

Gerald Taylor

Canada, It's Big



Bridge



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Canada, It's Big

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This book is free of charge for the subscribers
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**"How could you miss Canada?
... all tucked away down there¹."**

Homer Simpson

Foreword

In writing this book I've tried to make the whole thing entertaining as well as educational.

The first part of this book will give you a real and somewhat humorous depiction of the life of the average Canadian nobody. Though it is comical, many interesting social differences can be found there.

The second part of the book is a province-by-province and territory-by-territory geographical and cultural guide to the country. The book ends, like many others, with the back cover. No surprises there!



HOW TO BE CANADIAN

You're a totally average Canadian. You grow up with your parents in a family house with your one or two brothers and sisters. There are two cars in the garage and your average middle class family has a dog and a cat. It's your job to walk the dog in the local park, which is the centrepiece² of your quiet suburban³ neighbourhood.

School starts at the age of 6 and you learn to read and write among other things. The worst subject is spelling and you regularly humiliate⁴ yourself in class competitions called "spelling bees". Your brother wins the local championships and you resent⁵ him for it. You have to go outside for recess⁶ in the mornings and afternoons for 15 minutes to play and often get frost bitten⁷ ears in winter. Lunch is one hour and your friends who live close to the school get to go home but since it takes 30 minutes to walk to school (uphill both ways), you sit in the cafeteria and eat a packed lunch that consists of a PB&J sandwich (peanut butter and jelly), a few cookies and a piece of fruit which is usually a bruised apple⁸.

Your schoolmates represent the diversity of Canadian culture and all of them seem more interesting than you - especially the kid who can eat an entire box of crayons⁹. The amazing multi-coloured vomit often forces everyone out of the classroom and into the gym for a violent game of dodgeball while the classroom is being cleaned. It is a game where one child throws a large ball at other children trying to eliminate them from the

game by hitting them. To win, you "dodge"¹⁰ the ball, hence the name. You usually lose and have many large and interesting bruises that you keep as souvenirs.

In the fourth grade you start taking French classes and continue through to the eighth and final grade of elementary school. After five years of weekly study you can say your name and ask where the bathroom is in French. Unfortunately, during your long life you never need these skills because all bathrooms in civilized countries are relatively easy to find and have helpful signs on the doors with pictures. Also, nobody seems to care what your name is.

In the seventh grade you study Canadian history and spend lots of time colouring maps of Canada. This is the only time you're taught about the founding of your country and later in life you regret¹¹ the fact that you weren't really paying any attention. You were much more interested in finding the best paper airplane design. Also in the seventh grade you start the study of sex education. However, most of the material taught you'd already covered¹² years before on the school playground while you were freezing your ears off in winter. You feel uncomfortable and so does the teacher. Everybody is happy when it is all finally over.

In the seventh and eighth grades all students start studying Shop and Home Economics. Shop is the class where once a week you spend hours trying to work with tools in order to make a bird house. Home Economics is the class where you learn how to shop for a family and how to cook and sew¹³. Your final project for sewing class is a teddy bear that you give to your little brother. Unfortunately your parents give the bear back to you because it was giving your brother nightmares.

Unlike most developed and industrialised countries, Canada supports child labour in the form of the paper route¹⁴. This is probably the only job you can get before you're 16, and since your parents don't give you enough money for candy, you optimistically start your childhood career. You wake up every day at 6 so you can deliver 50 or more newspapers from a bag that is almost as big as you are. You make your 10 dollars a week and learn an important lesson. The reason this is a job for children is because no adult is crazy enough to do this much work for so little money. In the winter



you also shovel¹⁵ the snow from people's driveways for a similarly low amount of money. You're in great physical shape from all the hard labour and your teeth are rotten¹⁶ from all the candy.

At weekends you have soccer practice. You would prefer playing ice hockey like your sister but you are a poor skater and it's soccer for you. You learn that, no matter how hard you run away from the ball, it will hit you in the head. Luckily your team is the worst in the league and there's no need to go to any championship games.

During the summer months, like most Canadians, you and your family go to the lake to relax. Some of your friends have cottages to go to but your family only has a 25-year-old trailer¹⁷ that your dad tows¹⁸ behind the family car. It doesn't have a toilet so you are forced to use the outhouse¹⁹ which is in the middle of the forest at the end of a scary path. You and your siblings compete to see who can go the most days without having to use the terribly smelling and poorly built wooden building.

Canada is, of course, famous for its wildlife. Your summer experiences of this include experiences with every possible species of biting or stinging



insect, plus, a selection of spiders that look big enough to eat mice. Fishing is a nice wildlife memory that you always treasure. It is the only time during your childhood when your father isn't yelling²⁰ at you or nervous about something. Your sister puts worms in your bathing suit but you don't care. You really feel comfortable in the outdoors and enjoy the tranquility²¹.

