We have learned that Canada’s population is not distributed equally. For example, millions of people live in the Mixedwood Plains Ecozone …including you and I…while the entire population of the Taiga Cordillera Ecozone is about 300 people.

The **SETTLEMENT PATTERNS** in Canada also vary. A Settlement Pattern describes the way in which hamlets, villages, towns and cities are distributed in space PLUS the relationships between them.

**POPULATION DISTRIBUTION** describes the way people are spread out over an area. In more geographical terms, it is the patterns of settlement and dispersal of a population.

There are two main types of Population Distribution: (1) Dispersed and (2) Concentrated.

- A Dispersed Population is a population that is spread out. A rural population (e.g., farms) would be spread out across a region. Likewise, the population in the Taiga Cordillera may be spread out across the entire ecozone.

- A Concentration Population is a population that lives close together such as a town or city. The concentration often occurs due to concentrated economic opportunities or resources. A LINEAR CONCENTRATION occurs as a line. For example, houses in a line along a highway or a coastline.

**POPULATION DENSITY** is the number of individuals of a species per unit area. Mathematically, it is the population per unit of land area (total population / land area). Areas may have the same density, but the population could be distributed differently (e.g., the distribution is evenly dispersed throughout one region, while in the next region of the same size, the population is concentrated only the edges of the region only).

As shown on the map, most Canadians live within 200 km of the Canada-USA border. As well, 80 percent of Canadians live in urban centres such as Toronto, Vancouver or Kingston.

For more information on distribution and density, see Page 203 in *Making Connections*. 
So, settlement in Canada can be categorized in two major groupings: (1) Rural and (2) Urban.

Rural is settlement outside cities and towns. Typically, population density is low and settlement pattern is dispersed.

Three patterns of settlement can be readily observed.

- **LONG LOTS** of southern Quebec
  - Occurred prior to roads and railways
  - Main transportation was water (i.e., river)
  - Since each farm needed water access, the lots were long and thin
  - This map shows southern Quebec long lots

- **CONCESSIONS** in southern Ontario
  - Settlement occurred after a survey
  - Roads – later rails – were in-place
  - Groups of concessions were called Townships, and a group of Townships is a County.

- **SECTIONS** in the Prairies.
  - Settlement occurred before a survey
  - Already used in USA
  - Land is divided in 94 km² blocks AND each block is divided into 36 equal sections. Each section was divided into four equal lots called Quarter-Sections.

In 1867, 82 percent of Canadians lived in rural areas. Today, 80 percent live in urban areas. The movement from rural to urban is called URBANIZATION. The main urban centres in Canada are Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. The figure shows Canada’s urbanization between 1871 and 2006.
Historic Settlement Patterns in Canada

Activity

You are trying to distribute land fairly for new settlers to an area. Using the instructions and working in teams of three people, determine the best settlement pattern for each scenario.

HINT: Draw a sketch map for each scenario to help with your decision making.

GROUP 1 – It is 1750. You are settling a region with very fertile land. Most settlers are farmers. The only effective method of transportation is by water. Thus, everyone values living near the water. You have 50 acres of land to divide fairly among 10 families.

GROUP 2 – It is 1850. The region is very fertile land. The region is not settled, and you have a chance to plan and use a pattern to distribute land and arrange settlements. Most settlers will be farmers. The best method to transport crops is water, and as such, all farmers desire access to water. However, roads and some railways have been built that provide access to the water at key points. You have to divide the land fairly using the water, road and rail system between 25 families.

GROUP 3 – It is 1850. The region is extremely flat, and the land is very fertile. It is presently unsettled. Most settlers will be farmers, and as always, they will be looking for land with good access to transportation. Railways and roads will be the main form of transportation. The distance between urban settlements is large. You need to (1) divide the land between 100 families and (2) plan the road and rail systems through the area to ensure effective transportation for all families.
SETTLEMENT PATTERNS

Complete the following organizer and answer the attached questions using your textbook *Making Connections* (Pages 203-207 and 211-217). In some cases, you may need to use your knowledge or imagination.

### Rural Settlement Patterns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>General Features</th>
<th>Diagram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long Lot</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Concession</td>
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<tr>
<td>Section</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Urban Settlement Patterns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Example</th>
<th>General Features</th>
<th>Diagram</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation City</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Centre</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Resource-Base Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Manufacturing Centre</td>
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</table>
Settlement Patterns and Urbanization

1. In many areas of southern Quebec in the 1600s and 1700s, a son would be given a share of the family farm with frontage on the river when the son reached adulthood. What problems might this action create after a few generations? What solutions could be provided to address the problems?

2. Define URBAN

3. Define RURAL

4. Examine Figure 18-11 on Page 211 of Making Connections. It shows urban growth patterns. What was the urban population in 1851? When did the urban population reach 50%?

5. Using the same figure, what has happened to the RATE of urbanization in recent years?

6. What do you think will happen to the percentage of people living in urban settlements in the next 20 years? Provide two reasons with your answer.

7. Examine Figure 18-12 on Page 212 of Making Connections. Which is the ISODEMOGRAPHIC MAP? It shows the area of a province, territory or city in proportion to its population.

8. Using the same figure, list three pieces of information this map provides.

9. Using the same figure, what part of Canada is NOT shown on the map? Why?

10. Consider Kingston…What major urban functions (e.g., major employers, types of industry) occur in Kingston?

DEFINITIONS

Urbanization – The process of changing from rural to urban, and it results in an increase in population density, and the concentration and expansion of urban functions.

Site – The unique characteristics of the land on which the settlement is built.

Situation – The relationship between a city’s location and the surrounding area. The relationship is ECONOMIC related to trade, markets and transportation patterns.

Threshold Population – Number of consumers needed to make a business profitable OR allow a service (e.g., school, post office) to be offered.

Diversified Urban Centre – A settlement with a variety of successful basic urban functions.