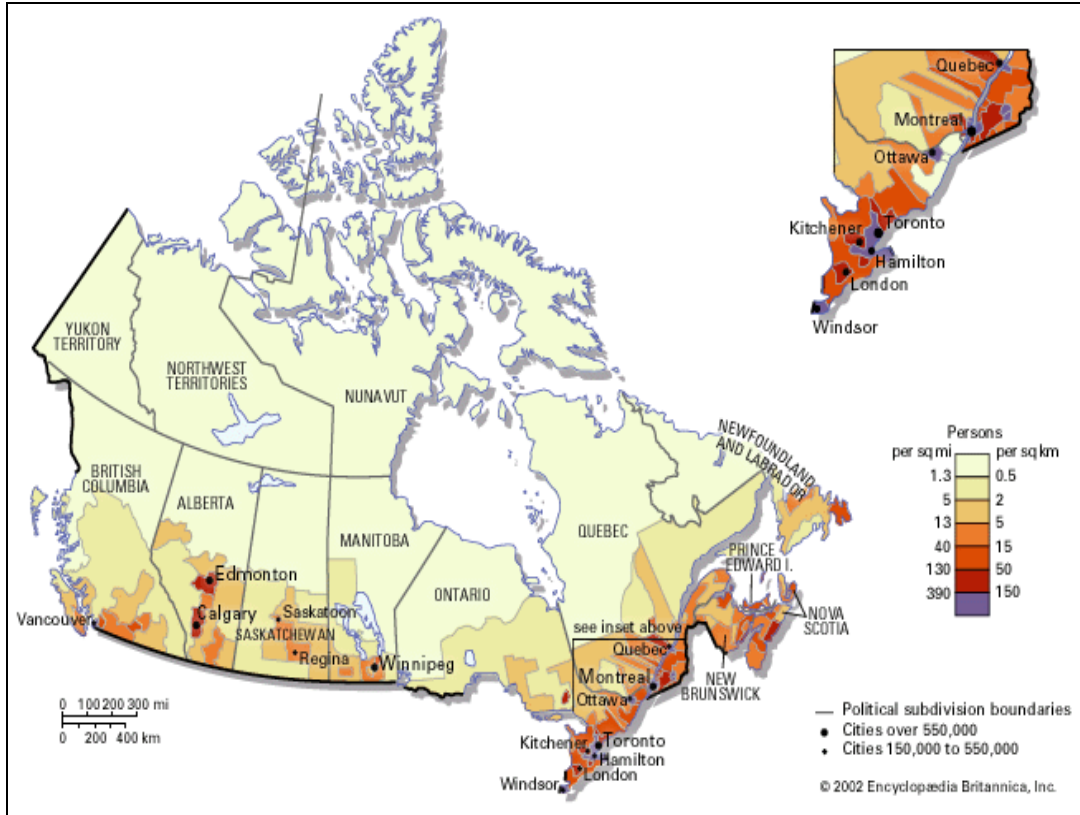


Country Brief – Canada



I Country -Demographic Features

A land of vast distances and rich natural resources, Canada became a self-governing dominion in 1867 while retaining ties to the British crown. Economically and technologically the nation has developed in parallel with the US.

Canada is a federal multiparty parliamentary state with two legislative houses (Senate and House of Commons) and headed by Prime Minister. Canada is second largest country in terms of its size after Russia. Despite Canada's great size, it is one of the world's most sparsely populated countries. Canada shares a 5,525-mile- (8,890-km-) long border with the **United States** (including Alaska)—the longest border in the world not patrolled by military forces—and the

overwhelming majority of its population lives within 185 miles (300 km) of the international boundary

Capital: Ottawa (fourth largest city of the country)

Official Language: English and French

Population: 33,098,932 (July 2006 est.)

Age structure:

0-14 years: 17.6% (male 2,992,811/female 2,848,388)

15-64 years: 69% (male 11,482,452/female 11,368,286)

65 years and over: 13.3% (male 1,883,008/female 2,523,987) (2006 est.)

Traditionally Canada has sought to increase its population through immigration in order to expand the workforce and domestic markets. As a result, immigrants now make up about one-sixth of Canada's total population. Canada has an aging population. Whereas fewer than one in 10 Canadians were age 65 or older in the 1970s, by the start of the 21st century the figure stood at nearly one in six. Life expectancy in Canada, which averages about 80 years, is among the world's highest.