High school comes and you're not ready for it. You're 14 or 15 when you start and it lasts 4 or 5 years. For the first time you have some freedom in the selection of classes, as around half of them are electives²². Your parents want you to go to university so you enrol into²³ the highest of the three levels of courses. Most of your classes are quite academic. You study English and get your first taste of William Shakespeare and many Canadian authors. You realize that Shakespeare is quite interesting but totally impossible to read and one page of a play takes you 20 minutes to decipher²⁴. Canadian literature is also surprisingly impossible to read not

because of difficulty of language but because of how dreadfully boring it is. You didn't know it was humanly possible to describe a field of wheat²⁵ in 20 pages.

The school has a total genius in the scheduling department and you have Biology right after lunch. Lucky for you, there are labs and you get to dissect²⁶ animals. It starts with a worm and progresses to a fish, a frog, a cow's eye and pig's lungs. Conveniently, every work space has its own sink and some days the smell of vomit is even stronger than the smell of formaldehyde.

You have only one year more of French and you use it to practise asking where the bathroom is. You also have only one more year of PE, where you continue your love affair with being hit in the head with soccer balls.

Aside from the other regular subjects like Math, Geography, Accounting, Computers, and Entrepreneurial Studies²⁷, you have many after school extracurricular²⁸ activities. Your school has a lot of clubs and sporting teams. Most of the cool kids play football or hockey, but you are involved in the chess club and debating club. The chess club is self explanatory²⁹ but the debating club is something like a bunch of teenagers pretending



to be members of parliament and arguing about whether or not Santa Claus is a good influence on children.

For some inexplicable reason you are not very popular with members of the opposite sex.

Your accounting teacher used to be a bus driver and tells the class a story about how he was driving through Northern Ontario and an American passenger sitting at the front was pretty disappointed that he hadn't seen a moose³⁰ during his trip. During the night, while everyone was sleeping, a moose jumped into the road in front of the bus and hit the passenger side where the front door and stairs are. The American tourist woke up with the bloody carcass³¹ of the moose not far from his face.

A few times a year your high school has a dance in the gym. It's something arranged by the various clubs in the school and it's something that you're supposed to look forward to. It's a rare opportunity to show everyone just how badly you can dance while you enjoy the unforgettable mixed fragrance³² of cheap perfume and teenage sweat. During the slow dances you step on toes if you're lucky and, if not, you jealously watch how all your friends awkwardly³³ make circles with their dance partners.

At 16 you get your first real job. Welcome to the wonderful world of fast food. You flip hamburgers³⁴ after school for the student minimum wage³⁵ which, depending on the province, is between 5 and 7 dollars per hour. The money helps you finance your hobbies but unfortunately you permanently smell like hamburgers and fries.

It's also possible to get your driving licence when you turn 16 and you and most of your friends jump at the opportunity. You don't have money for a car of your own so you are forced to use your parents' brown station wagon³⁶ with its lovely knitted³⁷ seat covers from grandma. It doesn't help you get a boyfriend or girlfriend but it does enlarge the circle of places where you like to loiter.

The number one hobby of Canadian high school students is loitering. It's an easy skill to master and you can do it anywhere. You just sit around and do nothing. Good places for this are anywhere on the school property where teachers don't want to see you - around their cars, for example. If you have enough friends you can even play the classic prank³⁸ of taking

a teacher's Micra and putting it on the other side of the parking lot. Other places for loitering include the shopping mall³⁹, convenience store⁴⁰, and many restaurants and cafés where you can split a cola with 8 friends and drink it for more than 5 hours. Of course, you spend lots of your time arguing with waiters about why you have the right to stay since nobody else seems to want the table anyway.

You graduate high school at 18 or 19. This involves a formal ceremony where you sit on a stage under really hot lights in some auditorium while you wait for your name to be called so you can walk across the stage and pick up a piece of ribbon-wrapped paper which represents the diploma you already have at home. This is nothing but a photo opportunity for your family. The real fun is the student graduation dinner/dance.

It is important to look your best so you rent a tuxedo⁴¹ or buy a fantastic evening gown⁴² and go with dates and classmates to a big hall and eat terrible food together. Your parents aren't there so you're free to drink as much cola as you want and dance all night with your date. There isn't any





alcohol at the dinner/dance but there is lots at your friend's house where you go when you're tired of dancing.

You're sick for days and promise yourself never to drink so much ever again.

For your 18th birthday your father gives you a newspaper so you can find somewhere to live. His argument is that, now that you are a man or woman, you need to be responsible and this is the best way to do that. You get a small apartment on the poorer side of town and your flatmates are mice and cockroaches⁴³.

You learn many important life lessons. You survive. You learn that you should have paid more attention in Home Economics class so you could do a better job cooking for yourself. That's okay though. You never get tired of PB&J sandwiches.

