



CANADA'S HEART... BEATS

## Manitoba Facts

The name Manitoba is believed to be derived from Cree or Ojibwe meaning “strait of the spirit” or from the Assiniboine language meaning “lake of the prairies”.

### Government of Manitoba

Manitoba is one of ten provinces in Canada. The government of the province is organized in the parliamentary system as follows:

**The Lieutenant-Governor** is the official representative of the Queen in Manitoba. Lieutenant-Governors cannot initiate legislation, but their assent must be given to all Acts and Orders in Council.

**The Legislative Assembly** consists of 57 elected members (Members of the Legislative Assembly or MLA), each of whom represent a specific geographical area known as a constituency. The normal practice of the Lieutenant-Governor is to call upon the recognized leader of the political party with the largest number of members elected to form a government. Government policy is determined by the Premier and their Ministers, who comprise the Executive Council and are responsible to the Legislative Assembly.

### Major Industries and Resources of Manitoba

From the earliest days of settlement, agriculture has been one of Manitoba’s most important industries and sources of income and employment. Today, Manitoba has a diverse economy, with agriculture, mining, manufacturing, transportation, forestry, energy, and tourism all contributing to Manitoba’s GDP. In addition, Manitoba’s freshwater fisheries also play an important role in the province’s economy, both through commercial fishing as well as recreational fishing by licensed anglers in pursuit of walleye, pike, perch, catfish, trout, and a number of other species.



### Geography

Manitoba is the easternmost of the three Prairie Provinces. Comparatively level, Manitoba generally ranges from 490 ft/150 m to 980 ft/300 m above sea level. Baldy Mountain is Manitoba’s highest point, at 2727 ft/831 m. Agricultural land lies in a triangle, bordering Saskatchewan and the U.S., cutting diagonally across Lake Winnipeg. The northern 3/5 of Manitoba is Precambrian Shield. In northernmost Manitoba lies tundra and permafrost (permanently frozen soil). All waters in Manitoba flow to Hudson Bay. Before settlement, large areas of southern Manitoba were flood plain or swamp. An extensive system of drainage ditches had to be constructed throughout south-central Manitoba to make the region suitable for cultivation.

**Area:**  
250,120 mi<sup>2</sup>/647,797 km<sup>2</sup>

**Land Surface:**  
213,733 mi<sup>2</sup>/553,556 km<sup>2</sup>

**Water Surface:**  
39,225 mi<sup>2</sup>/101,593 km<sup>2</sup>

**North to South:**  
761 mi/1225 km

**Width (South):**  
279 mi/449 km

**Widest Point:**  
493 mi/793 km

**Northern Boundary:**  
(width): 260 mi/418 km

**Coastline:**  
400 mi/645 km



## Climate

Manitoba's climate is characterized by warm, sunny summers and cold, bright winters. Wide variations from average values are common in all seasons. More than half of the annual precipitation falls during the summer months, most frequently in the form of brief, sometimes heavy showers. Most of southern Manitoba receives 110-140 cm of snow annually, with the heaviest snow falls occurring in the northeast, and in the Duck and Riding Mountains (160 cm).

Location	Average January Temperatures (C)	Average July Temperatures (C)
Brandon	-18.4	18.7
Churchill	-26	12.7
Thompson	-24.9	15.8
Winnipeg	-18.3	19.8

## Population

Manitoba enjoys a rich population mix, with people from every continent and virtually every country in the world providing a wide infusion of cultures and a broadened heritage. The Indigenous population of Manitoba was joined by the Scottish Selkirk settlers in 1811, English and French Canadians after Confederation in 1870, followed by Russian Mennonites, Icelanders, Ukrainians, and Germans in subsequent years. Post WWII saw additional immigration from Europe, and most recently from Asia, South America, Africa, and the Caribbean.

### Manitoba population growth since Confederation:

1871 – 25,228  
 1891 – 152,506  
 1911 – 461,394  
 1931 – 700,139  
 1951 – 776,541  
 1961 – 921,686  
 1971 – 988,000  
 1981 – 1,026,241  
 1991 – 1,091,942  
 2001 – 1,119,583  
 2011 – 1,208,268

### Population of Canada

2015 – 35,850,000

### Population of Manitoba

2014 – 1,272,000

### Population of Winnipeg

2016 – 793,400



## History

A brief history of the development of Manitoba.

**10-13000 BCE** – First evidence of nomadic hunters entering Manitoba from the southwest. Developing grasslands in the south provided abundant hunting territory.

**4-5000 BCE** – Origins of forest dwellers in eastern and northern Canadian Shield. Necessary diversification in lifestyles developing due to demanding environment.

**1500 BCE** – Evidence of Alaskan nomads (Early Inuit descendants) passing along shores of Hudson Bay.

**500 BCE** – Evidence of trade among early peoples. Copper from Lake Superior, pipestone from Minnesota, shell from the Gulf of Mexico, volcanic glass from Wyoming, flint from North Dakota.

**1100 CE** – First indications of agriculture. Indigenous Manitobans seeded corn along banks of Red River, north of Winnipeg.

**15-1600** – Changing climate hampers growth of native corn varieties. Indigenous people gradually return to hunting, fishing, and trapping.

**1612** – First European sets foot in Manitoba. Capt. Thomas Button winters two ships at Port Nelson, near the mouths of the Nelson and Hayes Rivers.

**1670** – King Charles II of England grants sovereignty over large part of continent to “the Governor & Co. of Adventurers of England Trading into Hudson’s Bay” or the Hudson’s Bay Company (HBC).

**1690-91** – Henry Kelsey explores Northern Manitoba from Hudson Bay to Saskatchewan River, near The Pas.

**1731-71** – Building of Ft. Prince of Wales at the mouth of the Churchill River by the British. Captured and badly damaged by the French in 1782.

**1783** – Construction of Ft. Churchill by HBC. In continuous use by the Company until 1933.

**1811** – Lord Selkirk establishes first agricultural settlement.

**1816** – Governor Robert Semple and 19 colonists killed in battle with Métis at Seven Oaks. Dispute over changing lifestyles along the Red River.

**1869** – HBC relinquishes Western Canadian territory to Canadian Government for 300,000 pounds. Lack of consideration to the Métis’ concerns leads to Louis Riel’s establishment of provisional government in December 1869.

**1870** – Delegates of Riel’s government negotiate with federal government. Manitoba joins Confederation. Called the “Postage Stamp” province ( $\frac{1}{18}$  current size.)

**1912** – Final boundary change (North of 60 degrees) completes current Manitoba size.



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