

### 3.8 How People Make a Living

Canada is rich in **natural resources**. Fish, furs, and lumber were early exports. Today oil and minerals are important as well. Even so, most Canadians today work in service industries—industries that produce a service for people rather than goods. Examples include restaurants, dry cleaners, and banks.

**The Atlantic Region** In the 1800s, this region had a strong economy. Good fishing in the Atlantic Ocean made it easy to make a living. In recent years, however, overfishing has led to limits on fishing. Many cod-fishing grounds, for instance, were closed by the government in the 1990s. That, in turn, has put many people out of work.

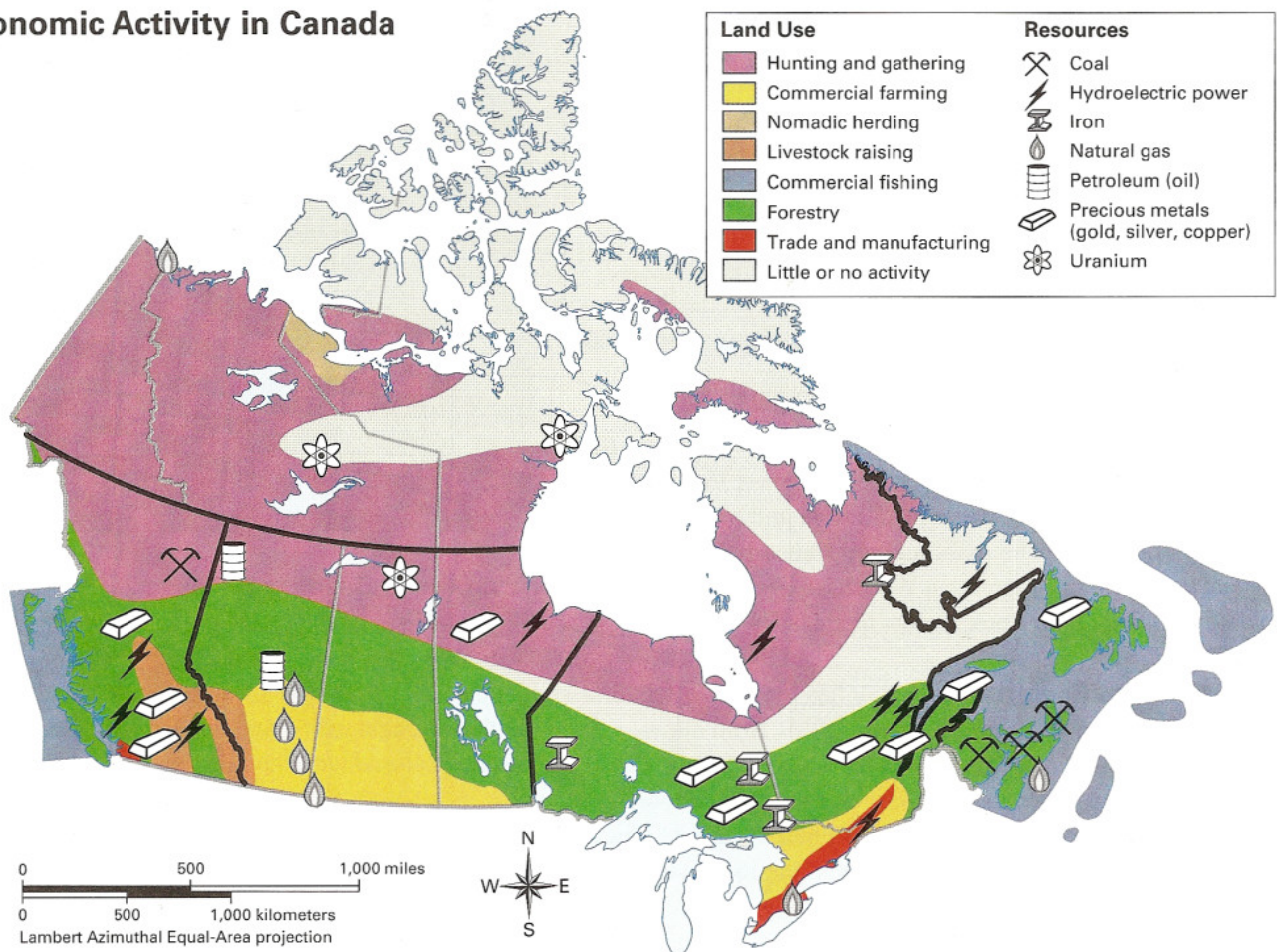
Farming is also important, but poor soil limits farming to small, scattered patches of good land. **Forestry**, in contrast, is a growing industry. Forestry companies are producing lumber as well as pulp for paper.

**The Core Region** Most of Canada's factories are located here. This region is also a strong farming center—more than a third of Canada's farm products are grown here. Recently, the region has become a large producer of **hydroelectric power**, which is electricity generated from flowing rivers. Some power plants are located on rivers in northern Quebec while others are situated near Niagara Falls or along the St. Lawrence River.

#### Canada's Plentiful Resources

This map shows the natural resources found in Canada. The location of natural resources tells much about a region's economy. It also shapes land use in a region.

