

## Territorial Evolution, 1905

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### Abstract

In 1905, Alberta and Saskatchewan are created as provinces with the boundaries they have today. The District of Keewatin is transferred back to the Northwest Territories.

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

Between 1897 and 1905, the Northwest Territories grew very quickly. As the railway made its way westward, more and more immigrants settled on the Prairies. Although immigration was controlled by the federal government, construction of local works was controlled by the territorial governments. As their financial pressures and problems increased, the territories began to look forward to becoming provinces.

The idea of provinces in the west had been raised before. Proposals on how to create these provinces ranged from annexing part of the territories to Manitoba, to the creation of up to four new provinces, with or without annexation to Manitoba.

The federal government concentrated on an area bounded in the south by the international border, in the west by British Columbia, in the north by the 60th parallel, and in the east by the boundaries of Manitoba and the District of Keewatin. This area was considered too big to become one province, and the government decided to divide it into two equal parts.

In 1905, the federal government created two new provinces: Alberta and Saskatchewan. People criticized the decision because the dividing line between Alberta and Saskatchewan was based on a meridian of longitude and did not take into account the geography of the country. The boundaries of the District of Keewatin were adjusted to account for the creation of the Province of Saskatchewan. The decision to create the western provinces also intensified the demands of Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba for northward extensions, since three provinces, British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, now extended as far as the 60th parallel. The government also redefined the Northwest Territories as including the districts of

Mackenzie, Franklin, Ungava and Keewatin. The request by Manitoba to extend westward was denied.

## **Alberta**

The province of Alberta was named after Louise Caroline Alberta, daughter of Queen Victoria, and wife of the Marquis of Lorne, who was Governor-General from 1878 to 1883.

The boundaries of the province of Alberta have remained the same since the creation of the province. These boundaries are: to the south, the international boundary with the United States; to the west, the boundary of British Columbia; to the north, the 60th parallel of latitude; and to the east, the boundary with Saskatchewan (the 110th meridian of longitude).

## **Saskatchewan**

The name Saskatchewan was derived from the Cree word "Keiskatchewan", which means "the river that flows swiftly".

The boundaries of Saskatchewan, as defined in 1905, were: to the south, the international boundary with the United States; to the west, the boundary with Alberta (the 110th meridian of longitude); to the north, the 60th parallel of latitude; and to the east, the boundary with Manitoba, and then a northern extension following the Dominion Lands Survey. The eastern boundary of the Province of Saskatchewan was not the same as the previous boundaries of the Districts of Saskatchewan and Athabasca. Some of the land of the former territory to the north of the province of Manitoba was returned to the District of Keewatin.

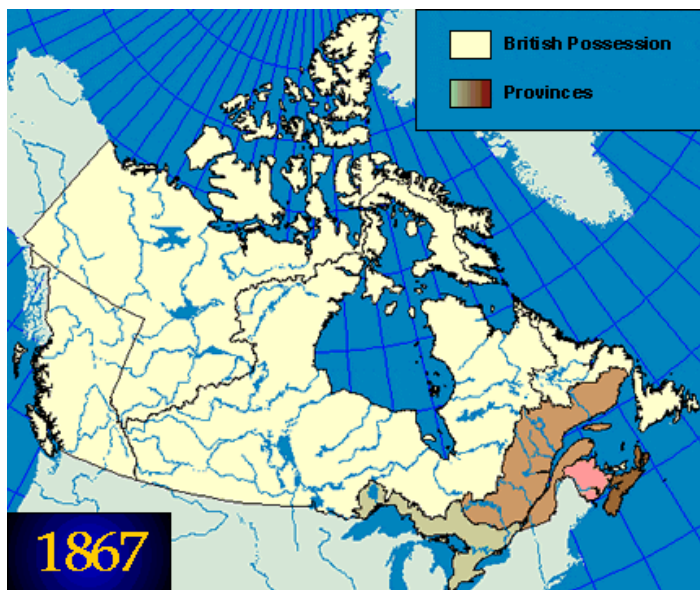
## **Keewatin**

In 1905, the District of Keewatin was enlarged, but it ceased to exist as an independent entity. With the creation of the Province of Saskatchewan, the western boundary of Keewatin was redrawn. Parts of the Districts of Athabasca and Saskatchewan, which were to the north of the Province of Manitoba, were incorporated into the District of Keewatin. The western boundary of the district became a line extending north from Manitoba to the Arctic Ocean. Part of the District of Mackenzie was thus also transferred to the District of Keewatin.

With the creation of two new provinces, Alberta and Saskatchewan, the federal government decided to place all the remaining districts into the Northwest Territories. The District of Keewatin thus became one of the four districts included in the Northwest Territories; the others were Mackenzie, Franklin and Ungava.

## 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.