

## Territorial Evolution, 1927

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### Abstract

In 1927, the boundary between Canada and Newfoundland is defined by the Imperial Privy Council. 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 1925, Canada officially claimed a sector of the Arctic. Canada claimed the sector between 60 degrees west longitude and 141degrees west longitude. The idea of claiming this sector had first been put forward by Senator Poirier in a speech made in the Canadian Senate on February 29, 1907. The sector claimed by Canada has appeared on maps since 1925.



**Figure 1:** Photograph of Saint John Vocational School

This was the second vocational school in New Brunswick, the first was established in Carleton County in 1919. Vocational schools offered students, particularly females, a direct route into the job market.

**Source:** Ref. No.: APNB/PANB P338 / 1028. The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

In 1927, another important boundary was defined by the Imperial Privy Council: the line between the Dominion of Canada and the colony of Newfoundland. The colony of Newfoundland had long claimed a strip of land along the coast of the continent, which came to be called Labrador. The Province of Quebec, on the other hand, believed that the interior part of Labrador should be part of its own territory. The controversy raged on for many years, until the governments of Canada and Newfoundland submitted the matter to the Imperial Privy Council. The boundary it defined in 1927 is the one still in use today.

## Quebec

To the east of the province of Quebec, bordering the Atlantic Ocean, lay a dependency of the colony of Newfoundland called Labrador. The creation of Labrador dates to the Royal Proclamation of 1763. In 1774, Labrador was transferred to Quebec, but it was returned to Newfoundland in 1825. Newfoundland had lost the Magdalen Islands in 1809; it had also lost Anticosti Island and the north shore of the St. Lawrence in 1825, but it had retained Labrador.

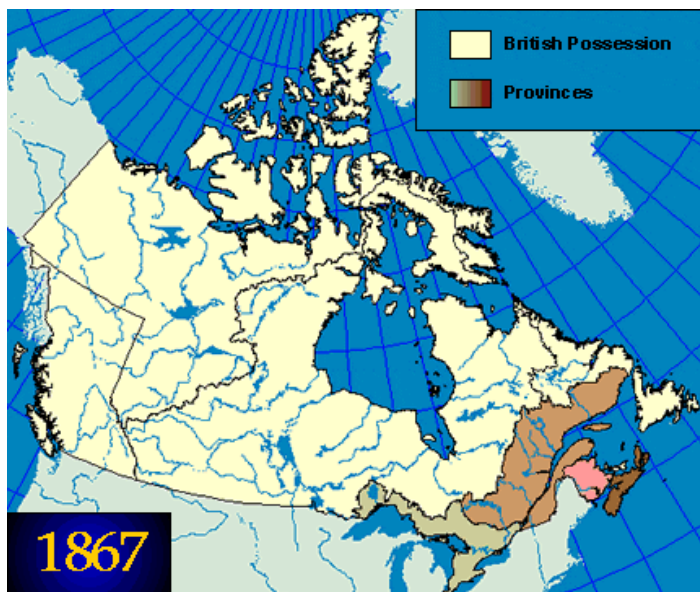
Although Labrador had been tossed back and forth between Quebec and Newfoundland, its land boundary had never been determined. This had first been raised in 1888 when a judge in the Newfoundland Supreme Court observed a difference between the jurisdictional extent of Newfoundland and a map of Labrador.

In 1902, a company called the Grand River Pulp and Paper Company received leases from the Government of Newfoundland, to cut timber in the area of the Hamilton River (now called Churchill River). The Government of Quebec, however, said that the area was part of its territory, and that the right to cut timber had to come from the Quebec Department of Lands, Mines and Fisheries. The dispute was referred to the Government of Canada. Its decision was that only coastal areas and islands were included in Labrador, and that the area in question was neither. The Government of Newfoundland disagreed, so the two governments agreed to ask for a decision from the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London.

The Privy Council looked at the arguments of both sides in the dispute. It decided to use the "height of land" (or watershed) to decide on the question for a variety of reasons. First, it recognized that under international law, occupation of a sea coast included the right to all the lands drained by the rivers that empty into the ocean. Second, the watershed was, for a great distance, the boundary that the Hudson's Bay Company had used. Third, the Privy Council considered that the words "coasts of Labrador", as used in 1825, meant to include all the territory included in the watershed. The decision of 1927 gave all of the watershed area to Labrador.

## 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.