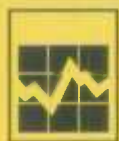


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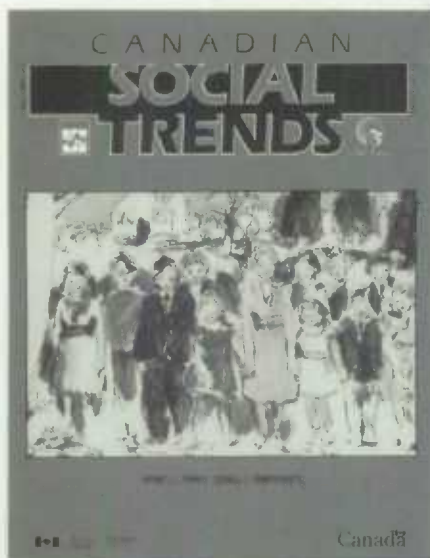
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Cover: Goodbye to a teacher (1953) watercolour over graphite on wove paper 38.1 x 55.9 cm. Collection: National Gallery of Canada.

#### About the Artist:

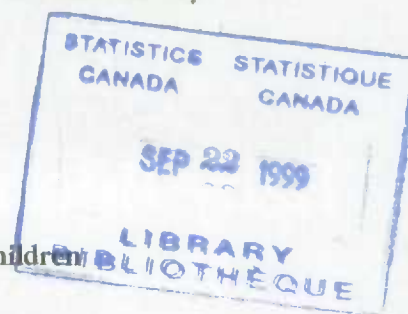
**David B. Milne** (1882 – 1953) was born near Paisley, Bruce County in Ontario. He started drawing before attending kindergarten, graduated at Paisley's high school and became a country teacher. After several years, he went to New York where he studied painting under George Bridgman and Frank V. Dumond. His work was noticed by James Clarke, who became his patron and closest friend. In 1913, five of his paintings were chosen for the exhibition in the Sixty-ninth Regiment Armory, New York City. He returned to Toronto in 1918 where he enlisted in the Canadian Army. He became a war artist and travelled in England, France and Belgium where he produced seventy paintings. Milne's style rapidly crystallized into a highly individual idiom which remained almost unchanged long after the time he was a war artist. After returning home in 1919, he lived in New York State and several places in Ontario, among them Lake Temagami, Muskoka and West Haliburton.



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# Population Aging

## Baby Boomers Into the 21st Century

by Craig McKie

*Craig McKie is a former Editor-in-Chief of Canadian Social Trends quarterly. From the first issue in 1986 through to 1992, Dr. McKie contributed his ideas, convictions, and enthusiasm to this journal. He is continuing to report on Canadian society as a Contributing Editor, as well as through the series of Canadian Social Trends seminars.*

**C**anada's population characteristics are changing rapidly and will continue to do so well into the future. The median age is higher than ever before and Canadians are becoming increasingly concentrated in older age groups. Because of this aging pattern, Canada has already changed from a child-centred society to one focused on the needs, health concerns and spending priorities of baby boomers, the middle-aged majority.



Baby boomers will continue to be the largest cohort of the population until about the middle of the next century. As they get older, baby boomers will exert additional pressures on social institutions, whose services are determined, to a large extent, by the age of the public they serve.

**Median age rising** The median age of the population – the point at which half the population is below that age and half above – is much higher now than at the beginning of the century. In 1992, the median age of Canadians was 33.8 years, compared with 23.9 years in 1921. The only period of decline in median age over this time was between 1952 and 1966, when it dropped from 27.7 years to a postwar low of 25.4 years. Since 1970, however, the median age has climbed sharply and, at current low birthrates and moderate net migration levels, this trend is expected to continue well into the next decade.

In 1992, the median age of women (34.6 years) was 1.7 years higher than that of men (32.9 years). For the first half of the century, however, the median age of women had been lower than that of men. This was due to relatively high mortality rates among young women, who often died during childbirth. In 1921, the median age of women was 23.2 years, compared with 24.7 years for men. In 1953, the median ages of men and women were equal (27.6 years). By 1968, the median age of women had surpassed

that of men by one year. Since then, the gap has been growing.

**Low fertility rate contributes to rising median** Many factors have contributed to the rising median age in Canada. Medical and technological advances have all but eliminated most infectious diseases responsible for high mortality rates among children earlier in the century. In addition, health care has improved, in general, and has become more accessible to the public.

During the past two decades, however, one of the major factors contributing to the increase in the median age has been a low fertility rate among women. In 1970, the year that Canada's median age started climbing sharply again, women's total fertility rate (the average number of children born to a woman in her lifetime) fell below replacement level. (The replacement level is the fertility rate necessary to maintain the current size of the population without immigration.) For the past 22 years, the fertility rate has remained below replacement level (2.1), averaging about 1.7 births per woman of child-bearing age. Low fertility rates are likely to continue, despite a modest echo of the baby boom during the late 1980s and early 1990s as baby boomers had their own children. Between 1988 and 1992, the annual number of births was about 35,000 above the previous 10-year average. It is not likely that this mini-boom will last much longer: a similar mini-boom

occurred in the United States, but has already passed its peak.

