

## Territorial Evolution, 1895

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### Abstract

Ungava, Mackenzie, Yukon and Franklin are established in 1895 as additional districts in the Northwest Territories. The districts of Athabaska and Keewatin are enlarged.

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

In 1895, the Arctic lands were transferred to Canada through an act of the British Parliament, the Imperial Colonies Boundaries Act, and four new districts were established in the Northwest Territories. These were the districts of Ungava, Mackenzie, Yukon and Franklin. At the same time, the existing Districts of Athabaska and Keewatin were also enlarged.



**Figure 1:** Photograph of Moose Factory on the Moose River

**Source:** Bell, R., 1895. Geological Survey of Canada.

## Districts

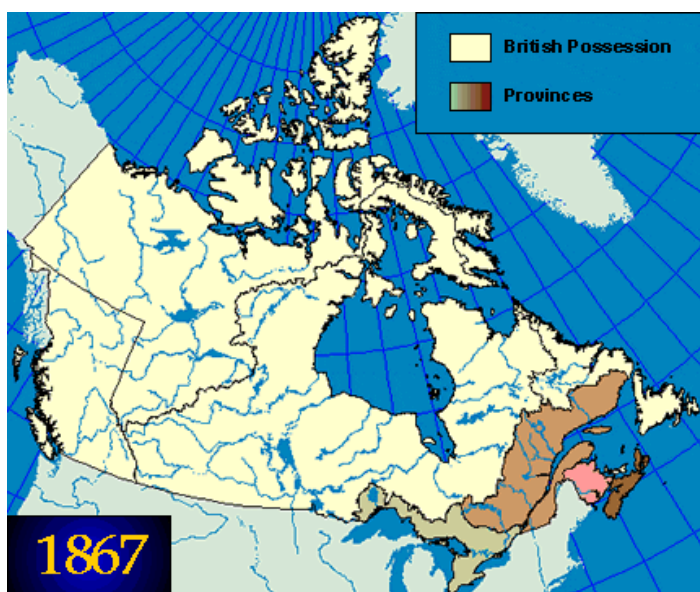
The Canadian government decided, in 1895, to divide all of the unorganized and unnamed parts of Canada into provisional districts. These included the parts of the Northwest Territories and the Arctic Islands not included in the districts previously created. Four districts were created in the Northwest Territories: Ungava, Yukon, Mackenzie and Franklin.

There were still two problem areas. The first one was north of the province of Ontario and east of the district of Keewatin. This area was not a district, and not part of either a district or a province. Some people thought it should be part of the District of Keewatin, others thought it should be included in the Province of Manitoba. Several proposals for possible boundaries in the area were written. Finally, the boundary was decided and confirmed by an Order of Council in 1895. The area was included in the District of Keewatin.

A second problem area, which was not part of either a province or a district, lay between the districts of Athabaska and Keewatin. These lands were in the end added to the District of Athabaska, and its boundaries were changed accordingly.

## 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.ainc-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/panl/>

### **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.