

# CANADA'S BOREAL FOREST



- Canada's boreal forest stretches 10,000 continuous km across Canada's breadth.
- It provides important homes for many creatures that live in its vast canopy, lakes and wetlands.
  - The bison (North America's largest land mammal) wanders through the northern boreal forest.
  - The weasel (the world's smallest carnivore) lives in this region's underground.
  - The largest population of woodland caribou, black bears, and wolves roam here.
  - Billions of birds such as warblers, thrushes, waterfowl, and shorebirds come to this region to court, breed, and raise their young.
- The northern climate of the Canadian boreal forest has cold soils, slow decomposition of organic matter, low nutrient levels and slow tree growth. Trees that grow there are white spruce, black spruce, with other softwood (coniferous) and hardwood (deciduous) species.
- The Canadian boreal forest looks rugged and the vegetation looks tranquil and untouched but forest harvesting, hydropower development, mineral exploration, and mining have drastically altered the forest landscape. Sound management is a must to ensure conservation efforts are practiced.