

### 3.4 Settlement Patterns: Who Lives Where?

Imagine that you could spread Canada's people out evenly. About eight people would live in every square mile of land. But Canada's people do not live like this. Outside of the large cities, an average of only two people live in every square mile.

**The Atlantic Region** This was the first area where Europeans settled in Canada. They came because fishing was so good in the North Atlantic. Until recent years, most people here made a living by fishing, but the ocean has been overfished. The government now limits fishing to make sure there will be fish in the future. As a result, many people have moved away.

**The Core Region** Most Canadians live in Canada's core region. This region has three of Canada's largest cities: Toronto, Montreal, and the **capital city** of Ottawa. In the past, people came to Ontario to work in its many factories. More recently they have come for jobs in banks, computer companies, and other businesses.

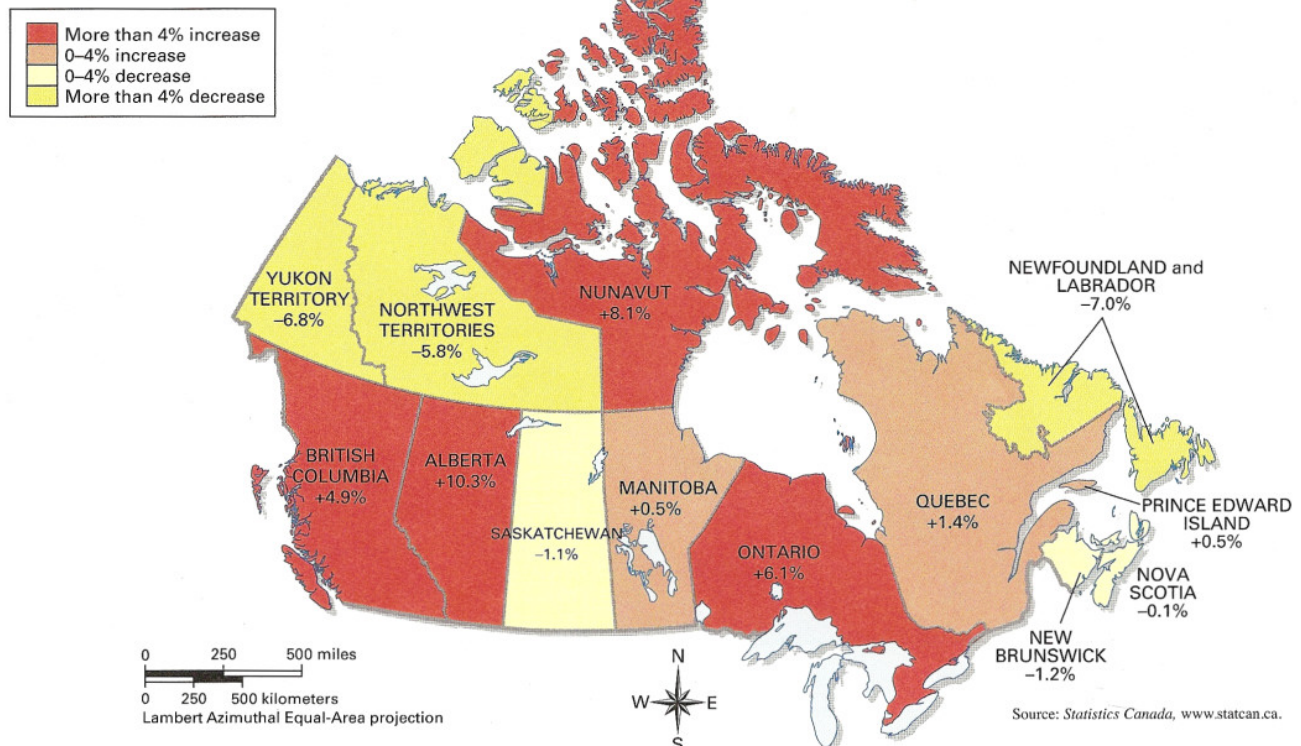
#### A Population on the Move

Parts of Canada lost people between 1996 and 2001. Other parts gained people. The numbers show the percent of the loss (–) or gain (+) compared to the 1996 population. Although Nunavut shows a large population growth, its total population in 1991 was only 27,000 people.

**The Prairie Region** About 5 million people live in the three prairie provinces. Farming was once the main activity here, but today the oil and gas business is booming in Alberta. As a result, Alberta is the fastest-growing province in Canada. Its largest cities, Edmonton and Calgary, are popular urban areas.

**The Pacific Region** British Columbia is home to more than 4 million people. Most live around the city of Vancouver or Victoria. People also

#### Population Change in Canada, 1996–2001



live on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains. Many people from Asia have moved to this region because of its location on the Pacific Ocean.

**The Northern Region** This is the largest region in land area, but it has the smallest number of people. Only about 100,000 people live in all three territories. Living in the region is costly because it is so far from other places. In addition, there are so few roads that goods often have to be flown in by plane.

### 3.5 A Plural Society: Who Speaks What?

If you walked around Toronto, Ontario, you would hear people speaking a variety of languages. Of course, you would hear English and French, but many other cultural groups live there as well. Toronto has one of the most multicultural school districts in the world. More than half of the students in the city speak a language other than English at home.

**The Atlantic Region** Most people in this region speak English as their first language because their families came from Great Britain to farm or fish many years ago. Some French speakers settled here as well, and French remains their first language.

**The Core Region** In Ontario most people speak English; in Quebec most people speak French. Other languages spoken in this region include Chinese, Italian, and Portuguese. For many years, Canadians argued about which language their government should use. The government finally ended the argument by making both French and English the country's official languages.

Some people in Quebec think their province should be a separate country. In 1995, the people of Quebec voted whether to make the province its own state, independent of Canada. In a very close vote, the measure was rejected by just 1 percent.

**The Prairie Region** European settlers first came to this region to farm. Now oil in Alberta attracts newcomers. English is the first language for more than four out of five people who live in this region. But people who speak French, German, and Ukrainian have moved here too, seeking work and homes.

**The Pacific Region** Here English is the first language, but many people from Asia also live in this region. Chinese is the second most common language. In addition, people from India speak Punjabi, and people from the Philippines speak Tagalog.

**The Northern Region** Almost two thirds of the people in the north speak English as their first language. Many are English-speaking Canadians who moved here to work for the government. Most of the founding peoples, such as the Inuit, have retained their cultures. The Inuit, for instance, continue to speak Inuktitut.



#### Canada's Official Languages

Canada has two official languages. Signs all over the country are in both English and French. The 2001 census showed that about 22 percent of Canadians speak French most often at home. Almost 68 percent speak English most often at home. The third most spoken language is Chinese.