

Montreal Canadiens vs. Toronto Maple Leafs



Canada's National Core

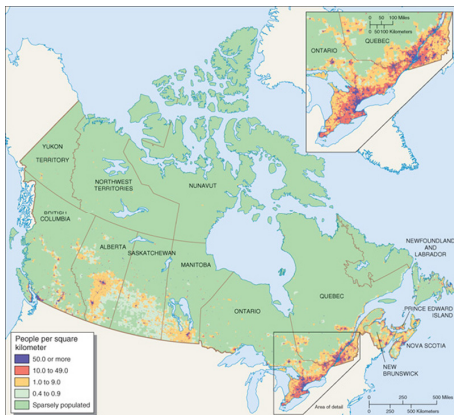


Things to remember

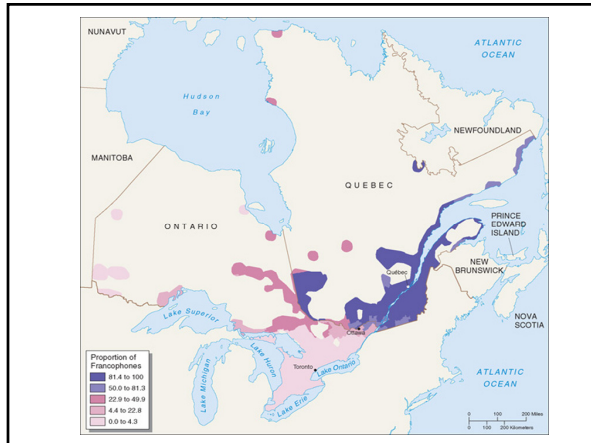
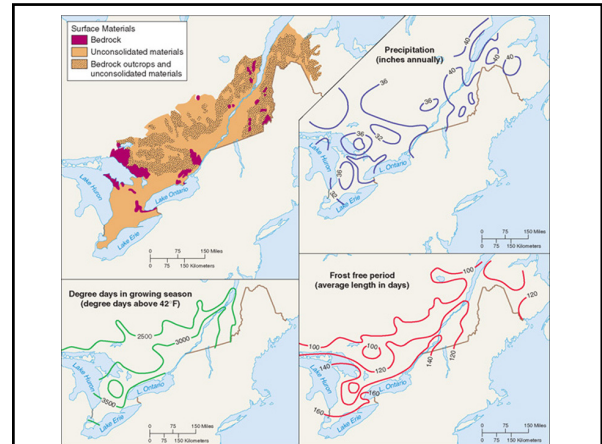
- It really is a national core
- Historically, a highly contested region with a persistent cultural divide
- A highly productive agricultural corridor
- Distinctive rural landscape and toponymy
- Major cities in distinctive
- The St. Lawrence Seaway

Core area is a term used by political geographers to refer to (1) the original area from which a country subsequently grew and developed; and/or (2) a region containing a country's greatest development, wealth, and densest populations; and/or (3) the part of a country where people have the clearest sense of national identity.

Not all countries have a well-defined core. Canada most certainly does.



The “**Canadian Main Street**” is the highly populated corridor that extends from Windsor, Ontario, across the northern shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario, and thence along the St. Lawrence River to Quebec City. It includes Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal, and accounts for well over half of Canada’s population.



The French Language as Canadian Mother Tongue (2001)

All Canadians - 23%

Quebec – 82%

New Brunswick – 33%

Ontario – 6%

Nova Scotia – 4%



Quebec Sovereignty Movement (Part One)

- A political movement aimed at secession of Quebec from Canada and creation of a monolingual French-speaking country.
- Defeated by two plebiscites. Rural areas tended to favor secession; urban areas (especially metropolitan Montreal) largely opposed it.
- Would divide Canada into 3 pieces: The Maritimes, Quebec, and the rest of Canada.

Quebec Sovereignty Movement (Part Two)

- Negative impact on the economy of Quebec as many companies (especially foreign-owned ones) decided to relocate, mainly due to proposed “French-only” laws.
- Further attempts at secession currently unlikely due to devolution (“surrender of power to local authorities by a central government”) and growing appreciation of potentially negative consequences.

Quebec City

(National Geographic Society Photograph)



“Canada” comes from a Wendat (Huron-Iroquoian) word, *kanata*, meaning “village.”

In 1535 native people used *kanata* to direct the French explorer Jacques Cartier to a village near the site of present-day Quebec City.

Somehow, *kanata* became *Canada*, and got applied to the entire region, and later to the entire country.

“Quebec” comes from an Algonquin word/term meaning “where the river narrows.”



Quebec City

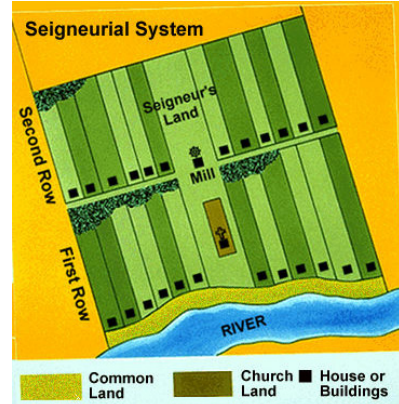
- The French “cultural capital” of Canada.
- An “acropolis site” that commands the place where the St. Lawrence estuary meets the much narrower river.
- A “chokepoint” at which water travel can be controlled.