University comes and you're not ready for it.

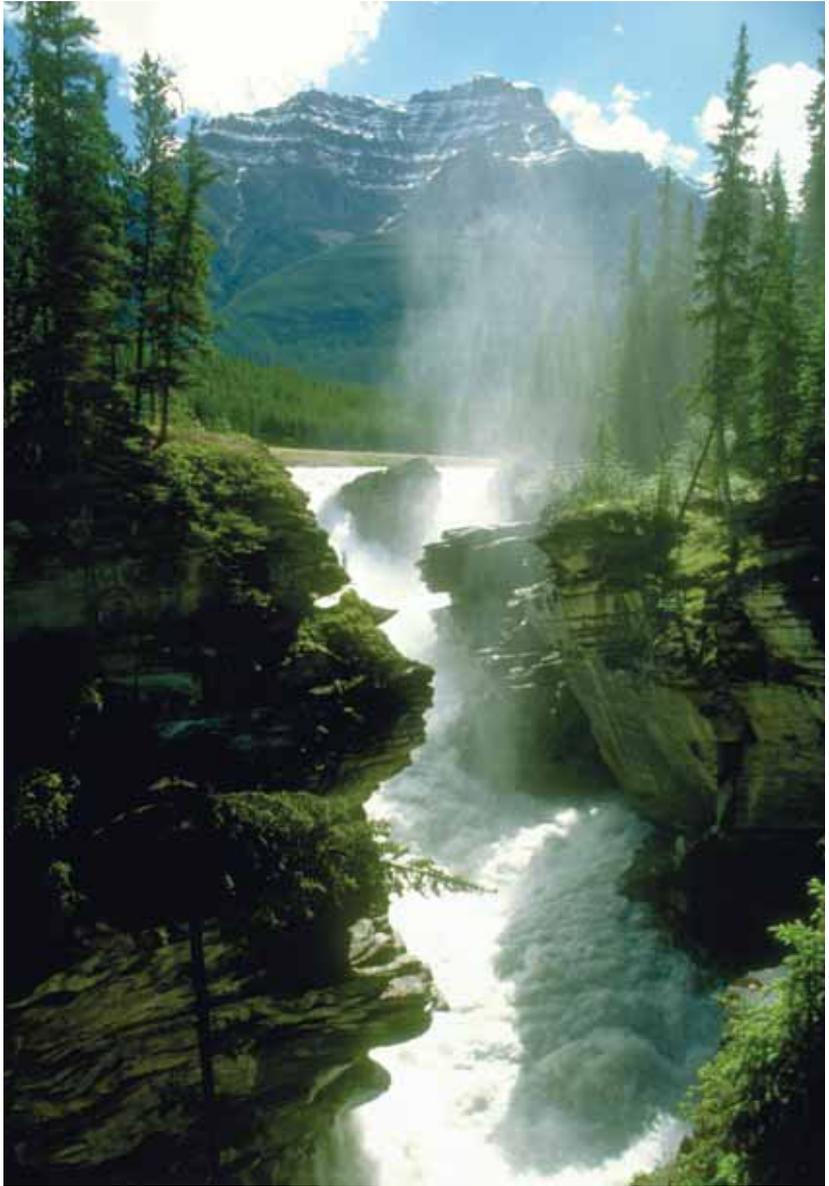
You're faced with an incredible number of choices that you need to take. University isn't cheap either. Another attempt from your parents to make you more responsible means that they don't help you pay for your education. That's no problem though. You can get a student loan⁴⁴!

University in Canada can give you fantastic experiences that are unforgettable. You see your first concerts at the university pub and forget about the promise you made after your high school graduation. You make wonderful friends that you keep for the rest of your life. You take many interesting elective courses on topics like world music or the philosophy of Monty Python.

You finish university with a useless degree in Outdoor Recreation and about \$100,000 in student debt⁴⁵. You get a job in a totally different field like Information Technology. You work hard, get married when you're 30, buy a house, have kids, and the cycle begins again.

This is just an example of what a Canadian life can be like, and maybe it's a worst case scenario in many ways. Take the story you've just been told, add some sunshine, and you have something closer to the truth.





Athabasca Falls, Alberta

SUPER EAST TO WEST TO NORTH GUIDE TO CANADA

Newfoundland and Labrador

Newfoundland became part of Canada on March 31, 1949, as the tenth province. It consists of two parts: the island of Newfoundland and a portion of mainland Canada bordering Quebec called Labrador. To the south-east of the island is a shallow¹ area of the Atlantic Ocean known as the Grand Banks, one of the world's richest fishing grounds. For this reason, Newfoundland has a long tradition in the fishing industry. In fact, Newfoundland joined Canada so late because the British were interested in keeping it as a fishing post². More recently fishing has been less important to the province's economy as mineral mining has expanded. The capital city is St. John's with a population of 99,182.