Economy – Due to great natural resources, skilled labor force, and modern capital plant, Canada is a developed nation. Top-notch fiscal management has produced consecutive balanced budgets since 1997, although public debate continues over how to manage the rising cost of the publicly funded healthcare system. Exports account for roughly a third of GDP. Canada enjoys a substantial trade surplus with its principal trading partner, the US, which absorbs more than 85% of Canadian exports. Canada is the US' largest foreign supplier of energy, including oil, gas, uranium, and electric power.

Labour force participation: agriculture 2%, manufacturing 14%, construction 5%, services 75%, other 3% (2004)

II Indian Diaspora

1 Size of Indian Diaspora

According to Canada Statistics (2001), there were **713, 330 people** who classified themselves as being of Indian origin. Though Indian Embassy reports that it is approximately 850,000 (2.74 % of total population). Out of this population, 42% are Hindu, 39% are Sikh, and the rest are Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist. The main Indian ethnic communities are Punjabis (which account for more than half of population) as well Gujratis, Tamils, Keralites, Bengalis, Sindhis and others.

2 Geographical Spread of the Indian Diaspora

Indians are biggest community in and around Vancouver and Toronto. Most Indians choose to immigrate to larger urban centers like Toronto and Vancouver, where more than 70% live. Smaller communities are also growing in Calgary, Montreal, Edmonton and Winnipeg. Indians in Toronto are from diverse locations in India, such as Punjab, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andra Pradesh and Kerala. Brampton, a suburb of Toronto has many Indian residents, and the town of Springdale in Brampton is commonly referred to as "Singhdale" because of the many Sikhs that live there. Indians in Vancouver mainly live in the suburb of Surrey, but can also be found throughout Vancouver. The vast majority of Vancouver Indians are of Sikh Punjabi origin.

3 Brief History of Migration

The first Indians began moving to Canada in small numbers to British Columbia, and were mainly male Sikh Punjabis who were seeking work opportunities abroad. These first immigrants faced widespread racism by the local white Canadians. There were race riots that targeted these immigrants, as well as new

Chinese immigrants as well. Most decided to return back to India, while a few stayed behind. The Canadian government prevented these men from bringing their wives and children until 1919, which was the main reason why they decided to leave. Quotas were established to prevent many Indians from moving to Canada in the early 20th century. These quotas allowed less than 100 people from India a year until 1957, when it was increased to 300 people a year. Migration of Indo-Canadian migration took place from three routes (i) directly from India, (ii) From Africa, especially from east Africa in the early 1970s when the second major wave of immigration started; and (iii) from Caribbean countries. Though major change came after 1967, when Canada introduced ***Point base immigration system***, thus allowing many more Indians to immigrate in large numbers. Since this open door policy was adopted, Indians continue to come in large numbers, and roughly 25 000- 30 000 arrive each year (which is now the second Highest after Chinese immigrants).

The country's Indian population expanded in the 1980s, mainly from Sikhs escaping troubles in India's Punjab state. Of late, there has been an influx of investors and professionals as Canada has eased its immigration laws.

4 Profile of Indian Diaspora

Indians are mainly Entrepreneurs but mainly are in medicine, academia, management and engineering (professional workers). Emigrants from India today enjoy success in all fields within the economy while there are some concentration in British Columbia in agriculture and forestry. Since 1960s, many highly skilled workers and professionals have energized Canada's universities, the civil service, hospitals, and high-tech industries. Still others have felt the sting of discrimination within the workplace or faced, as have other immigrants, the barrier to job placement, phrased vaguely as the lack of Canadian experience. Despite some setbacks, Indian Canadians as a group have an average income higher than Canadian average. Indians have made noteworthy achievement in

public life for example Mr. Ujjal Dosanjh being elected as Premier of British Columbia and subsequently a Federal Health Minister in the previous government.

