Human Activities

Products of the fur trade, especially promoted by the importance of Europe to products from Bison. The killing of thousands of bison each year by European settlers led to the virtual elimination of free-roaming bison by the 1880s.

Reconciliation of reconciliation and land scape has gently increased since 1870 when Hudson Bay company. Canada encouraged land development to protect it against potential US invasion. By 1916, Canada was leading the world in wheat exports. Twenty-five years later, 60% of the Prairies Ecozone was under cultivation and the landscape resembled a checkerboard. In 1936, farmers represented 50% of the population. Today that number has fallen to less than 10%. The proportion of the urban population is 81% compared with 76% for all of Canada, a remarkable figure given that agricultural activities dominate the landscape of this ecozone. In 1991, the total population of the Prairies Ecozone was approximately 3.8 million, an increase of 25% since 1971. The economic structure of the ecozone reflects a dependence on the primary industries of agriculture, mining, and gas and oil extraction. The Prairie economy is now shifting from primary and secondary industies toward service-based sectors. The primary and secondary industries are geared mainly at processing food, wood, metals, chemicals, and petrochemicals. In the 1980s, agriculture generated about $5 billion, or 25% of all exports from the region.