#### NOTES ON THE ABORIGENES

OF THE

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

by

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#### Foreword

The scope of the present work is to present a general introduction to the demography of the aborigenes living in the province of Quebec, the adjacent islands, and the coast of Labrador.

This work deals only with the natives who are under the jurisdiction (except for Labrador) of the Federal Government: the Indian Affairs Branch of the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, for the Indian population, and the Eskimos who are under the jurisdiction of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources.

It does not deal with the aborigenes who live off the reservations, or who do not come under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. The Dominion Bureau of Statistics (9th Census, 1951) in its bulletin on the Population-origin (table 34 of Volume 1) gives statistics on natives Indian and Eskimo, by county and census divisions as well as by cities, towns or villages. Another index to the natives who live outside the jurisdiction of the Federal Government, in the Province of Quebec, can be found in tables 54-57 of Volume 1, bulletin 1-17, of the 9th Census of Canada: Population - official language and mother tongue.

The author entertains the hope to continue this work on the demography of the aborigenes for the other provinces and territories of Canada.

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#### I - INDIAN BANDS OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

### 1. The Iroquois and Huron

In 1535, Jacques Cartier discovered the <u>Iroquois</u> who were then inhabiting both shores of the St. Lawrence River from Gaspé to Montreal. Seventy years later, Champlain noted that this territory had been taken over by Algonquian tribes.

Most of the Canadian Iroquois, mainly of the Mohawk and Onondaga bands, had seceded early from the Five Tribes Confederacy.

Champlain, having used Algonquian Indians to fight them, alienated their sympathy although the French tried to regain their confidence through the missionaries. Thus were formed the Catholic groups of Caughnawaga, St. Regis and Oka.

On many of occasions the Confederacy tribes tried to win over the Catholic Iroquois, but, in 1684, they finally abandoned their attempts. Since then the Catholic Iroquois were allies of the French against

their own brethren.

Many of them were engaged by French fur traders travelling with them far to the West. (There are now Iroquois settled on the Michel Reserve, near Edmonton, Alberta).

### Iroquois settlements:

- (1) Caughnawaga: population 3,354. The Caughnawaga Iroquois (Mohawks) live on a 12,478 acre reserve, in Laprairie county, near Montreal. The land had been donated to the Jesuit missionaries in 1680, for the Iroquois mission. Title to the reserve was transferred to the Iroquois, through a judgement of the Military Council held in Montreal, April 15, 1762. They are sedentary; a number of them are skilled high-steel workers.
- (2) St. Regis: The Iroquois (Mohawks) of St. Regis live partly in the province of Quebec, partly in the province of Ontario and partly in the State of New York. 1,477 Iroquois inhabit the Quebec segment of the reserve. The land was formerly the hunting ground of the Iroquois, who were its possessors at the time of the French regime in Canada. Additional land grants were made in 1908, 1913 and 1921.
- (3) Oka: Although a reservation located in the municipality of Doncaster, Montcalm county, measuring 18,500 acres, was granted to the Iroquois of Oka, in 1851, the 554 Iroquois, mixed with Algonquins and Nipissings, live in the town of Oka, on the north shore of Lac-des-Deux-Montagnes; however the land they occupy there is not vested in the Crown.

The <u>Hurons</u> are of the same tribal origin as the Iroquois. Having broken away from them, they established a Confederacy of four tribes near Lake Simcoe in Ontario, during the XVth century. In 1639, another Huron tribe joined the confederacy; in 1644, a group of Algonquins, seeking protection from the Iroquois, also joined them.

The Iroquois destroyed the Huron Confederacy in 1650, most of the population being killed or brought into captivity. The survivors fled on the Ile of Orléans, near Quebec. The Iroquois tried again to destroy them, killing 71 persons in 1656. The Hurons then took refuge near Quebec city, where, in 1693,

land was given to them on the site of Ancienne Lorette. (In 1736, the population was estimated at 300).

### Huron settlement:

(4) Lorette: 835 Hurons live at Lorette, in a 26 acre village. This land had been donated to them by the Jesuit missionaries on February 26, 1794. The boundaries were determined through a Court Order in 1887. Another 40 acres, located 3 miles from Lorette had been granted on March 7, 1742. In 1904, this land was sold. Further, in 1851, 9,600 acres had been granted to the Hurons, in Rochmont township, Portneuf county. This land was sold August 6, 1903. They are all sedentary and live like the neighbouring non-Indians.