5 Distinguished Diaspora

Political candidates of Indian heritage have successfully run at the local, provincial, and federal levels. They have occupied various influential political positions in recent years. At the federal level are British Columbia politicians the Hon. Herb Dhaliwal, M.P., Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, and Reform Party member, the Hon. Gurmant Grewal. Indo-Canadians Deepak Obhrai and Rahim Jaffer represent ridings in Alberta as Reform M.Ps. In Ontario, Gurbax Malhi has served the federal riding of Malton over the last two general elections as a Liberal Party Member. Provincially, British Columbia has four Indo-Canadian M.L.A.s, including Sindi Hawkins, Moe Sihota, Harry Lali, and Ujjal Dosanjh who, as leader of British Columbia's NDP, became Premier of British Columbia, February 20, 2000, the first Indo-Canadian to hold that office in Canada. Other than that some of the names are as follows:

1. Bharat Agnihotri - Alberta Liberal MLA
2. Hardial Bains - founder and leader of the Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada from 1970-1997
3. Harry Bains - British Columbia New Democratic MLA
4. Navdeep Bains - Liberal Member of Parliament
5. Jagrup Brar - British Columbia NDP MLA
6. Gulzar Singh Cheema - Manitoba and British Columbia MLA
7. Raj Chouhan - British Columbia NDP MLA
8. Herb Dhaliwal - Liberal MP and the first Indo-Canadian cabinet minister
9. Ruby Dhalla - Liberal MP
10. Vic Dhillon - Ontario Liberal MPP
11. Ujjal Dosanjh - former Premier of British Columbia, the first Indo-Canadian premier, former federal Minister of Health, and current National Defence Critic
12. Raminder Gill - former Ontario Progressive Conservative MPP and federal Conservative candidate
13. Gurmant Grewal - Conservative MP, half (with Nina, listed below) of the first married couple to serve as MPs in the same session of Parliament

14. Nina Grewal - Conservative MP, half (with Gurmant) of the first married couple to serve as MPs in the same session of Parliament
15. Chander P. Grover - scientist and human rights activist
16. Bidhu Jha - Manitoba NDP MLA
17. Wajid Khan - Ontario Liberal MP
18. Kuldip Singh Kular - Ontario Liberal MPP
19. Harry Lali - BC NDP MLA
20. Gurbax Singh Malhi - Liberal MP
21. Rob Nijjar - former BC Liberal MLA
22. Moe Sihota - former British Columbia NDP MLA and television host
23. Deepak Obhrai - Alberta Conservative MP
24. Raj Pannu - former leader of the Alberta New Democrats, the first Indo-Canadian leader of a political party
25. Patty Sahota - former BC Liberal MLA
26. Shiraz Shariff - Alberta Progressive Conservative MLA
27. Jaggi Singh - anti-globalization activist
28. Harinder Takhar - Ontario Liberal MPP and Minister of Transportation
29. Murad Velshi - former Ontario Liberal MPP

6 Concerns and Problems of Indian Diaspora

Not many issues reported

7 Diaspora Publication

There is a large presence of ethnic media in Canada which keeps the community update about India' development. Some of the weekly newspaper are: The weekly Voice, Can India, Times of India Weekly and India Journal. Apart from this, there are about 10 punjabi news paper and most popular one are Ajit Weekly, Hamdard, Nagara and Punjabi Post. There are number of ethnic TV channels including Asian Television Network, Eye on Asia, Asia Connections and Music India. They cover most of the Indian events, Cultural Shows, entertainment and current news on Inda and local community events.

8 India' Relations

According to Canada Census, 2001 - Scottish, Irish, German, Italian, Chinese, Ukrainian, Dutch, Polish, Indian and Norwegian are top ten diaspora communities and Indians maintain good relation with them. While Canada and India relations has gained strength due to Indian diaspora and India has signed treaties with Canada on Air, Defense, Economic-cooperation, Extradition, Finance, Mutual Legal Assistance, Nuclear, Pension, Patent and Taxation.

Organization like CIDA, IDRC, Canada Fund for Local Initiatives are supporting various development projects in India.

9 Local Laws

Multiculturalism with a Bilingual Framework' was announced in 1971 and Canada become first country in the world to adopt multiculturalism policy in 1971 and it accelerated the inflow of Indians to Canada.

- Employment Equity Act, 1986
- Canadian Multiculturalism Act, 1988

10 Canada' Immigration Policy-

In 1967 Canada pioneered a points-based system for selecting permanent immigrants based on their predicted economic contribution. In 2002, new changes were made in Immigration and Refugee policy which are historical as it gives preference to high skilled personnel.

11 Major Diaspora Associations(yet to explore more)

- National Association of Canadians of Origin in India
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