Newfoundland has many interesting historical sites. L'Anse-aux-Meadows is the site of a Viking village from about AD 1000 and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1978. There are more than 90 parks, recreation areas and campgrounds in the province, of which Gros Morne National Park is one of the most attractive.

A favourite tradition from the island of Newfoundland is the "Screech In" ceremony which includes a drink of the infamous Newfoundland



A Viking Age settlement has been uncovered on the north of Newfoundland at L'Anse aux Meadows.

Screech Rum and kissing a cod fish. The reward of this ritual is a certificate naming the holder as "an Honorary Newfoundlander". Certificates such as these are proudly displayed on walls across the world! But where did this ritual originate?

Long ago, salt fish was shipped to the West Indies in exchange for rum. The fish became the national dish of Jamaicans and the rum became the traditional drink of Newfoundlanders. When the Government took control of the traditional liquor business in the early 20th century, it began selling the rum in an unlabelled³ bottle. The product might have remained permanently nameless except for the arrival of American servicemen⁴ to the Island during World War II.

As the story goes, their commanding officer was having his first taste of Newfoundland hospitality⁵ and, imitating the custom of his host, downed his drink in one gulp⁶. The American's scream, when he regained his breath, brought the curios⁷ from miles around rushing to the house to find out what was going on. The first to arrive was an old American sergeant who asked, "What was that ungodly screech⁸?"

The Newfoundlander who had answered the door replied simply, "The Screech? 'Tis the rum, me son."



Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island became part of the Canadian Confederation on July 1, 1873, as the seventh province. The province is named after Edward Augustus, duke of Kent and Strathearn, a son of George III of England. It is also known by its acronym PEI or its nickname "The Island". It is Canada's smallest province and is 195 km at its widest point. The whole island has a population of 139,900 and 32,245 people live in the capital, Charlottetown.

Prince Edward Island has a lot of fertile soil¹, and more than one-quarter of its land area is used for farming, which is the island's main economic activity. Potatoes are the most valuable crop² while barley³, peas, beans, broccoli, tobacco, and such fruit as strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries are also produced. Cattle, poultry⁴ and pigs are raised widely, and dairy products⁵ are an important source of income. The fish catch is also important to the economy, with lobster⁶ accounting for most of the total income.



Confederation Bridge - this 8-mile-long bridge connecting Prince Edward Island to New Brunswick is the longest bridge in the world over ice covered waters.

The last interesting point is the 13km Confederation Bridge, which was built in 1997. This means that thousands of people who normally get seasick on ferries can now confidently leave the island by car.

New Brunswick

New Brunswick entered the Canadian Confederation on July 1, 1867, as one of the four original provinces. The province is named after the British royal family of Brunswick-Lüneburg (the House of Hanover). The capital city is Fredericton.

About 33% of the province has French as its mother tongue, which is more than any province other than Quebec. For this reason, and also because of lower salaries in Atlantic provinces, bilingual call centres¹ are a growing industry here.

Once upon a time, New Brunswicker Arthur Ganong returned from fishing trips with a sticky gooey² mess in his pockets. It seems that Arthur, the son of the founder of Ganongs Chocolates of St. Stephen, had a sweet tooth³ and would never leave on a fishing trip without a handful of



Shediac in new Brunswick is nicknamed “The Lobster Capital of the World” because it is home to the world’s largest lobster statue.

chocolates in his pockets. In 1910, tired of cleaning up the melted mess, young Arthur began wrapping his chocolates in tin foil⁴. Soon after, Ganongs made individually-wrapped bars of chocolate and sold them for five cents. They became the world's first chocolate bar!

New Brunswick also has the world's largest lobster statue. It is 10.5 metres long and 4.5 metres high. What a crazy province!

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia is sometimes known as the Land of Evangeline, a reference to *Evangeline* (1847), a long narrative poem by the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, about the expulsion¹ of the French-speaking Acadians² from the area in 1755. On July 1, 1867, Nova Scotia became one of the founding members of the Canadian Confederation. The province's name, which is Latin for New Scotland, was first applied to the region in the 1620s by settlers from Scotland.

The Scottish settlers brought with them a huge amount of culture and music. The capital city of Halifax has fantastic nightlife and live music venues. Nova Scotia consists of the mainland portion of the province and Cape Breton Island, which is famous for its fiddle music³ that over the centuries has fused⁴ Scottish and French melodies to create a distinct Eastern Canadian style.

Fishing is the main industry here, along with the production of paper products.



Because of Cape Breton's historic isolation and hard life, the music has survived in its pure form for centuries.

Quebec

Canada's largest province became part of the Canadian Confederation on July 1, 1867, as one of the four original provinces. Most people in Quebec today use French as their first language. The name of the province comes from an Algonquian First Nations term for "place where the river narrows", referring to the St Lawrence River near the site of the present-day city of Quebec, the provincial capital.

