

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

THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF CANADA 5th EDITION

CANADA

DISTRIBUTION OF WETLANDS

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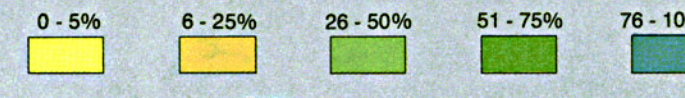
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Scale 1:7 500 000 or 1 centimetre represents 75 kilometres
75 0 75 150 225 300 375 450 Kilometres
Lambert Conformal Conic Projection, Standard Parallels 49°N and 77°N
Modified Polyconic Projection, North of Latitude 80°

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PERCENTAGE COVER OF WETLANDS



WETLAND: Land that is saturated with water long enough to promote wetland or aquatic processes as indicated by poorly drained soils, hydrophytic vegetation, and various kinds of biological activity which are adapted to a wet environment. Wetlands include peatlands which are characterized by more than 40 cm of peat accumulation, on which organic soils (excluding folioid) develop. Wetlands also occur in areas that are influenced by excess water but which, for climatic, edaphic (factors related to soil), or biotic reasons, produce little or no peat. These wetlands are characterized by Gleysols or the peaty phases of Gleysols soils.

Shallow open water, generally less than 2 m deep, is also included in wetlands if associated with other kinds of wetlands. In certain areas of these wetlands, vegetation is lacking and soils are poorly developed as a result of frequent and drastic fluctuations of surface water levels or of wave action, water flow, turbidity, or high concentration of salts or other toxic substances in the water or in the soil.

Wetlands also include areas which are modified by water control structures or which are filled and planted but which, if allowed to revert again, become saturated for long periods and will be associated with wet soils (Gleysols) and hydrophytic vegetation.

Regional differences in the development of wetlands are readily apparent in Canada. Some of these differences relate to the distribution and abundance of wetlands. Although distribution is often influenced by physiography, the developmental trends and the establishment of specific kinds of wetlands can be attributed to climatic factors.

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ESTIMATES OF WETLAND AREAS BY PROVINCE

Area of Wetland Within Each Distribution Class (Figures in thousands of hectares)						Total Wetland Area	Percentage of Wetland by Province	Percentage of Total Canadian Wetlands
PROVINCE	0-5%	6-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%			
Newfoundland	58	3 596	3 138	-	-	6 792	18	5
Prince Edward Island	4	-	-	-	-	4	<1	<1
Nova Scotia	22	155	-	-	-	177	3	4
New Brunswick	128	294	122	-	-	544	8	11
Quebec	628	4 579	3 506	2 849	589	12 151	3	10
Ontario	105	684	4 755	8 634	15 023	29 241	38	23
Manitoba	38	2 225	7 089	5 184	7 934	22 470	41	18
Saskatchewan	399	4 170	3 695	1 271	153	9 687	17	8
Alberta	107	1 080	3 249	6 873	2 365	13 704	21	11
British Columbia	352	662	146	1 656	304	3 120	3	2
Yukon Territory	198	165	764	363	-	1 510	3	1
Northwest Territories	2 241	7 520	9 548	6 521	1 864	27 794	9	22
Canada	4 279	25 150	36 052	33 351	28 362	127 194	14	100