

Canada

Ethnicity in Canada

Group selection

The following groups are politically relevant at the national level in Canada: **Aboriginal peoples**, **English speakers** and **French speakers**. Group sizes are calculated based on various sources (⁷⁷¹; ⁷⁷²; ⁷⁷³).

⁷⁷¹ [Fearon, 2003]

⁷⁷² [Statistics Canada, 2011]

⁷⁷³ [CIA, 2014]

Power relations

The EPR coding of Canada distinguishes three power periods: 1946 - 1960, when Aboriginal peoples were discriminated, 1961 - 1984, when the discrimination of Aboriginals ended, and 1985 - 2017, which reflects the smaller number of French speakers and increased share of Aboriginal population and their regional autonomy arrangements.

Aboriginal peoples

Aboriginal peoples in Canada consist of First Nations, sometimes called Indians, Inuit and M'tis communities. Until 1960, the "Indian Act" prohibited First Nations people to vote in federal elections. Only by formally and irreversibly giving up their "Indian status," a process called "enfranchisement", they were allowed to participate in national politics (⁷⁷⁴; ⁷⁷⁵). Furthermore, First Nations people were prohibited to hire lawyers or make land claims against the government (⁷⁷⁶). On paper the Inuit gained permission to vote already in 1950. However, it was not until the federal elections of 1962, when balloting boxes were installed in their very remote communities of the eastern Arctic, that they were really able to exercise their right to vote. In contrast, the M'tis had never been deprived of their voting right (⁷⁷⁷). Nevertheless, the denial of political participation to the majority of the Aboriginal peoples justify a coding of discriminated until 1960.

⁷⁷⁴ [MRGI, 2008]

⁷⁷⁵ [Elections Canada, 2016]

⁷⁷⁶ [The Historica Canada, 2017]

⁷⁷⁷ [Elections Canada, 2016]

Political mobilization of Aboriginal peoples 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. Furthermore, in 1975, the Cree signed the James Bay Agreement, Canada's first comprehensive land claims agreement. However, formal recognition of Aboriginal rights was non-existent until 1982, the year when the patriation of the Canadian constitution included the landmark recognition and affirmation of "existing Aboriginal and treaty rights"

for all Indian, M'tis and Inuit. Aboriginal self-government provisions were first introduced through the 'Cree-Naskapi (of Quebec) Act' in 1984 (see ⁷⁷⁸: 175; ⁷⁷⁹; ⁷⁸⁰: 9), which is coded as "regional autonomy" from 1985 onwards, due to the January-1st rule.

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 (⁷⁸¹; ⁷⁸²). However, there was no change to access to national or regional power. Yet, the size of 'Aboriginal Peoples' is corrected to be 0.043 (⁷⁸³; ⁷⁸⁴).

In October 2015, Justin Trudeau of the Liberal party was elected as the new Prime Minister and based on his promises as well as the composition of the cabinet there was widespread belief that the voice of the Aboriginal peoples will finally be heard in national politics. The newly appointed and first indigenous Minister of Justice, Jody Wilson-Raybould, has a long record of working for the rights of the First Nations people. After the first year of the Trudeau administration, however, there is only very little progress to be observed in respect to the rights of the Aboriginal peoples (see ⁷⁸⁵: 94-102; ⁷⁸⁶) and the Aboriginal cabinet position must still be regarded as rather token.

French Speakers

Although already the constitution act of 1867 recognized French as one of the two official languages of Canada the political co-existence of English speakers as the majority and French speakers as the minority group has often been characterized by tension. While the former still dominate national politics, they have always needed the latter as an important base of support, given their control over Quebec as the second-largest province of Canada (⁷⁸⁷: 66; ⁷⁸⁸: 184; ⁷⁸⁹: 470). Thus, French speakers have always been included in the cabinet to some extent. However, despite of constant representation in national government, there has been regular and strong advocacy for independence of Quebec among a large part of the French speakers.