Quebec has large hydro-electric power plants and produces most of Canada's electricity. Quebec makes more than 1/3 of Canada's paper products and has the largest dairy industry in Canada.

Since Quebec is one of Canada's oldest provinces, it is also one of the most European. The cities of Quebec and Montreal have many old and beautiful buildings dating back to the 17th century. Both cities are perfect for sightseeing holidays.

If you like music then you shouldn't miss the biggest jazz festival in the world. Festival International de Jazz de Montréal has been a huge summer attraction for decades. The festival offers more than 400 concerts over about 10 days each summer. All contemporary big names in jazz play and have played here including Ray Charles, B. B. King, Bill Evans, and more.

If you visit Quebec in the winter, you must see the Quebec Winter Carnival, which is the biggest winter carnival in the world. It runs for two weeks at the end of January. The snow bath¹, night parades, giant football game, ice fishing, concerts,



Céline Dion, the youngest of 14 children, sang with her siblings from the age of 5 in a bar belonging to her parents. She gained international fame in the 90s.

snow sculptures, horse-drawn sleigh² or dogsled³ rides, Ice Tower and skating are among the many activities offered during the carnival.

Another popular tourist attraction is the city of Charlemagne, which is the birthplace of Céline Dion!

Ontario

Ontario became part of the Canadian Confederation on July 1, 1867, as one of the four original provinces. It had been known as the province of Upper Canada (1791 - 1841), and from 1841 to 1867 was united with Quebec into one province. The province's name comes from an Iroquois First Nations term that means "beautiful lake", a reference to Lake Ontario.

Nearly 70% of Ontario is covered with forest. The excellent soil makes Ontario Canada's leader in agriculture, with crops of corn, potatoes, soya



Toronto's most famous attraction is the Canadian National Tower, which is the tallest free-standing structure in the world (553 m).

beans, tobacco, wheat and barley. Large quantities of apples, cherries, grapes, peaches and other fruit are grown in the Niagara Peninsula, which is one of Canada's fantastic wine regions.

Canada's capital city of Ottawa can be found in the province of Ontario. Starting as the village of Bytown in 1827 it grew to become a city in 1855, when it was renamed as Ottawa. Three years later in 1858 it was selected by Queen Victoria to be the seat of Canadian government. Nowadays Ottawa has a population of 774,072 and is visited by about 4 million tourists every year.

Toronto, the capital city of Ontario, is the largest city in Canada, with a population of 2.48 million people (5 million in the GTA - Greater Toronto Area). It is one of the most multicultural cities in the world and is considered as the safest large metropolitan area in North America. Over 100 languages and dialects are spoken here, and over one third of Toronto residents speak a language other than English at home.

Every September Toronto is host to the Toronto International Film Festival. This ten day festival showcases¹ Canadian and international film and is a good place to see some Hollywood stars. Guests of last year's festival include Dustin Hoffman, Jeremy Irons, Penélope Cruz, Hilary Swank, and many more.

Manitoba

Manitoba entered the Canadian Confederation on July 15, 1870, as the fifth province. Manitoba has traditionally been known for agriculture, mining, forestry, and fishing. The name Manitoba is taken from Lake Manitoba and is a Native American phrase meaning "great spirit's strait¹".

Manitoba has the largest population of Icelanders outside Iceland. The Gimli area, nicknamed Little Iceland, was settled by pioneers from Iceland in 1875.

The capital city is Winnipeg, also known as "Winterpeg". Reputed to be the windiest spot in Canada, the corner of Portage Avenue and Main Street in the heart of downtown Winnipeg is one of the most famous

intersections² in the country. When you visit Portage and Main, be sure to bring your cellular³ so you can call all your friends and tell them just how windy it is!

Winnipeg is known as one of the last cities in Canada where people still listen to heavy metal.

Thompson, Manitoba, one of Canada's coldest cities, became famous in 1999 when telephone relay⁴ night watchman Edward Baker, 31, won a Darwin award. These awards are given to people who kill themselves in the most ridiculous⁵ ways. It is said that Edward would regularly keep himself warm on cold nights by sitting in a plastic lawn chair with a pack of beer near the microwave tower⁶. The company had told him many times not to do this. Since on Christmas Eve there was a power boost to the tower to handle the increase in holiday calls⁷ and the microwave radiation works something like a microwave oven, Edward didn't survive.

Saskatchewan

Along with Alberta, Saskatchewan entered the Canadian Confederation on September 1, 1905, as the eighth and ninth provinces. Called



Lake Athabasca, located in the very northwest corner of the province, is Saskatchewan's largest (7850 sq km) and deepest (max. depth 243 m) lake.

