

Canada

Ethnicity in Canada

Power relations

The patriation of the Canadian constitution in 1982 included the landmark recognition and affirmation of "existing Aboriginal and treaty rights" for all Indian, Métis and Inuit. While the formal recognition of Aboriginal rights in 1982 make it a convenient time marker, political mobilization of Aboriginals gathered speed in the 1970s with the actions of the Berger Inquiry that effectively blocked development of the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and focused attention on the socioeconomic status of Indians in the northwest. Also, in 1975, the Cree signed the James Bay Agreement, Canada's first comprehensive land claims agreement.

French Speakers from 1982-2013: On May 20, 1980, the (first) Quebec referendum was called upon by Parti Québécois (PQ) to enable Quebec to acquire sovereignty, but to maintain economic association with Canada including the same currency (⁵¹³). The result was 40.44% voting 'yes' and 59.56% voting 'no', the referendum failed (⁵¹⁴). On October 30, 1995, the (second) Quebec referendum took place to ask voters in Quebec if Quebec was to become an independent state. The result was 49.42% voting 'yes' and 50.58% voting 'no', the referendum failed (⁵¹⁵). On April 7, 2014, Pauline Marois of PQ called for the third referendum but they lost in the election. Quebec Liberals took over and the referendum was avoided. The two referenda did not affect the group's access to state power at national or state level thus no new period was introduced.

⁵¹³ [Wikipedia, 2014a]

⁵¹⁴ [Wikipedia, 2014a]

⁵¹⁵ [Wikipedia, 2014b]

Aboriginal Peoples from 1982-2013: In 1985, Bill C-31, "An Act to Amend the Indian Act" was passed by the Canadian Parliament and it took effect as of April 17, 1985. The Indian Act, which dated from 1876, indicates how Reserves and Bands can operate and defines who is recognized as an "Indian". Bill C-31 corrected more than 150 years of discrimination against First Nations women. With this amendment some 60,000 persons regained their lost Indian status (⁵¹⁶; ⁵¹⁷). However, there doesn't seem to be change to access to national or regional power. No new period was inserted. It is denoted that the size of 'Aboriginal Peoples' to be 0.043 (⁵¹⁸; ⁵¹⁹). As there is no effect to the group's access to state power status at state and national level, the figures were not adjusted.

⁵¹⁶ [AANDC, 2011]

⁵¹⁷ [Wikipedia, 2014c]

⁵¹⁸ [CIA, 2014]

⁵¹⁹ [Statistics Canada, 2011]

2006-2009: No significant changes in political representation of ethnic minorities in Canada after 2005. There are some signs of political mobilization in the Chinese community (largest irrelevant ethnic group). In 2007 (probably) the National Alliance Party was founded. The purpose of the party is to encourage Canadian citizens of Chinese origins to participate in regional (British Columbia) politics. On the national level, however, they should still be considered politically irrelevant.

2014 updates: National origin defined by how strongly people are associated with a language group is more applicable to Canada because that is more applicable in daily/cultural practices (⁵²⁰). The figures for 'English Speakers from 1982-2013' and 'French Speakers from 1982-2013' is updated and verified with figures from the CIA's World Factbook and Census from Statistics Canada in 2011. Despite the decrease in French speaking population, the size for English speaking population was not adjusted due to the effect of immigration from Canada's multiculturalism policies.

⁵²⁰ [Fearon, 2003]

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Political status of ethnic groups in Canada

From 1946 until 1981

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
English speakers	0.59	SENIOR PARTNER
French speakers	0.28	JUNIOR PARTNER
Aboriginal peoples	0.02	POWERLESS

From 1982 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
English speakers	0.59	SENIOR PARTNER
French speakers	0.23	JUNIOR PARTNER
Aboriginal peoples	0.028	POWERLESS



Figure 114: Political status of ethnic groups in Canada during 1946-1981.



Figure 115: Political status of ethnic groups in Canada during 1982-2013.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Canada

From 1946 until 1948

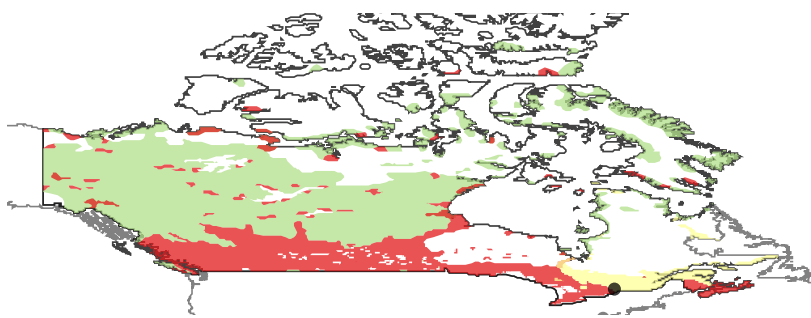


Figure 116: Map of ethnic groups in Canada during 1982-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Aboriginal peoples	3 242 297	Regionally based
English speakers	2 174 437	Regional & urban
French speakers	452 237	Regional & urban

Table 38: List of ethnic groups in Canada during 1946-1948.

From 1949 until 2013

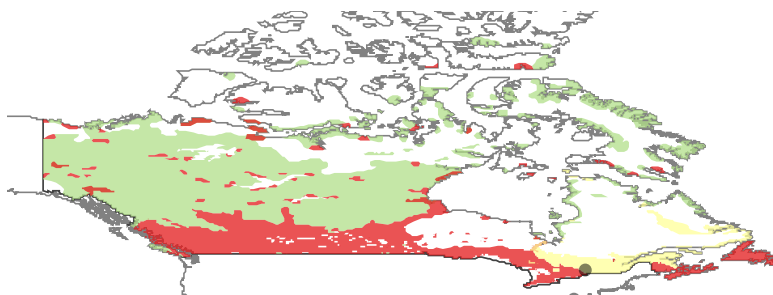


Figure 117: Map of ethnic groups in Canada during 1982-2013.

	Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■	Aboriginal peoples	3 260 962	Regionally based
■	English speakers	2 285 631	Regional & urban
■	French speakers	541 218	Regional & urban

Table 39: List of ethnic groups in Canada during 1949-2013.