### 2. The Algonquians

Two thirds of the Indian population of the province of Quebec belong to the Algonquian family, represented by the Abenaki and Maliseet, the Micmacs, the Montagnais-Naskapi, the Algonquian proper and the Cree. The Algonquian territory begins on the coast of Labrador to the East, ending at the foot of the Rockie Mountains, to the West.

There was never a confederacy of the Algonquian tribes, similar to that of the Iroquois. Their relations with the French were always friendly, even for the tribes living across the actual Canadian boundary, to the extent that a number of Algonquian tribes living in the present United States, sought refuge in Canada during the XVIIIth century.

Under the onslaught of the Iroquois, the Algonquian tribes suffered greatly. Although the Algonquians probably were the equals of the Iroquois in bravery, intelligence and physical stamina, they did not have the same determination, strength of character and spirit of organization. Tribal alliances were temporary and without cohesion.

# 1-The Abenaki and Maliseet

The Abenaki: This name, designated during the colonial period, a Confederation of Algonquian tribes living in the present State of Maine and on the shores of the Atlantic ocean. The main body of Abenakis moved into Canada under the influence of the missionaries,

where they fought the British until the end of the French regime. As the white population was continually encroaching on their lands, they withdrew at Bécancour and at Sillery. Later they exchanged Sillery for land located at St. François, near Pierreville.

There are two groups of Abenakis: 524, living at St. Francis and 27 at nearby Bécancour.

- (5) The St. Francis (Odanak) reserve measures 1,538 acres; these lands were formerly part of the seignories of Pierreville and St. François-du-Lac. They also had the use of a reserve of 8,900 acres, in Durham township, county of Drummond, which area was covered by informal leases, holders of which were allowed to commute by provincial Act of Parliament.
- (6) The Abenakis of Bécancour hold a 122 acre reserve, part of the former seignory of Bécancour, granted to them, April 30, 1708. In 1760 they sold all their land except their present holdings. A 2,722 acre reserve, located in the township of Coleraine, was granted to them in 1851, but it was sold in 1882.
- (7) The Maliseets: Their population is 88. They live on a 438 acre reserve, in the township of Whitworth, Temiscouata county. This land was purchased from the Department of Crown Lands of Quebec, in 1876. It replaced a 3,685 acre reserve, set apart in 1851, which was sold in 1869.

The Maliseets of Viger belong to the tribal group of the Abenaki. They were called by Champlain, the "Etchemins." Most of them now live in New Brunswick.

# 2-The Micmacs

The Micmacs called by the French "Souriquois," originate from the Maritime provinces. Allies of the French since the beginning of the colony, they remained faithful to them after 1713, when their country ceded to the British. (Their language is quite different to that of the neighbouring Abenakis).

There are three groups living at Restigouche, Maria and Gaspé.

(8) The reserve of Restigouche measures 8,869 acres; it is located at the mouth of Restigouche river in

Bonaventure county. It was set aside in 1851. Population: 872.

- (9) The reserve of Maria measures 416 acres; located at the mouth of Grand Cascapedia river (Maria township, county of Bonaventure), it is claimed by the Indians from times immemorial. Population 275.
- (10) 63 Micmacs live in the city of Gaspé, but no reserve has been set aside for them.

### 3-The Montagnais-Naskapi

This numerous group lives in the central part of Quebec, north of the St. Lawrence River, from the St. Maurice River to the Atlantic Ocean. Various dialects closely related to Cree are used by these tribes among which the Naskapi. Their languages is quite similar to the Western Cree.

Champlain met them on the Saguenay river in 1603. They were evangelized in 1650, but never had many contacts with the French colony. While they fought the Eskimos of Ungava to the North, their principal enemies were the Iroquois who drove them often far inland. Once peace was made between French and Iroquois, they returned to their former territory. They are now located on the North shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, from Bersimis to St. Augustine, as well as at Pointe-Bleue and on the upper St. Maurice River.

- (11) <u>Pointe-Bleue</u>: The reserve of 3,779 acres is located on the West shore of Lake St. John. The original reserve granted to them in 1851 measured 23,000 acres. With the exception of the present reserve, the land has been surrendered. 50% of the 1045 Indians live in the village of Pointe-Bleue; the others are nomadic, subsisting from trapping and hunting. A number of them work in lumber camps.
- (12) Bersimis: 985 of them live in the village of Betsiamits, on a 63,100 acre reserve, located at the mouth of the Bersimis river, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River.
- (13) Escoumains: A group of 78 lives at Escoumains, on a reserve bought for them in 1852, by the Indian Affairs Department. The 97 acre reserve is located at the mouth of the Escoumains river.