Canada's Breadbasket, Saskatchewan contains one of the major wheat-producing areas in the world. The name of the province is taken from the Saskatchewan River, which was named by the Cree people and means "fast flowing".

While standing among the wheat fields of Saskatchewan, you can really perceive the flatness of the prairie. The sky looks bigger than anywhere else on Earth and it is possible to see trains carrying wheat that are so long they span the horizon¹.

There is a lake in Saskatchewan where it is impossible to sink. Lake Manitou near Watrous is so rich in minerals that people float². It is said that the lake is three times saltier than the ocean. The Plains First Nations used to bring their sick to Lake Manitou ("lake of good spirit") so they could be cured. Early settlers took home barrels of the "healing" water.

The capital city of Saskatchewan is Regina. Regina's early settlers planted trees and bushes that turned the community into a park-like oasis on the prairies. Regina now has over 300,000 trees, most of which were hand planted.

Regina is also home to over 100 parks, the largest of which is the Wascana Centre. This 930-hectare park is home to some of Regina's most popular attractions, including the Legislative Building, Saskatchewan Centre of the Arts, MacKenzie Art Gallery, Royal Saskatchewan Museum, and Saskatchewan Science Centre.

Alberta

With its extensive¹, fertile prairie lands, Alberta long had an economy dominated by agriculture. Since the 1950s, however, Alberta is now Canada's largest producer of petroleum and natural gas. The province is named after Princess Louise Caroline Alberta, who was the wife of a Canadian governor-general and a daughter of Queen Victoria.

The province's capital, Edmonton, is also the largest city in the province. West Edmonton Mall is featured in the Guinness Book of Records as the "World's Largest Mall". The Mall has over 800 stores and services,



The best cowboys, cowgirls, horses and bulls compete in various rodeo events at the Calgary Stampede.

more than 110 eating establishments, and eight Theme Park Attractions all under one roof. You can play mini-golf, go on a submarine ride, or watch a dolphin show. After a day of heavy shopping and recreation you can stay in one of the many hotels in the mall, some with themed rooms.

The other big city in Alberta is Calgary, which is famous for the Calgary Stampede. The Calgary Stampede is a large festival, exhibition and rodeo held for ten days every July. It is Canada's largest annual event and it features an internationally recognized rodeo competition, stage shows, concerts, agricultural competitions, chuck wagon² races, and pancake³ breakfasts around the city. During Stampede Week, the city's residents dress in western attire⁴, and nearly all businesses decorate their stores and offices western-style.

In the village of Glendon you can find the world's largest perogy (a dumpling stuffed with potatoes and cheese), held up by a giant fork. Built in 1991, the perogy is 7.5 metres tall, 3.6 metres wide and weighs

2,700 kilograms. Alberta is full of many other ridiculous statues, including the world's biggest sausage, biggest mushrooms, biggest mallard duck⁵, and the world's first UFO landing pad. What a cool province!

British Columbia (BC)

Canada's westernmost¹ province of British Columbia became part of the Confederation of Canada on July 20, 1871, as the sixth province. It is well endowed with² natural resources, including mineral reserves, forests, and fisheries. The outstanding scenic and recreational attractions of the province have also made tourism important. Its name refers to the Columbia River, which originates here and flows south across the border into the United States. The largest city is Vancouver and the provincial capital is Victoria.

Approximately 21% of British Columbia is rock or consists of ice fields and glaciers³. Approximately 62% of British Columbia is forestland. Approximately 5% of British Columbia is farm land.

Many people believe that BC has it all. You can go mountain climbing in the Rocky Mountains or swimming in the Pacific Ocean. Extreme sports activists can jump out of helicopters and ski down the slopes in Whistler, or go white-water rafting on many of BC's fast moving rivers. It's a true paradise for adventure seekers.



Spectacular mountains near Whistler, British Columbia

The Three Territories

(Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut)

Even though Canada is usually thought of as a northern nation, the region "north of 60°" is the true North. The climate is unforgiving¹ in its harshness² and extremely beautiful at the same time. Much of this land has never been seen by the human eye. Fewer than 100,000 people live in these three territories and today most of them live in towns and cities.

Although problems of distance and climatic extremes are still important, modern air travel and communication technologies connect this huge expanse of land with the rest of world. Since the end of the World War II, major innovations such as helicopters, snowmobiles³, and high-frequency radios have helped open and develop Canada's northern territories.



Impressive arctic mountains in Nunavut

Language in Canada

"Canada has two official languages and I don't speak none of them."

Eugene Whelan, Canadian politician

As already mentioned, more than 100 languages are spoken in Canada, with English being spoken as a mother tongue by 59.1% of people. French is the second most widespread mother tongue with 22.9% according to the 2001 Census¹. Chinese is the third most common language and is spoken by 872,400 Canadians. The other most common Canadian languages include Italian, German, Punjabi (the language of people who lived in the Punjab in India, which was a single province in the period of British rule; now it is two states, one in Pakistan and one in India) and Spanish.