### Provincial median ages converging

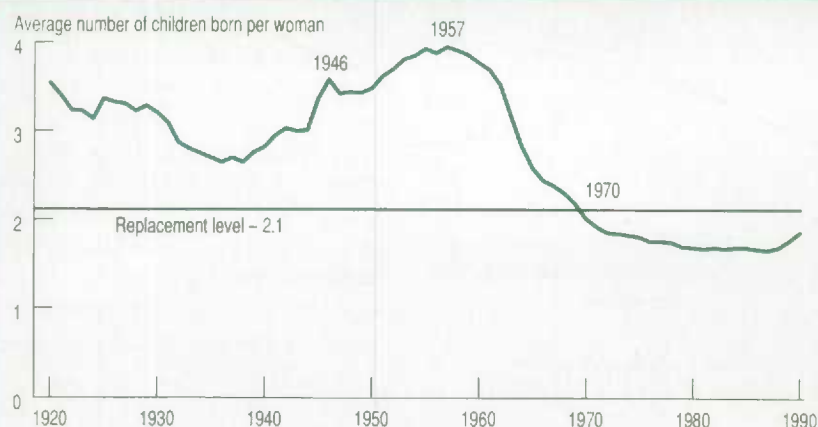
While all provincial populations are aging, there are differences in the speed of the change and in the current provincial median ages. These differences are, in large part, the legacy of past immigration and migration trends, as well as lifestyle, environmental and health care experiences. During the past 22 years, however, the lowest and highest provincial median ages have converged. By 1992, the gap had fallen to 4.0 years from 7.4 years in 1970.

Newfoundland residents had the lowest median age of any province in 1992 (31.0 years). The median was also relatively low in Alberta, at 31.7 years. Provinces with the highest median ages were British Columbia (35.0 years) and Quebec (34.5 years).

Twenty-two years earlier, Newfoundland also had the lowest median age (20.4 years), and British Columbia, the highest (27.8 years). Between 1970 and 1992, however, the provincial median ages increased by varying amounts. Without exception, increases were relatively high in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec compared to Ontario and the Western provinces. For example, over the 22 years, Newfoundland's median age rose almost 11 years, the largest provincial increase. The median age climbed by 10 years in New

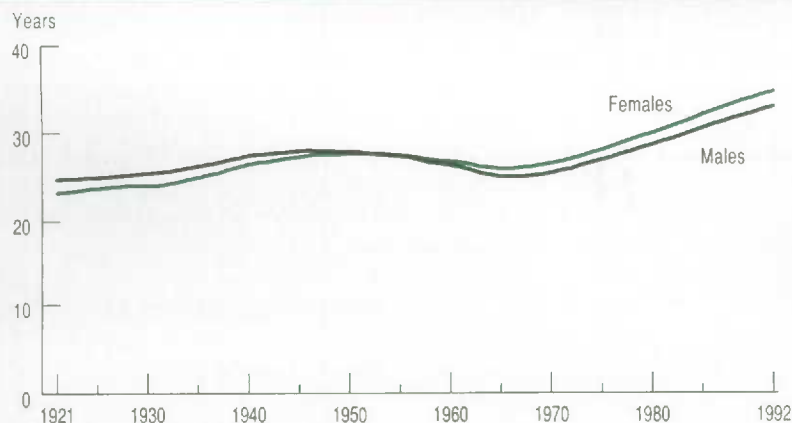
Total fertility rate, 1920 to 1990

CST



### Median age, by sex, 1921 to 1992

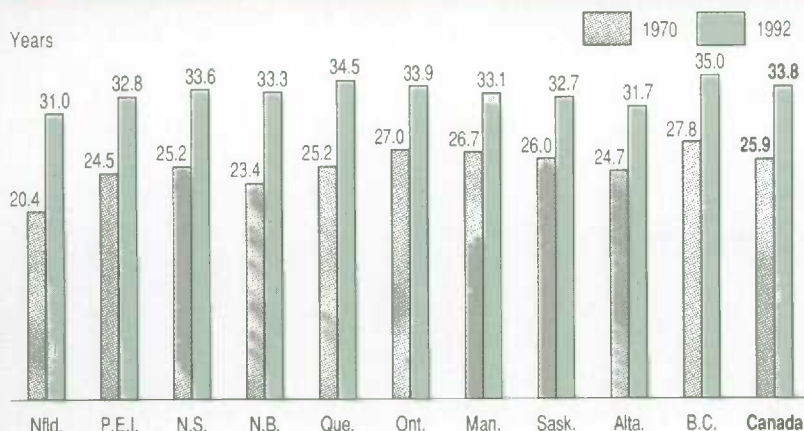
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Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM D892584, D892585.