- (14) Seven-Islands: The actual reserve at Seven-Islands measures 261 acres; it was granted to the Indians by an Order-in-Council, in 1907. An additional 88 acres was granted in 1925. The Seven-Islands Montagnais are gradually being settled in a village (P.O. Malietonam). A large number of them are still nomadic, while others have seasonal work among the non-Indian.
- (15) Mingan: No reserve has been set aside for these 144 Indians who live at the mouth of the Mingan river. They are nomadic, coming to their village during the Summer months.
- (16) <u>Natashquan</u>: No reserve has been set aside for this group of 158 Indians, living during the Summer months at the mouth of the Natashquan river. They are all nomadic.
- (17) Romaine: This group of 190 lives near the village of Gethsemani. They are also nomadic.
- (18) St. Augustine: No reserve set aside for these 86 Indians; in the Summer they congregate near the village of St. Augustine, on the north shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

### The Naskapi of Quebec:

(19) Fort Chimo: This group of 191 Naskapi lives in the Winter months at Fort Mackenzie, in the district of Ungava. During the Summer they camp at Fort Chimo. They are all nomadic, living of fishing, trapping and hunting.

# The Naskapi of the Labrador Coast:

There are two Indian settlements on the Labrador coast, the one located at North West River, (20), with a population of 135; the other is at Davis Inlet, (21), with a population of 117.

These Indians live of trapping, hunting and fishing. They do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Indian Act and they are considered as full-fledged citizens of Canada.

# 4-The Algonquin (proper)

The Algonquins proper are now located in the

Maniwaki, (River Desert and Barrière), Témiscaming and Abitibi Agencies.

In the Témiscaming Agency they are mixed with Ontario Ojibways. In the Abitibi Agency they are found at Manoan, at Weymontaching (where they form 35% of the population) and at Obedjiwan (where they number 50% of the population.) They are mixed with James Bay Crees and Ojibways from Ontario, at La Sarre, La Reine, Amos and Senneterre; the Algonquins of this region belong to the province of Ontario, where their reserve is located (no. 70) and they are "treaty Indians" (Treaty No. 9).

- (22) River Desert (Maniwaki). This is one of the most important Algonquin group whose 42,000 acre reserve is located at the confluence of the Desert river with the Gatineau river; that reserve was set apart for them in 1851; 2,700 acres have been surrendered at various times, until 1917. The 742 River Desert Indians are sedentary, being trappers and hunters only during the proper seasons.
- (23) <u>Barrière</u> (Rapid Lake). This group of 151 is nomadic, their Summer camp is located on Rapid Lake, Pontiac county.
- (24) Manoan. The reserve measures 1,906 acres; it was granted to the Indians by a provincial Order-in-Council, in August 1906. It is located on the Lake Kempt, Maskinongé county. The 284 Manoan Indians are partly sedentary while others work in lumber camps.
- (25) Obedjiwan. A 3,500 acre reserve located on the north shores of the Gouin Réservoir, 45 miles north of Oskalaneo, was granted them in 1942. The 349 population is 50% Algonquin.
- (26) Témiscaming. The Témiscaming Indians (pop. 314) are 2/3 sedentary and 1/3 trappers and hunters; the main group lives on the Témiscaming reserve, a 14,660 acre area, located on Témiscaming Lake, (Notre-Dame du Nord). This reserve was granted in 1851, measuring 38,400 acres; 23,740 acres were surrendered at different dates. Other groups of Algonquins of the Témiscaming Agency are located at Long Point, (27), and Kippewa (28).
- (29) The <u>Lac Simon</u> band, (Abitibi Agency), numbering 173, lives in the area of the lake of the same name, in Rouyn county. These Algonquins are trappers and hunters

living mostly at Senneterre.

(30) The Lac Victoria band numbers 140, lives in the area of the lake of the same name, in Pontiac county. They are trappers and hunters, (Abitibi Agency).