On May 20, 1980, the (first) Quebec referendum was called upon by Parti Quebecois (PQ) to enable Quebec to acquire sovereignty, but to maintain economic association with Canada including the same currency (⁷⁹⁰). The result was 40.44% voting 'yes' and 59.56% voting 'no', the referendum failed (⁷⁹¹). 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', thus the referendum failed (⁷⁹²). On April 7, 2014, Pauline Marois of PQ called for the third referendum but they lost in the election. Quebec Liberals took over and

⁷⁷⁸ [Isaac, 2012]

⁷⁷⁹ [MRGI, 2008]

⁷⁸⁰ [Wherrett, 1999]

⁷⁸¹ [AANDC, 2011]

⁷⁸² [Wikipedia, 2014c]

⁷⁸³ [CIA, 2014]

⁷⁸⁴ [Statistics Canada, 2011]

⁷⁸⁵ [?]

⁷⁸⁶ [The New Internationalist, 2016]

⁷⁸⁷ [Cairns, 1968]

⁷⁸⁸ [Grove 1978]

⁷⁸⁹ [Ryan, 1965]

⁷⁹⁰ [Wikipedia, 2014a]

⁷⁹¹ [Wikipedia, 2014a]

⁷⁹² [Wikipedia, 2014b]

the referendum was avoided. The two referenda did not affect the group's access to state power at national or state level.

Based on the above considerations French speakers are coded as junior partner with regional autonomy throughout all of the coding periods.

Others

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.

Bibliography

- [AANDC, 2011] Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). (2011). A history of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Retrieved on 30.4.2014: <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1314977281262/1314977321448>
- [Cairns, 1968] Cairns, Alan C. (1968). The electoral system and the party system in Canada, 1921-1965. *Canadian Journal of Political Science/Revue canadienne de science politique* 1.1 (1968): 55-80.
- [CIA, 2014] Central Intelligence Agency. (2014). World Factbook. Retrieved on 28.4.2014 from: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ca.html>
- [Elections Canada, 2016] Elections Canada. (2016). A History of the Vote in Canada - Chapter 3: Modernization, 1920-1981. Elections Canada website, 2016. Retrieved on 20.11.2017 from: <http://www.elections.ca/content.aspx?section=res&dir=his&document=chap3&lang=e>
- [Fearon, 2003] Fearon, J. (2003). Ethnic and Cultural Diversity by Country. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 8, 195-222.
- [Grove 1978] Grove, D. J. (1978). A test of the ethnic equalization hypothesis: A cross-national study. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 1(2), 175-195.
- [Isaac, 2012] Isaac, T. (2012). *Aboriginal law: Commentary and Analysis*. Saskatoon, SK, Canada: Purich Publishing.
- [MRGI, 2008] Minority Rights Group International (MRGI). (2008). *World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - Canada: First Nations*. Retrieved on 20.11.2017 from: <http://minorityrights.org/minorities/first-nations/>
- [Ryan, 1965] Ryan, C. (1965). The French-Canadian Dilemma. *Foreign Affairs*, 43(3), 462-474.
- [Statistics Canada, 2011] Statistics Canada. (2011). 2011 National Household Survey: Data tables. Retrieved on 28.4.2014 from: <http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/nhs-enm/2011/dp-pd/dt-td/Index-eng.cfm>

- [The Historica Canada, 2017] The Historica Canada. (2017). The Canadian Encyclopedia - Indian Act." Historica Canada, 2017. Retrieved on 20.11.2017 from: <http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/indian-act/>
- [The New Internationalist, 2016] The New Internationalist. (2016). Indigenous rights: Justin Trudeau's elephant in the room. The New Internationalist website, 14 December 2016. Retrieved on 20.11.2017 from: <https://newint.org/features/web-exclusive/2016/12/14/indigenous-rights-justin-trudeaus-elephant-in-the-room>
- [Wherrett, 1999] Wherrett, Jill. (1999). Aboriginal Self-Government. The Parliamentary Information and Research Branch of the Library of Parliament, 17 June 1999, 96-2E. Retrieved on 15.11.2017 from: <https://lop.parl.ca/content/lop/ResearchPublications/962-e.pdf>
- [Wikipedia, 2014a] Wikipedia. (2014a). Quebec referendum 1980. Retrieved on 30.4.2014 from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quebec_referendum,_1980
- [Wikipedia, 2014b] Wikipedia. (2014b). Quebec referendum 1995. Retrieved on 30.4.2014 from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quebec_referendum,_1995
- [Wikipedia, 2014c] Wikipedia. (2014c). Indian Act. Retrieved on 30.4.2014 from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Act

