

## Territorial Evolution, 1882

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### Abstract

The provisional district of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Athabaska and Alberta are created in 1882. Canada's long and diversified settlement history is reflected in the two distinct patterns of boundaries that differentiate between eastern and western Canada. The eastern boundaries closely conform to natural features such as drainage basins, while the boundaries of western and northern Canada reflect the administrative organisation of these lands by, first, the Hudson's Bay Company and later the Government of Canada.

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### Canada

As people continued to settle in the Northwest Territories (partly because the railway was being built), the Federal government found it had to create new districts to govern the territories. In 1882, by an Order in Council, four new districts -- Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Athabaska and Alberta -- were created. They were governed by a Lieutenant Governor from his capital at Regina, Saskatchewan.



**Figure 1** : Photograph of Surveyors' Camp, Brandon, Northwest Territories

**Source:** Catalogue entry: Surveyors' camp, Brandon: [N.W.T.]. — June 1882. — 1 photograph: albumen print ; 11 x 15 cm, mounted on cardboard 11 x 18 cm. Ref. No. : PA-124507. National Archives of Canada.

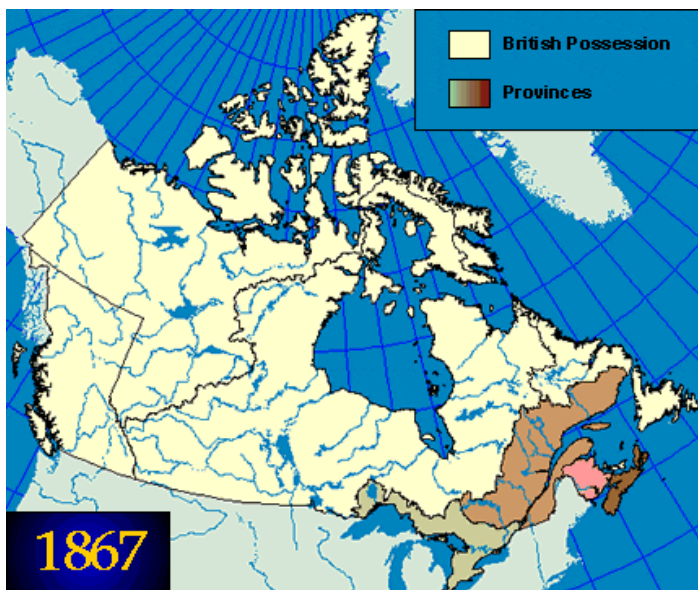
Between 1873 and 1882, a long and acrimonious dispute was carried on between Ontario and the Dominion, and more specifically between Sir John A. Macdonald and Sir Oliver Mowat, in regard to the western boundary of Ontario. The situation was complicated by a demand on the part of what was then called the "Postage Stamp" province of Manitoba for enlargement of its territory. The question was not finally settled until 1889, when an Imperial Order in Council was passed fixing the boundary between Ontario and Manitoba.

### Provisional Districts

It is interesting that each of the new districts included a major river valley or part of one. This was because the early settlers in western Canada avoided the open grasslands and instead liked to settle in wooded areas and river valleys. The boundaries of the District of Saskatchewan overlapped those of the District of Keewatin. This problem was not solved until later.

### Animation of the territorial evolution of Canada from 1867 to 1999

The animation, *Territorial Evolution 1867 to 1999\_e.gif* is located in the animated gif folder.



Canada's boundaries are dynamic political structures that reflect the changing political, economic and cultural conditions of the country through time. This animation shows sequentially the history of boundary changes in Canada from Confederation to the creation of Nunavut.

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## Map Sources

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## **Related Web sites (1999 – 2009)**

### **Federal Government**

Canada: A People's History

<http://www.cbc.ca/history/webdriver?MIval=EpisodeSum2.html&lang=E>

Episode summaries of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's documentary series about the history of Canada.

Government of Canada. Canada's Digital Collections. The Acadian Odyssey

<http://collections.ic.gc.ca/acadian/english/toce/toce.htm>

The History of Acadia and the Acadian Experience in Canada

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

<http://www.aic-inac.gc.ca/>

Information on the Department and on services offered to First Nations People. See "Publications and Research" for recent data on Aboriginal population, First Nations Profiles, news on treaties and land claims, etc.

National Library of Canada and National Archives of Canada

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/>

The National Archives of Canada authorizes the disposal of records by federal government institutions and specifies the terms and conditions for their long-term preservation when they have archival value or historic importance; offers advice and orientation to support government institutions in the business of information management and record keeping; and provides records storage facilities.

The National Library's Canadian Confederation Web site

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/confederation/index-e.html>

### **Provincial/Territorial Government**

British Columbia Archives

<http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/index.htm>

Gouvernement du Québec. Archives nationales du Québec (available in French only)

<http://www.banq.qc.ca/accueil/>

Les Archives nationales du Québec conservent des milliers de fonds : 43 km de documents écrits, 7 000 000 de photographies, 800 000 cartes et plans, 53 000 heures d'enregistrements sonores, de films.

Government of Manitoba. Archives of Manitoba

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/>

Manitoba's rich documentary past is accessible to you at the Archives of Manitoba, which also houses the world-renowned archives of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Provincial Archives



<http://www.gov.nf.ca/pan/>

**Government of Nunavut**

<http://www.gov.nu.ca/Nunavut/English/departments/CLEY/>

**Government of Ontario. Archives of Ontario**

<http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/>

**Government of Prince Edward Island. Department of Education. Public Archives and Records Office**

<http://www.edu.pe.ca/paro/>

The Public Archives and Records Office of Prince Edward Island (PARO) acquires, preserves, and makes available for public research the records of the government of this province and private-sector papers and records deemed to be of lasting historical value.

**Northwest Territories Archives**

<http://pwnhc.learnnet.nt.ca/programs/nwtarchives.asp>

**Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management**

<http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/>

**Provincial Archives of Alberta**

[http://www.culture.alberta.ca/preserving/paa\\_2002/index.asp](http://www.culture.alberta.ca/preserving/paa_2002/index.asp)

**Provincial Archives of New Brunswick**

<http://archives.gnb.ca/Archives/Default.aspx?culture=en-CA>

**Saskatchewan Archives Board**

<http://www.saskarchives.com/web/index.html>

**Yukon Archives**

<http://www.btc.gov.yk.ca/archives/index.html>

**Other**

**Canadian Geographic's Mapping Canada**

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/mapping/default.asp>

**Canadian Heritage Gallery**

<http://www.canadianheritage.com/index2.htm>

The Canadian Heritage Gallery is a very extensive collection of historical Canadiana on the Internet.

**Historical Atlas of Canada Online Learning Project**

<http://www.historicalatlas.ca/website/hacolp/>

This site is still under development but promises to be an excellent site for historical maps of Canada. All maps shown on the site have been adapted from the printed version of three-volume Historical Atlas of Canada.

**Musée McCord Museum**

<http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/en/>

Founded in 1921 by David Ross McCord, the McCord Museum conserves, studies and presents a remarkable collection of objects, archives and historical photographs, from the 18th century to the present.

**The Hudson's Bay Company Archives**

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archives/hbca/index.html>

The HBCA offers a wealth of information on the human and natural history of western and northern Canada and the western USA. Whether you are an historian, genealogist, ethnologist, environmental scientist or land claims researcher, the HBCA may be able to help.

**Association of Canadian Map Libraries and Archives (ACMLA)**

<http://www.acmla.org/>

ACMLA actively serves as the representative professional group for Canadian map librarians, cartographic archivists and others interested in geographic information in all formats.