#### Economic Activity in Canada





**The Prairie Region** This region produces half of the country's farm products. Its southern plains are good for raising grains, such as wheat and barley, as well as livestock. Mining is also important—more than half of Canada's minerals are mined here. They include coal, nickel, copper, zinc, and uranium.

Much oil is trapped in the oil sands of northern Alberta. In fact, this area is thought to contain more oil than the entire Middle East. It is expensive to separate oil from sand, but demand for oil is high and Alberta's oil business is booming. The same is true in Edmonton, where major oil reserves were discovered nearby. Now it is one of the fastest-growing cities in Canada.

**The Pacific Region** Forestry and fishing are important in British Columbia, but now newer industries have passed these by. Both metals and coal are mined in this region. The shipping industry is growing as well. Shippers on the coast carry Canadian products to all parts of the world. In addition, many rivers have been dammed to produce hydroelectric power. Much of the electricity generated in British Columbia is sold to the United States.

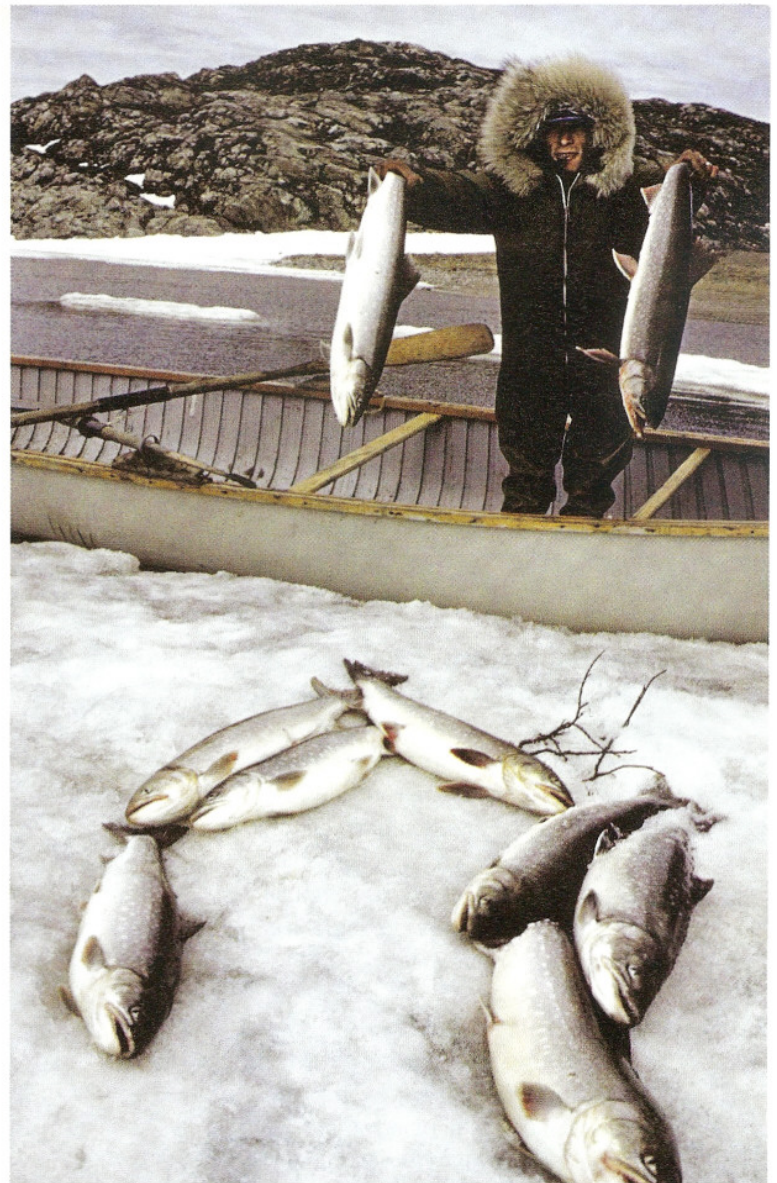
**The Northern Region** Some native peoples still follow the nomadic, or wandering, life of herders and hunters, but most are settled in small villages. Because there is little business in most villages, jobs are few. Canadians from the south sometimes travel here to work for short periods, finding jobs with the government, churches, or mining companies. Many people in the territories believe that there are undiscovered precious minerals still to be found here.

### 3.9 Beginning to Think Globally

In this chapter, you learned about settlement patterns and ways of life in Canada. You read about the various groups that make up Canada's plural society. You also learned about urban and rural areas in Canada.

For the most part, people have settled in Canada's ecumene. But not all Canadians live in the ecumene. Some people live in the subarctic region of Canada, and a few even make their homes in the far northern tundra climate zone.

This variety in settlement patterns is found in many places around the world. Consider Australia, for example. Many aborigines, the native people of Australia, choose to live in remote **deserts**, where they are able to retain their traditional way of life. But they face other problems there, such as lack of work and the challenge of keeping their culture alive. Think about these relationships between location and ways of life as you explore settlement patterns around the world in the next section.



#### Living Outside the Ecumene

People who live outside the ecumene have adapted to harsh conditions. This Inuit hunter is warmly dressed even on a summer day.