

## Canada Lecture

### Ontario – Quick Facts

#### Canada:

- consists of ten provinces and three territories.
- Extends from the Atlantic Ocean in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west and north to the Arctic Ocean.
- world's second largest country by total area
- border with the United States to the south and northwest is the longest in the world
- federal state governed as a parliamentary democracy and a constitutional monarchy with Queen Elizabeth II of England as its head of state.

#### Ontario:

- One of 10 provinces
- located in east-central Canada
- Canada's most populous province and second largest in total area.
- home to the nation's most populous city, Toronto
- and the nation's capital, Ottawa.
- As well as Niagara Falls

#### Geography of Ontario

- **three main geographical regions:** 1. **The thinly populated Canadian Shield** in the northwestern and central portions, which comprises over half the land area of Ontario. 2. The virtually **unpopulated Hudson Bay Lowlands** in the extreme north and northeast, mainly swampy and sparsely forested. 3. **Southern Ontario**
- located in East/Central Canada, bordered by the Great Lakes, Hudson Bay and James Bay.
- Canada's second largest province in total land area.
- Ontario shares borders with the US states of Minnesota, New York, and Michigan. It is also located north of Ohio and Erie, Pennsylvania across Lake Erie.
- Ontario's long American border is formed almost entirely by lakes and rivers
- Almost 94% of the population is concentrated within Southern Ontario, where the population was over 12,100,000 in the 2006 census.
- Ontario is the most populous province in Canada. Southern Ontario is one of the most dense regions in the country.

#### Early Ontario

- Before Europeans, Algonquian in the northern/western portions, and Iroquois and Wyandot (Huron) tribes in the south/east inhabited the areas that would become Ontario
- The English explorer Henry Hudson sailed into Hudson Bay in 1611 and claimed it for England.
- Samuel de Champlain reached Lake Huron in 1615, and French missionaries established posts along the Great Lakes and throughout the areas that would become Ontario
- hostilities with the Iroquois disturbed French settlement, and the tribes allied themselves with the British.
- Much like in what would become the United States, from 1634 to 1640, the Huron groups were devastated by diseases, such as measles and smallpox, to which they had no immunity.

- The British established trading posts on Hudson Bay in the late 17th century and began a struggle for domination of Ontario with the French
- The 1763 Treaty of Paris ended the Seven Years' War by awarding nearly all of France's North American possessions (New France aka what would be Canada) to Britain.
- The region was annexed to Quebec in 1774.
- From 1783 to 1796, the Kingdom of Great Britain granted United Empire Loyalists leaving the United States after the American Revolution 200 acres (81 ha) of land and other items with which to rebuild their lives to entice more people to live there
- The Constitutional Act of 1791, split Quebec into the Canadas: Upper Canada southwest of the St. Lawrence-Ottawa River confluence, and Lower Canada east of it.

## Upper and Lower Canada

- The **Province of Upper Canada** was a political division in British Canada established in 1791 by the British Empire to govern the central third of the lands in British North America and to accommodate Loyalist refugees from the United States of America after the American Revolution.
- The new province remained the government of the colonial territory for the next fifty years of growth and settlement.
- Upper Canada existed from 26 December 1791 to 10 February 1841 and generally comprised present-day Southern Ontario.
- The prefix "upper" in its name reflects its geographic position higher up the river basin or closer to the headwaters of the St. Lawrence River than that of Lower Canada or present-day Quebec to the northeast.
- Upper Canada included all of modern-day southern Ontario and all those areas of northern Ontario such as the watersheds of the Ottawa River, Lake Huron, and Lake Superior. It did not include any lands within the watershed of Hudson Bay.
- During the War of 1812 with the United States, Upper Canada was the chief target of the Americans, since it was weakly defended and populated largely by American immigrants.
- Upper Canada ceased to be a political entity with the Act of Union (1840), when, by an act of the British Parliament, it was merged with Lower Canada to form the united Province of Canada.

## More Ontario History

- In 1867, the Province of Canada was divided along the former boundary as the provinces of Ontario and Quebec.
- Once constituted as a province, Ontario proceeded to assert its economic and legislative power.
- 1867–The parliament of the United Kingdom passes the British North America Act, by which the provinces of United Canada, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia join to form the Dominion of Canada.
- United Canada was split into Canada East and Canada West, the latter of which eventually changed its name to Ontario.
- The capital of Canada West was the city of York, which later changed became Toronto.
- 1931 - The Statute of Westminster makes all existing dominions fully independent of the United Kingdom, and provides that all new dominions shall be fully independent upon the grant of dominion status

- 1982 – Canada Act 1982, an Act of Parliament passed by the British Parliament that severed remaining constitutional and legislative ties between the United Kingdom and Canada.