### 5-The Cree

This important Algonquian tribe lives in an area from Lake Mistassini (Quebec) and Fort Vermilion in northern Alberta. To the North it occupies lands on the East and West coasts of James Bay as well as on the South coast of Hudson Bay. They are found mainly in the James Bay Agency, but also in the Abitibi Agency, mixed with Algonquins and Montagnais, at the following points:

(31) Weymontaching: The band is located on a 7,400 acre reserve located on the north shore of the St. Maurice river, opposite the mouth of Manoan river, Champlain county. The land was ceded to them in 1851. A second reserve, measuring 380 acres also belongs to them. It is located on the Northshore of the St. Maurice river, opposite Lake Coucoucache. Population is 208. The Têtes-de-Boule of Weymontaching (Sanmaur) are 50% Cree; their former territory included the upper St. Maurice, Gatineau and Ottawa rivers. They were visited as early as 1672 by the missionaries who called them "Maskegones." Apparently, these Maskegones broke away from the Ojibways early in the 18th century.

Both the Obedjiwan and Weymontaching Indians lead a nomadic life, trapping, hunting and working in lumber camps.

- (32) <u>Mistassini</u>: This large band of 669 lives on the South East shores of the Lake Mistassini. They are 2/3 Cree and 1/3 Montagnais. Most of them are nomadic, while nearly 150 men are working in lumber camps. In Winter they trade their furs at Neoskweskau.
- (33) Waswanipi: This band of 333 is almost entirely of Cree origin. It lives on the north shore of the lake of the same name and is nomadic.

The James Bay Agency Cree, numbering over 2,100 are successful trappers and hunters, enjoying the use of the extensive beaver reserves of Nottaway River, Rupert's House, Old Factory and Fort George. A number of stragglers from Rupert's House now spend most of the

year in the settled districts of Abitibi, hunting, trapping and seasonal work in lumber camps.

The main bands are:

- (34)Rupert's House: 535 and Nemaska (Nemiscau): 118:
- Eastmain: 175 and Old Factory: 319;

Fort George and Kanoapscow: 784;

(35) (36) (37) Great Whale River and Richmond Gulf: 182.

### NOTES ON THE INDIAN POPULATION OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

The 1954 census of the Indian Affairs Branch shows a total Indian population of 17,670. Enumerated in the census are only the Indians who are under the jurisdiction of the Indian Affairs Branch, Department of Citizenship and Immigration. All these Indians are subject to the provisions of the Indian Act. (Superintendent of Agencies Office - Quebec City, P.Q.)

Here is the breakdown of the Indian population of the province, by Agencies:

Abitibi - 2363 (Agency Office: Amos, P.Q.) Abitibi (Quebec) 207 - Algonquin - Cree Grand Lac Victoria 140 Algonquin Lac Simon 173 Manoan 284 "
Mistassini 669 2/3 Croe, 1/3 Montagnais. (Includes Neoskweskau) Obedjiwan 349 - 1/2 Algonquin, 1/4 Cree, 1/4 Montagnais Waswanipi 333 - Cree Weymontaching 203 - 1/2 Cree, 1/3 Algonquin, others Montagnais.

Bersimis - 1063 (Agency Office: Betsiamites, P.Q.) Montagnais of Bersimic 985 Montagnais of Escoumains 78

Caughnawaga - 3907 (Agency Office: Caughnawaga, P.Q.) Iroquois of Caughnawaga 3354 Iroquois of Oka 553

James Bay - 2113 - all Cras (Agency Office: Moose Factory, Ont.)
Eastmain 175

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Old Factory 319
Fort George 784 (includes Kanoapscow)
Great Whale River 182 (includes Richmond Gulf)
Nemaska 118
Rupert's House 535
                         same band
Lorette - 800 (Agency Office: Lorette, (Village
Huron), P.Q.)
Hurons of Lorette 800
Maniwaki - 893 - all Algonquin (Agency Office: Maniwaki, P.Q.)
Barrière Lake 151
River Desert 742
Pierreville - 551 (Agency Office: Pierreville, P.Q.)
Abenakis of St. Francis 524
Abenakis of Bécancour 27
Pointe-Bleue - 1045 - Montagnais (Agency Office,
Pointe-Bleue, P.Q.)
Restigouche - 1210 - all Micmacs (Agency Office,
Restigouche, P.Q.)
Gaspé 63
Maria 275
Restigouche 872
Seven Islands - 965 - all Montagnais (Agency Office, Sept-Iles, P.Q.)
Mingan 144
Sept-Iles 821
St. Augustine - 434 - all Montagnais (Agency Office, St. Augustine, P.Q.)
St. Augustine 86 - Romaine 190
Natashquan 158
St. Regis (Quebec) 1477 - Iroquois (Agency Office, Cornwall, Ont.)
Temiskaming - 570 - all Algonquin (Agency Office: Notre-Dame du Nord, P.Q.)
Argonaut 6 (& 40 non-treaty Indians)
Brennan Lake 35
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Hunter's Point 9 ) live at Kippewa

Kippewa 38

Long Point 142 (Winneway band: Lac Simard)
Temiskaming 314 (Notre-Dame du Nord)
Wolf Lake 26 (live at Hunter's Point and Kippewa)

<u>Viger</u> - 88 (Tobique Agency, N.B.) all Maliseets.