Political status of ethnic groups in Canada

From 1946 until 1960

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

From 1961 until 1984

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

From 1985 until 2017

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
English speakers	0.59	SENIOR PARTNER
French speakers	0.23	JUNIOR PARTNER
Aboriginal peoples	0.043	POWERLESS



Figure 130: Political status of ethnic groups in Canada during 1946-1960.

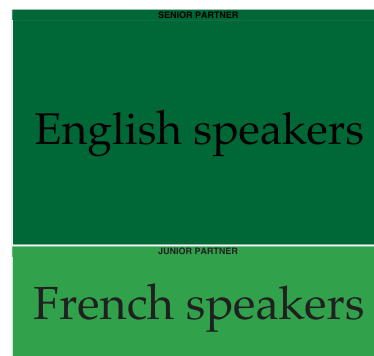


Figure 131: Political status of ethnic groups in Canada during 1961-1984.



Figure 132: Political status of ethnic groups in Canada during 1985-2017.

Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in Canada

From 1946 until 1947

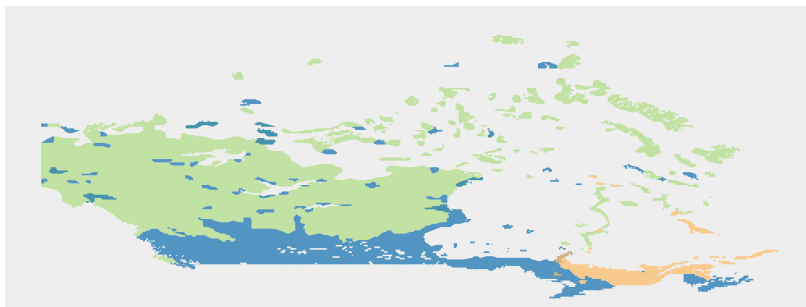


Figure 133: Map of ethnic groups in Canada during 1946-1947.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Aboriginal peoples	3 242 034	Regionally based
English speakers	2 174 259	Regional & urban
French speakers	452 227	Regional & urban

Table 42: List of ethnic groups in Canada during 1946-1947.

From 1948 until 1948

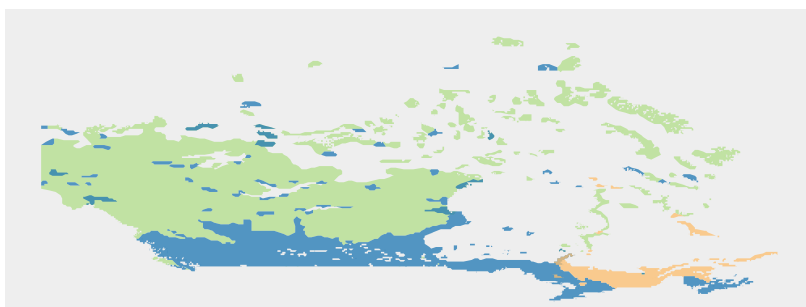


Figure 134: Map of ethnic groups in Canada during 1948-1948.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Aboriginal peoples	3 242 034	Regionally based
English speakers	2 174 259	Regional & urban
French speakers	452 227	Regional & urban

Table 43: List of ethnic groups in Canada during 1948-1948.

From 1949 until 2017



Figure 135: Map of ethnic groups in Canada during 1949-2017.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
Aboriginal peoples	3 260 671	Regionally based
English speakers	2 285 413	Regional & urban
French speakers	541 198	Regional & urban

Table 44: List of ethnic groups in Canada during 1949-2017.