English and French are Canada's two official languages and all Government related documents and services must be available in both languages. The packaging of all commercial goods has bilingual labels. The result of this is that most Canadian Anglophones² have a good French vocabulary of food items.

Canadian English is a very special animal. Linguists (especially Canadian linguists) claim that Canadian English has the easiest accent to understand. It is the smoothest and clearest dialect. It lies somewhere between British and American English and is influenced by both dialects. There are some key

differences in intonation and pronunciation, as well as a few differences in vocabulary.

French people often use English in everyday life, and their pronunciation can lead to comical situations, as in the following joke:

A French guest who was staying in a hotel in Edmonton phoned room service for some pepper.

"Black pepper or white pepper?" asked the concierge³.

"Toilet pepper!"



Here is a chart that shows some common vocabulary differences between the dialects.

<i>British</i>	<i>Canadian</i>	<i>American</i>
bedsit	bachelor apartment	studio apartment
block of flats	apartment block	apartment building
bill (in a restaurant)	bill, check	check
autumn	autumn, fall	fall
biscuit	cookie	cookie
bonnet	hood	hood
boot (of car)	trunk (of car)	trunk (of automobile)
chemist	pharmacy	drug store, pharmacy
chest of drawers	dresser	bureau, dresser
chips	French fries, chips	French fries
chocolate bar	chocolate bar	candy bar
coffin	coffin	casket, coffin
condom	condom	rubber, safe
crisps	potato chips	potato chips
crossroads	intersection	intersection
dummy (for babies)	pacifier, soother	pacifier
dustbin	garbage can, trash can	trash can, garbage can
dustman	garbageman	garbage collector
estate agent	real estate agent	realtor
handbag	handbag	purse
holiday	holiday, vacation	vacation
lift	elevator	elevator
lorry	truck	truck
main road	main thoroughfare	highway, freeway
maths	math	math
mobile (phone)	cellular phone	cell phone
napkin	serviette, table napkin	napkin
nappy	diaper	diaper
pavement	sidewalk	sidewalk
petrol	gas, gasoline	gas, gasoline
post	mail, post	mail
postman	mailman, letter carrier	mailman
public toilet	bathroom	rest room
railway	railway	railroad
road surface	asphalt	pavement
rubber	eraser	eraser
solicitor	lawyer	attorney
spanner	wrench	wrench
spirits	spirits	hard liquor
torch	flashlight	flashlight

Glossary

HOW TO BE CANADIAN

- 1 all tucked away down there** - so far away
- 2 centrepiece** - the central or most important part
- 3 suburban** - located on the outskirts of the city
- 4 to humiliate** - to make someone feel ashamed
- 5 to resent sb.** - to feel anger towards sb.
- 6 recess** - a time for rest during lessons
- 7 frost bitten** - injured by freezing temperature
- 8 bruised apple** - damaged apple
- 9 crayon** - a small coloured stick used for drawing
- 10 to dodge** - to avoid by a sudden quick movement
- 11 to regret** - to be sorry
- 12 to cover** - to learn
- 13 to sew** - to make clothes using a needle
- 14 Canada supports child labour in the form of the paper route** - in Canada, children are allowed to work, but the only job they can do is delivering newspapers
- 15 to shovel** - to move away
- 16 rotten** - very bad
- 17 trailer** - a vehicle for living or travelling in which can be pulled by a car
- 18 to tow** - to pull
- 19 outhouse** - a toilet in a separate building
- 20 to yell** - to shout
- 21 tranquility** - peace
- 22 electives** - subjects you can choose yourself
- 23 to enrol into** - to register for
- 24 to decipher** - to understand
- 25 wheat** - a type of grain
- 26 to dissect** - to cut open or cut apart
- 27 Entrepreneurial Studies** - business studies
- 28 extracurricular** - out of school
- 29 is self explanatory** - does not need any explanation

- 30 moose** - a type of big deer with large flat horns and a long nose which lives in the forests of North America, northern Europe and Asia
- 31 carcass** - dead body
- 32 fragrance** - smell
- 33 awkwardly** - moving in an unrelaxed way because you feel nervous
- 34 you flip hamburgers** - you turn hamburgers over (on a frying pan)
- 35 wage** - amount of money paid regularly to an employee
- 36 station wagon** - a big family car
- 37 knitted** - made from wool using two knitting needles
- 38 prank** - an amusing naughty act
- 39 shopping mall** - a large, usually enclosed, shopping area
- 40 convenience store** - a small store that is open long hours and typically sells snacks
- 41 tuxedo** - formal evening clothes for men
- 42 gown** - long, usually formal, woman's dress
- 43 cockroach** - a flat brown or black insect sometimes found in old or dirty flats or houses
- 44 student loan** - an agreement by which a student borrows money from a bank to pay for his/her education and then pays the money back after he/she finishes studying and starts a job
- 45 debt** - money owed to somebody else