Fort Chimo - 191 - Naskapi (Fort Mackenzie) (Quebec City)

Labrador Coast (1) - 252 - all Naskapi North west River 135 Davis Inlet 117

# II - ESKIMOS OF QUEBEC, THE BELCHER ISLANDS AND OF LABRADOR

The total Eskimo population living on the coast line of the province of Quebec, from Fort George in James Bay to George River in Ungava Bay, including the inhabitants of the Belcher Islands, and of Port Burwell, as well as of the Eskimo settlements on the coast of Labrador, totals 2,872, of which 1,939 live in the Ungava peninsula; 185, on the Belcher Islands, and 747 on the coast of Labrador.

They have temporary camps on the Sleepers, (where there are 10 residents from Port Harrison), the Ottawa, Smith, Mansell, Digges, Nottingham, Charles and Akpatok islands, which are adjacent to the continent, but which belong territorially to the Keewatin district, and are administered by the Department of Northern Affairs.

All the Eskimo population of Northern Quebec and its adjacent islands is under the jurisdiction of the Northern Affairs Department, while the Eskimos of the Labrador coast, are treated as full fledged citizens of Canada, under the jurisdiction of the province of Newfoundland.

The <u>Eastern Eskimo</u> can be subdivided into 3 main groups, the Itivimiut, the Tahagmiut and the Suhinimiut.

1. The Itivimiut. (People living on the "far side").

They live generally on the East coast of James and of Hudson Bay. The Killoklakmiut band is located at Fort George (pop. 34), (1), Great Whale River (Unguniarvik,

pop. 142), (2), Richmond Gulf, (pop. 49) (3), as well as a few at Cape Jones and on Cape Hope Island, (west of Old Factory). The Belcher Islands Eskimos (4) are called Kigiktagmiut; their population is 185, which includes 20 persons who moved in recently from Port Harrison, and 4 from Great Whale. (See Desgoffe's "The Belcher Islands Eskimo," 1955, Ottawa).

The Inugdjuak band, numbering 455, lives at Port Harrison (5); the Itiokmiut band lives at Povungnituk (Puvernitok) (6), (pop. 138), and at Cape Smith (Kekertauyak) (7), (pop. 127).

2. The Tahagmiut. (People living towards the sunset).

They live on the shore of Hudson Strait. The Nuvugmiut, (pop. 103) live at Ivuyivik (8); they have a Summer camp at Wolstenhome (Kangerdlukadlar). The Sedlimiut, numbering 162, live at Sugluk and Sugluk East; (9); the Okomikmiut (people of the Wind) pop. 78, live at Wakeham Bay (Kandlerdludjuak) (10); the Ungavamiut, numbering 209, live at Koartak (Diana Bay) and Payne Bay (Kangerdluk) (11); the Koksoagmiut, numbering 297, lives at Leaf Bay (Tasseuyak) and Fort Chimo (12).

3. The Suhinimiut. (People of the sunrise).

They live from George River, on Ungara Bay, and as far south as Hamilton Inlet on the Labrador Coast.

The Kilinmiut (Kandlidlualuashuamiut), pop. 125, live in the George River area (Kangerdlualugdjuak) (13); 21 members of that band live on Kidlinerk Island, Port Burwell, N.W.T. (14).

On the coast of Labrador, from North to South, we find the Kongithlushamiut, numbering 182, at Hebron (15); the Ikgamiut, numbering 165, at Okkak and Nutak (16); the Nunengumiut, numbering 175, at Nain (17), the Ayitimiut, numbering 116, at Hopedale (18); the Aivitimiut, numbering 98, at Makkovik (19) and 56 at Hamilton Inlet (Rigolet) (20).

Thirteen Aivitimiut, live at North West River (21); there are two Eskimos living at Cartwright, one at Davis Inlet, and one at Merriefield Bay.

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