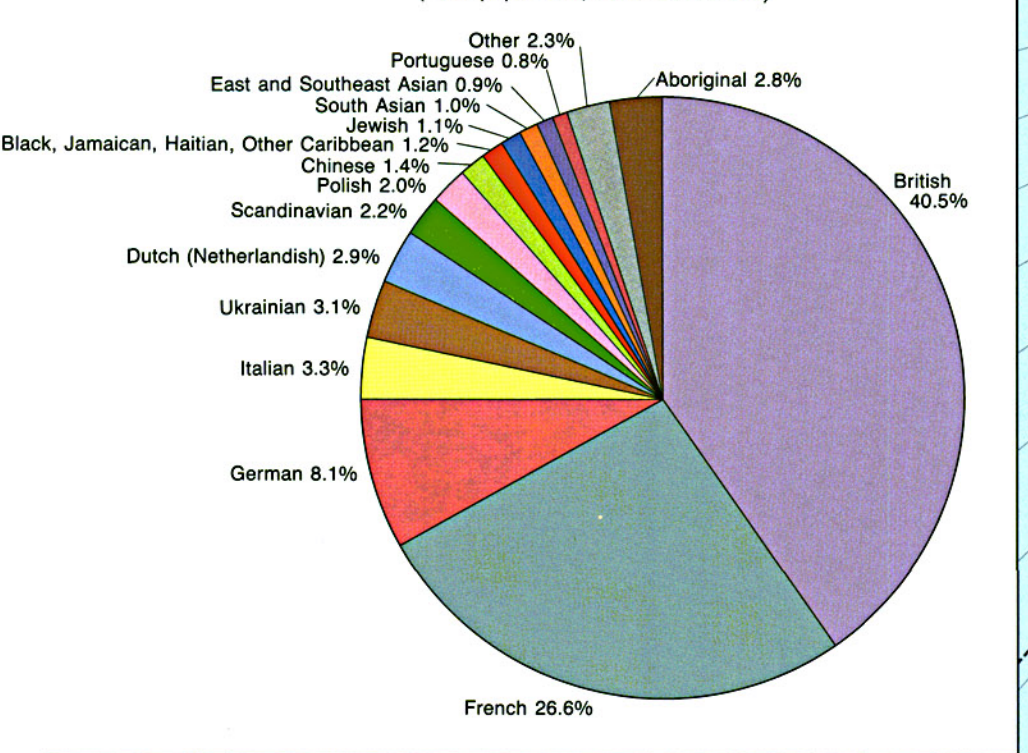
The data used for this analysis are based on the ethnic origins reported in the 1986 Census in response to the following question: "To which ethnic or cultural group(s) do you or did your ancestors belong?"

The Census includes three types of answers: single responses, when respondents indicated only one origin (French, for example); multiple responses, when respondents indicated more than one origin (for example, a person could report both French and English origin); and non-responses, when no origin was reported. The results of both single and multiple responses were used to prepare the map. Using single responses only would tend to emphasize ethnic groups that had immigrated recently, at the expense of ethnic groups established for many years in the country. However, it should be noted that those who reported multiple origins may be shown in more than one ethnic group. It should also be noted that the answer to the census question may be considered subjective, since it refers to membership in an ethnic or cultural group as perceived by the respondent.

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE ETHNIC POPULATION BY CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREA



## DISTRIBUTION OF THE ETHNIC POPULATION OF CANADA (Total population, 1986: 25 022 010)



## ETHNIC DIVERSITY, 1986

### INDEX OF CONCENTRATION by Census Division (CD)

0.3 - 1.0	17.2 - 39.6
1.1 - 1.8	39.7 - 49.0
1.9 - 5.7	49.1 - 57.5
5.8 - 17.1	57.6 - 81.5

The index of concentration for a CD is the sum of the indexes of concentration calculated for each ethnic group in the CD. The higher the sum, the more diversified the population.

### INDEX OF ENTROPY by Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)

0.64
0.26
0.07

The size of the square is proportional to the value of the index of relative entropy calculated for 40 ethnic groups. The population structure of a CMA is heterogeneous when the index of entropy tends toward 1; it is homogeneous when the index tends toward 0.

## ETHNIC COMPOSITION by Census Metropolitan Area

Each cell represents 4 percent of the ethnic population of a CMA and shows the relative importance of each of the 14 main ethnic groups. Only groups accounting for at least 1 percent of the ethnic population of a CMA are shown in the cells. In the calculations, the French group was excluded for CMAs inside Quebec; the British group was excluded for CMAs outside Quebec; and Aboriginal groups were excluded for all CMAs.

- ### MAIN ETHNIC GROUPS\*
- British
  - French
  - German
  - Italian
  - Ukrainian
  - Dutch (Netherlands)
  - Scandinavian<sup>2</sup>
  - Polish
  - Black, Jamaican, Haitian, Other Caribbean<sup>3</sup>
  - Jewish
  - South Asian<sup>4</sup>
  - East and Southeast Asian<sup>4</sup>
  - Chinese
  - Portuguese
- \*The sequential order of ethnic groups in the legend and diagrams follows the numerical importance of these groups within the Canadian population as a whole.  
<sup>1</sup>These groupings were made for statistical purposes only, in order to ensure sufficient size for display. They do not necessarily imply a high degree of cultural similarity.  
<sup>2</sup>This group includes Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish.  
<sup>3</sup>This group includes Bangladeshi, Bengali, Singaporean, Qatari, Indian from India, Pakistani, Punjabi, Sri Lankan (Ceylonese) and Tamil.  
<sup>4</sup>This group includes Cambodian, Korean, Japanese, Laotian, Philippine and Vietnamese.