## **Ontario Today**

- Ontario has no official language, but English is considered language.
- Numerous French language services are available under the French Language Services Act of 1990 in designated areas where sizable francophone populations exist.
- The majority of Ontarians are of English or other European descent.
- Slightly less than 5% of the population of Ontario is Franco-Ontarian, that is those whose native tongue is French, although those with French ancestry account for 11% of the population.
- It is a huge population growth force in Ontario, as it has been over the last two centuries.
- More recent sources of immigrants with large or growing communities in Ontario include Caribbeans, Asians, Latin Americans, Europeans, and Africans. Most populations have settled in the larger urban centres.
- Ontario is the second most diverse province in terms of visible minorities after British Columbia, with 22.8% of the population consisting of visible minorities.
- Aboriginal peoples make up 2% of the population, with two-thirds of that consisting of North American Indians and the other third consisting of Métis. The number of Aboriginal people has been increasing at rates greater than the general population of Ontario.
- **Religion** - The largest denominations by number of adherents according to the 2001 census were the Roman Catholic Church with 3,866,350 (34%); the United Church of Canada with 1,334,570 (12%); and the Anglican Church of Canada with 985,110 (9%).
- Ontario is Canada's leading manufacturing province accounting for 52% of the total national manufacturing shipments in 2004.
- Ontario's rivers, including its share of the Niagara River, make it rich in hydroelectric energy
- Mining and the forest products industry, notably pulp and paper, are vital to the economy of Northern Ontario.
- More than any other region, tourism contributes heavily to the economy of Central Ontario, peaking during the summer months owing to the abundance of fresh water recreation and wilderness found there in reasonable proximity to the major urban centres. At other times of the year, hunting, skiing and snowmobiling are popular.
- Once the dominant industry, agriculture occupies a small percentage of the population but still a large part of Southern Ontario's land area. The number of farms has decreased from 68,633 in 1991 to 59,728 in 2001

## **Toronto – Early History**

### **Why is it so diverse?**

- When Europeans first arrived at the site of present-day Toronto, the vicinity was inhabited by the Huron tribes, who displaced the Iroquois tribes that occupied the region before 1500.
- The name *Toronto* is likely derived from the Iroquois word *tkaronto*, meaning "place where trees stand in the water".
- In 1787, the British negotiated the Toronto Purchase with the Mississaugas, thereby securing more than a quarter million acres of land in the Toronto area
- Reformist politician William Lyon Mackenzie became the first Mayor of Toronto and led the unsuccessful Upper Canada Rebellion of 1837 against the British colonial government.

- The city grew rapidly through the 19th century, as a major destination for immigrants to Canada.
- The first significant population influx occurred with the Great Irish Famine brought a large number of Irish to the city, some of them transient and most of them Catholic.
- In the 19th century, an extensive sewage system was built, and streets became illuminated with gas lighting as a regular service.
- Toronto became the largest alcohol distillation centre in North America; the Gooderham and Worts Distillery operations became the world's largest whiskey factory by the 1860s.
- The Great Toronto Fire of 1904 destroyed a large section of downtown Toronto, but the city was quickly rebuilt. The fire had cost more than \$10 million in damage, led to more stringent fire safety laws, and the expansion of the city's fire department.
- Following the Second World War refugees from war-torn Europe and Chinese job-seekers arrived, as well as construction labourers, particularly from Italy and Portugal.
- Following elimination of racially based immigration policies by the late 1960s, immigration began from all parts of the world.
- Toronto's population grew to more than one million in 1951 when large-scale suburbanization began, and doubled to two million by 1971.
- By the 1980s, Toronto had surpassed Montreal as Canada's most populous city and the chief economic hub.

### **Toronto Today**

- provincial capital of Ontario
- largest city in Canada.
- in Southern Ontario on the northwestern shore of Lake Ontario.
- With over 2.5 million residents, it is the fifth most populous city in North America.
- Its metropolitan area with over 5 million residents is the seventh largest urban region in North America.
- Greater Toronto Area had a population of 5,555,912 in the 2006 Census
- Toronto covers an area of 630 square kilometers
- According to the United Nations Development Programme, Toronto has the second-highest percentage of constant foreign-born population among world cities, after Miami, Florida.
- In 2006, people of European ethnicities formed the largest cluster of ethnic groups in Toronto, 52.6%, mostly of British, Irish, Italian, and French origins.
- The five largest visible minority groups in Toronto are South Asian (12.0%), Chinese (11.4%), Black (8.4%), Filipino (4.1%) and Latin American (2.6%).
- Aboriginal peoples, who are not considered visible minorities, formed 0.5% of the population. This diversity is reflected in Toronto's ethnic neighbourhoods, which include Chinatown, Corso Italia, Greektown, Kensington Market, Koreatown, Little India, Little Italy, Little Jamaica, Little Portugal and Roncesvalles.

### **Toronto Walking Tour Information**