

## Population

- In 1851, the population of British North America was approximately 2 536 000. This was a small population for such a large area of land. By comparison, the population of Canada in 2003 was 31 714 637.
- Most of the population was concentrated in the eastern colonies. The largest city in BNA was Montreal (pop. 58 000), in Canada East. The largest city in the Maritimes was Saint John, New Brunswick (pop. 30 000).
- Within the colonies, Europeans were in the *majority* (greater numbers) and First Nations and Inuit were in the *minority* (fewer numbers).
- In HBC lands and Vancouver's Island, the population was small. First Nations and Inuit were in the majority.
- By the mid-1800s, the population was approximately 85 per cent *rural* (living on farms or in other places outside towns and cities) and 15 per cent *urban* (living in cities or towns).

## Economics

- In the mid-1800s, the economy of British North America was mostly controlled by European settlers. The settlers had created a Pre-Industrial economy based on natural resources: fur, fish, timber, and farmland. Some manufacturing was starting up in the colonies, but it was not yet a big part of the economy.
- First Nations and Inuit communities in the Atlantic region struggled to survive the economic effects of European settlement. Some people found ways to become part of the new economy. For example, many First Nations men in the Maritimes worked in the lumber industry.
- In the lands under the control of the HBC, Aboriginal peoples participated in the fur trade, but they also carried on their traditional economies, much as they had done for generations.