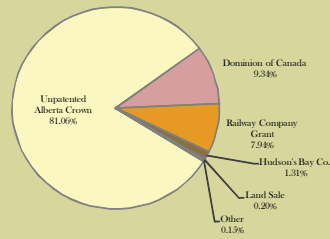


ALBERTA HISTORIC MINERAL OWNERSHIP

The ownership of property in Alberta can be divided into surface and mineral rights. The ownership of mineral rights may be for one specific mineral, several specified minerals or all minerals (except gold and silver).

Alberta Crown owned mineral rights covered approximately 81% of Alberta. The remaining 19% were freehold rights owned by private individuals and companies, or were minerals owned by the Federal Government of Canada (such as national parks and Indian reserves). The map depicts the first recorded mineral title holders.



1870

In 1870 the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) surrendered all its territorial rights in Rupert's Land to Canada and was granted 1/20 of the land surveyed and settled during the next fifty years in the "Fertile Belt."

This worked out to one and three quarter sections in each township not divisible by five and two sections in each township divisible by five, accounting for the pattern on the map.



HBC Farm Lands advertisement, 1870.

1872

Under the Dominion Lands Act (1872), individuals would acquire ownership (both surface and mineral rights) to their homesteads by occupying and performing improvements to the land for a period of three years.

It wasn't until 1887 that Canada made the decision to reserve minerals under the name of the Crown of Canada in homesteads and other sales of land.



Advertisement to attract settlers.

1876

The Indian Act describes the Indian Reserve as a "tract of land, the legal title to which is vested in Her Majesty, that has been set apart by Her Majesty for the use and benefit of a band."

The First Nations owned the mineral rights corporately. Indian Oil and Gas Canada administers the leasing of oil and gas on behalf of the individual.



Siksika First Nations.

1881

Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) was founded in 1881. The Dominion of Canada subsidized the construction of the transcontinental railway by granting CPR land "in alternate sections of 640 acres (256 ha) each...on each side of the railway." As well as lands south of the 57th parallel.



The last spike of the railway was driven in Craig-Bechar, B.C. (1885)

1905

The Province of Alberta was founded in 1905. However, the Dominion of Canada maintained control of all Alberta's natural resources and public lands.



The provincial motto, *Faith et Liberté*, "Faith and Liberty."

1917

The Soldier Settlement Board (SSB) came into being in 1917 with the mandate to provide land for returning war veterans. The SSB granted veterans up to 320 acres (128 ha.) of land. However, the mineral rights were reserved in SSB name and administered by the Government of Canada, until the NRTA (1930).



