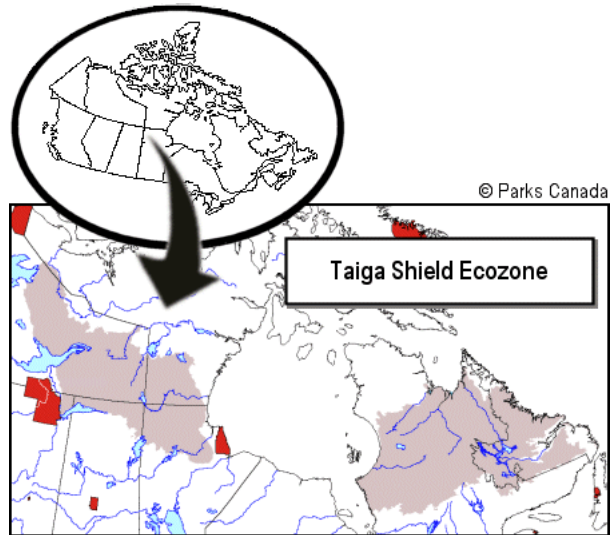




Taiga Shield Ecozone

The Taiga Shield Ecozone lies on either side of Hudson Bay. The eastern segment includes the central part of Quebec and Labrador. The western segment includes portions of northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, a portion of southern Nunavut, and the south-central area of the Northwest Territories.

The climate is subarctic continental. Precipitation is low (from 175 mm to 200 mm). The mean daily January temperature ranges from -17.5°C to -27.5°C , with the mean daily July temperatures ranging from 7.5°C to 17.5°C .



Along the northern end of this ecozone, the poleward limits of tree growth are reached. The forest stands are open and form lichen woodlands which merge into areas of open arctic tundra. The central portion contains relatively unproductive and commonly stunted coniferous and deciduous stands, including open, stunted black spruce, accompanied by alders, willows and tamarack in the fens and bogs, and open, mixedwood associations of white spruce, balsam fir and trembling aspen.

Characteristic mammals of the Taiga Shield Ecozone include barrenground and some woodland caribou, moose, wolf, snowshoe hare, arctic fox, black and grizzly bears and lynx.

Representative birds include arctic and red-throated loons, northern phalarope, tree sparrow and grey-cheeked thrush.

In the maritime environment, representative species include walrus and bearded, harbour and ringed seals.

No national parks exist yet in this ecozone.

Reference: Lands Directorate, *Terrestrial Ecozones Of Canada*, Ecological Land Classification No. 19, 1986, p. 26.