SUPER EAST TO WEST TO NORTH GUIDE TO CANADA

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

- 1 shallow** - the opposite of deep
- 2 post** - place
- 3 unlabelled** - without a name
- 4 servicemen** - soldiers
- 5 hospitality** - being friendly and welcoming to guests
- 6 downed his drink in one gulp** - drank his drink at once
- 7 curious** - curious people
- 8 ungodly screech** - terribly loud cry

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

- 1 **fertile soil** - land that can produce a large number of good quality crops
- 2 **crop** - a plant such as a grain, fruit or vegetable grown in large amounts
- 3 **barley** - a type of grain
- 4 **poultry** - birds, such as chickens, that are bred for their eggs and meat
- 5 **dairy products** - products made from milk
- 6 **lobster** - an animal (used as food) which lives in the sea and has a long body covered with a hard shell, two large claws and eight legs

NEW BRUNSWICK

- 1 **call centre** - an office in which large numbers of telephone calls, especially from customers, are handled
- 2 **gooey** - soft and sticky
- 3 **had a sweet tooth** - loved sweets
- 4 **tin foil** - a thin sheet of aluminum used for wrapping things

NOVA SCOTIA

- 1 **expulsion** - the act of forcing someone to leave
- 2 **Acadians** - early French-speaking inhabitants of Nova Scotia (the place was formerly called Acadia)
- 3 **fiddle music** - folk music played on a violin
- 4 **to fuse** - to mix together, to combine

QUEBEC

- 1 **snow bath** - an event when people dressed only in swimsuits cover themselves with snow and play in it
- 2 **horse-drawn sleigh** - an object used for travelling over snow which has long narrow strips of wood or metal under it instead of wheels and is pulled by horses
- 3 **dogsled** - an object similar to a sleigh, pulled by dogs

ONTARIO

- 1 **to showcase** - to show the best qualities of something

MANITOBA

- 1 **strait** - a narrow channel of sea which connects two larger areas of sea

- 2 **intersection** - a place where one street crosses another

- 3 **cellular** - mobile phone

- 4 **telephone relay** - telephone transmission station

- 5 **ridiculous** - laughable, absurd

- 6 **microwave tower** - microwave transmission tower (these towers use microwaves to transmit the calls and so the effect is like a microwave oven)

- 7 **there was a power boost to the tower to handle the increase in holiday calls** - there was an increase in electricity because of the higher number of telephone calls in the holiday time

SASKATCHEWAN

- 1 **they span the horizon** - they go from one side of the horizon to the other

- 2 **to float** - to remain on the surface of water

ALBERTA

- 1 **extensive** - large

- 2 **chuck wagon** - a large, covered, horse-drawn wagon

- 3 **pancake** - a very thin flat round cake made from flour, milk and egg, which is fried on both sides

- 4 **attire** - clothes

- 5 **mallard duck** - wild duck

BRITISH COLUMBIA

- 1 **westernmost** - furthest west

- 2 **it is well endowed with** - it has lots of

- 3 **glacier** - a large mass of ice

THE THREE TERRITORIES

- 1 **unforgiving** - harsh and severe

- 2 **harshness** - hard or extreme conditions

- 3 **snowmobile** - a motor vehicle for travelling over snow

LANGUAGE IN CANADA

- 1 **Census** - counting for official purposes, especially to obtain information about people

- 2 **Anglophone** - English-speaking person

- 3 **concierge** - someone employed in a hotel to help guests arrange things

SOME CANADIAN FACTS

- **Canada is the second largest country after Russia. Its 10 provinces and three northern territories cover 9,970,610 sq km.**
 - **From the Yukon-Alaska border to Cape Spear in Newfoundland, Canada is 5,514 kilometres wide.**
 - **Canada has the longest coastline in the world, totalling 243,791 kilometres on three oceans**
 - **Canada has more lakes and inland waters than any other country in the world.**
 - **70% of Canada is wilderness and almost one tenth is fresh water.**
 - **Canada has a population of more than 30,300,400 and a population density of three people per sq km.**
- Compare this with about 130 people per sq km in the Czech Republic, 110 people per sq km in Slovakia and 123 in Poland.**
- **More than three quarters of Canadians live in large cities.**
 - **More than 100 languages are spoken in Canada, making it a very multicultural country.**
 - **Canada achieved full national independence in 1931 but continues to belong to the Commonwealth of Nations, a voluntary association of countries with ties to the United Kingdom of Great Britain.**
 - **On April 1, 1999, Canada's newest territory, Nunavut, was created.**



Lake Ontario is one of the five Great Lakes of North America that form the largest fresh surface water system on earth.



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