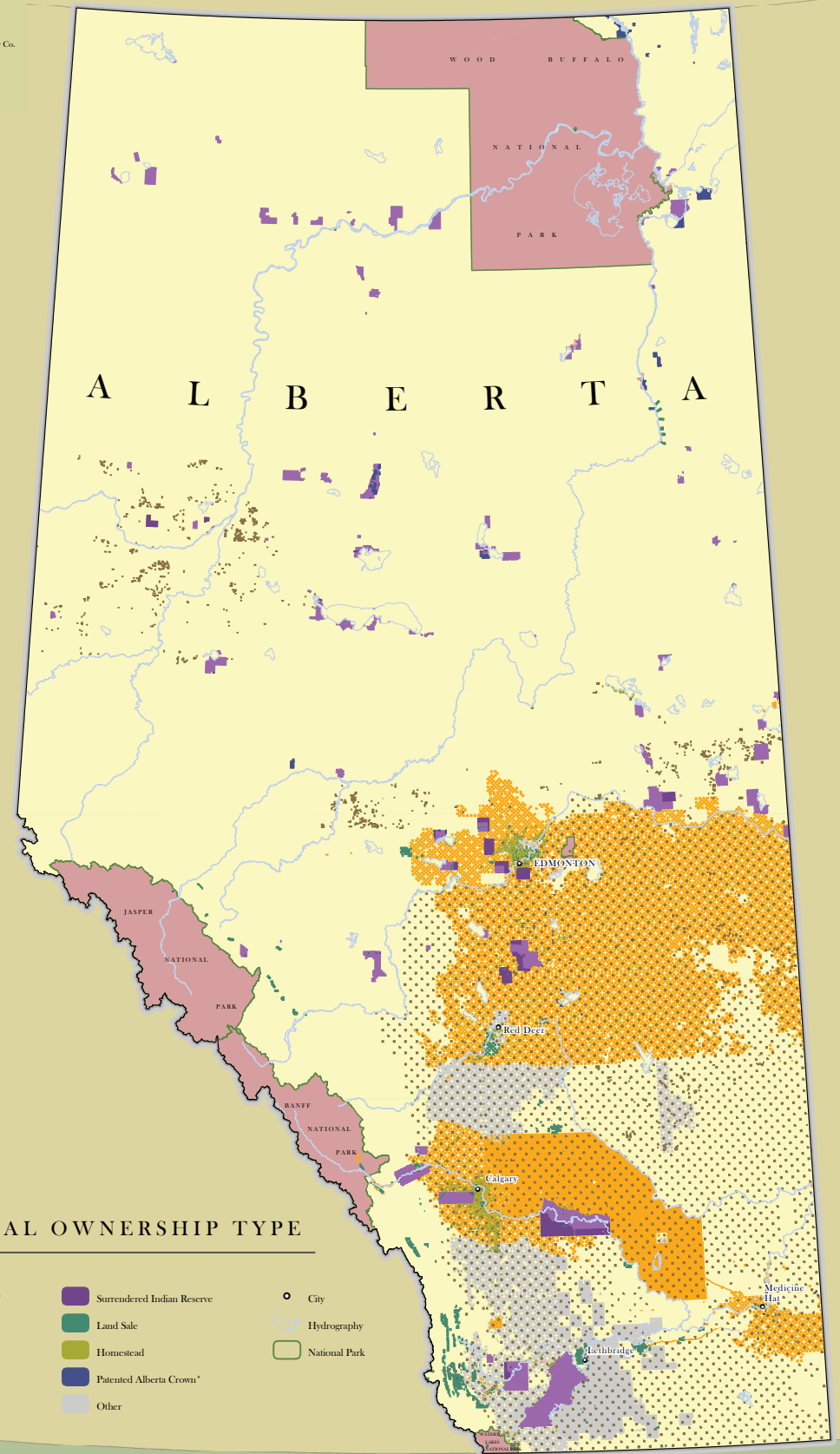
An advertisement for Eaton's Farm Buildings and Equipment Catalogue, 1919-20.

1930

Natural Resources Transfer Agreement
MAY 30 1930

Alberta acquired 53.7 million hectares of mineral rights in 1930. By virtue of the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement (NRTA), mineral rights in Alberta controlled by the Dominion of Canada were transferred to the Alberta Government.

...Whereas it is desirable that the Province should be placed in a position of equality with the other provinces of Confederation with respect to the administration and control of its natural resources as from its entrance into Confederation in 1905; ...The interest of the Crown in all Crown lands, mines, minerals (precious and base) and royalties derived therefrom within the Province...shall, from and after the coming into force of this agreement and subject as therein otherwise provided, belong to the Province; ...The said lands, mines, minerals and royalties shall be administered by the Province for the purposes thereof;



MINERAL OWNERSHIP TYPE

- Unpatented Alberta Crown*
- Dominion of Canada
- Railway Company Grant
- Hudson's Bay Co.
- Indian Reserve
- Surrendered Indian Reserve
- Land Sale
- Homestead
- Patented Alberta Crown*
- Other
- City
- Hydrography
- National Park

* Unpatented Alberta Crown lands that have been granted or sold by the Crown through or application for grant. ** Patented Alberta Crown lands that have been granted by the Crown.

Source: Natural Resources Canada, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. For more information on the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, visit the website: www.nrtatransfer.ca. For more information on the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, visit the website: www.nrtatransfer.ca. For more information on the Natural Resources Transfer Agreement, visit the website: www.nrtatransfer.ca.

Alberta