Quebec City with *La Citadelle*





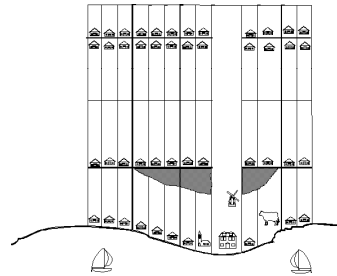
British troops
under Gen. Wolfe
scale the heights
at Quebec,
Sept. 13, 1759



The Seigneurial Sytem

- A system of land division involving long narrow lots used by the French in North America during colonial times.
- Large land grants (*seigneuries*) were awarded by the king to entrepreneurs (*seigneurs*), who sub-granted parcels (*rotoures*) to peasant colonist-farmers (*habitants*).
- Each *rotoure* was about 150-200 yards wide and were arranged perpendicular to the St. Lawrence and extended inland for perhaps a mile.
- Once the river frontage was totally occupied, roads were extended inland to create a new rank (*rang*) of *rotoures*, and so on as needed.
- Important feature: guaranteed access to property.

The signeurial system: The darkest straight lines are roads, as is the line at top separating the houses.



Seigneurial System Ile d' Orleans, Quebec

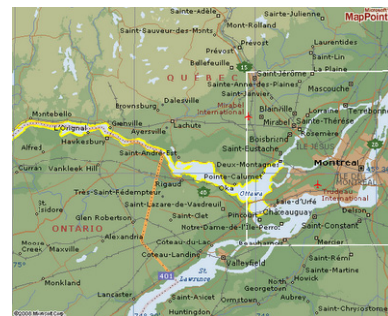
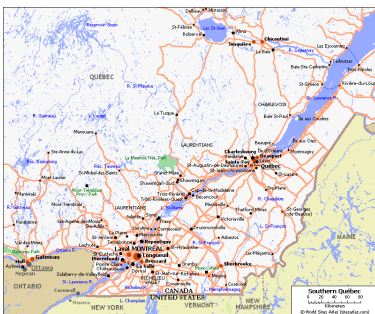




Seigneurial System, Quebec



Seigneurial System, Louisiana



Montreal



- Located at the head of navigation of the St. Lawrence River.
- Canada's most important eastern port city.
- The world's second-largest French-speaking city.

Montreal



Montreal



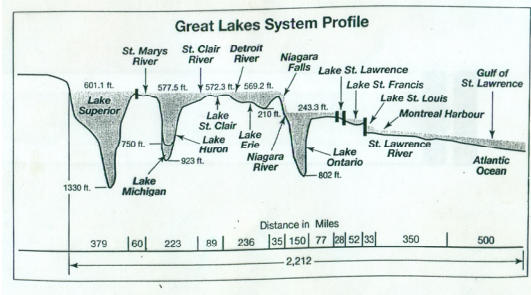
Lachine Rapids, St. Lawrence River (between the Island of Montreal and south shore)



The St. Lawrence Seaway is a system of locks, canals and channels that permit ocean-going ships to travel from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes.

The system was jointly built by the United States and Canada (inasmuch as the St. Lawrence River is part of the border between them) between 1950-56 and is jointly administered and maintained by the two countries.

Legally, it extends from Montreal to Lake Erie (including the Welland Canal) and is one of the great examples of international cooperation between two countries along a common border.



Ship approaching Eisenhower Locks, Massena, NY



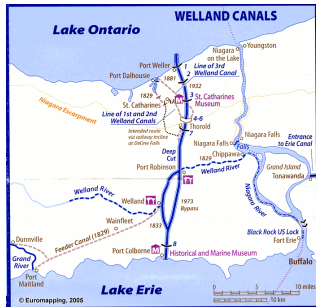
Ship in Eisenhower Locks



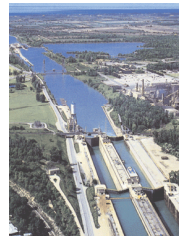
**Niagara Falls
(a beautiful impediment to shipping)**



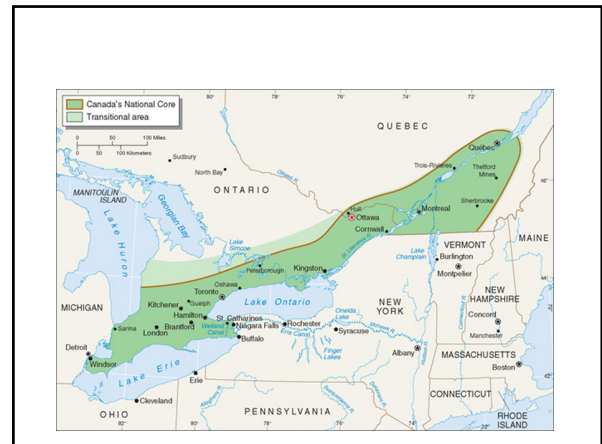
The Welland Canal links Lakes Ontario and Erie, allowing ships to by-pass Niagara Falls.



Welland Canal locks



Shipping in the Welland Canal



Ottawa: Parliament building in winter



Ottawa

- Canada's 4th largest city
- Chosen to be the capital by Queen Victoria, December 31, 1857
- Reasons:
 - Only town of size on the border between Canada East and Canada West (now Quebec and Ontario)
 - A geographical compromise between English- and French-speaking areas
 - Relatively immune to possible American attack (a lesson from the War of 1812)

Ottawa



Toronto LANDSAT Image



- Canada's largest city
- 25% of Canadians live in its metro area
- Originally noted for its small protected harbor and portage site to Georgian Bay
- Major world financial center
- 5th largest city in North America

Toronto Harbor, 1919



Ontario peninsula agriculture



- Good soils
- Relatively mild climate
- Relatively long growing season
- Proximity to large cities and lots of people.
- Well-educated and fully mechanized farmers.