### Median age, by province, 1970 and 1992

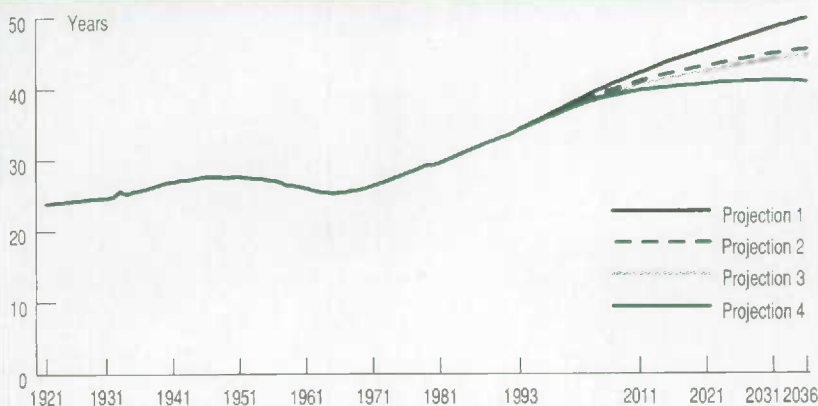
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Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, D892901-D895765.

### Median age, 1921 to 1992 with projections to 2036<sup>1</sup>

CST



<sup>1</sup>Population projections are based on 1988 population estimates.  
Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, unpublished data.

Brunswick and by just over 8 years in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. In comparison, the median age in Manitoba increased 6.4 years and the median ages in the other three Western provinces rose about 7 years.

In Ontario, the median age of the population rose 6.9 years from 1970 to 1992, a reflection, in part, of high immigration levels. Quebec's median age rose sharply from 1970 to 1992 (9.3 years), mainly because of a very rapid reduction in the birthrate in that province. Until the mid-1980s, Quebec's median age always had been lower than Ontario's. By 1987 however, the median age of Quebec residents exceeded that of Ontario residents. In just 22 years, Quebec's median age went to 6 months higher than Ontario's from about 2 years lower.

**Median age will get even higher** All current Statistics Canada's population projections suggest a continuation of the rapid aging process. According to projection 1, the median age of the population will continue to rise sharply and will reach 49.9 years in 2036. Using projection 4, on the other hand, the trend will level off in 2011 and the median age will be only 41.0 in 2036.

According to all projections, women's median age will continue to be higher than men's, a reflection of women's higher life expectancy. In addition, the gap between women's and men's median ages will widen. In projection 1, the median age of women in 2036 is 52.1 years, compared with 47.8 years for men (a gap of 4.3 years, compared with 1.7 years in 1992). In projection 4, the median age for women is 43.3, whereas for men, it is 38.8.

**Aging of the baby boomers** The process of aging, and the longer life expectancy of women compared to men, has already produced dramatic changes in the age and gender distribution of the Canadian population. The number of working-age people as a proportion of the total population in particular, has almost reached an historic high. Unprecedented growth in the number of seniors, however, is projected to occur in the future.

In 1991, of the total population of about 27 million, 21% were under age 15, 48% were aged 15-44, 20% were aged 45-64 and 12% were seniors aged 65 and over.



This contrasts sharply with the 1961 distribution. That year, 34% of the population were children under age 15, while just 8% were seniors.

Furthermore, according to projection 3, modified to include the most recent data (a 1991 total fertility rate of 1.84, a 1992 immigration level of 250,000 and emigration of 86,886), the age distribution will continue to change dramatically. In 2036, 16% of the population will be under age 15 and 37% will be aged 15-44. In contrast, older people of working age (45-64) will account for 24% of the population by 2036, while those aged 65 and over will make up 22%.

The number of seniors is projected to increase much more rapidly than the number of younger people. Between 1992 and 2036, the number of children under age 15 and the number of young working-age people (15-44) will remain about the same (6.4 million and 14.3 million). The number of older people of working age (45-64), however, will increase to 9.4 million. As a result, the working-age population (aged 15-64) is

expected to increase 28% between 1992 and 2036. This increase is small compared with expected growth in the senior population (those aged 65 and over). From 1992 to 2036, the number of seniors will increase 168% to 8.7 million. Among people aged 90 and over, the growth rate

will be even faster. Between 1992 and 2036, their numbers are projected to multiply almost five times to 480,000 (362,000 women and 118,000 men).

#### Implications of the changing distribution

As the baby-boom generation ages and

#### Median age, by sex and province, 1970 and 1992

	Males		Females	
	1970	1992	1970	1992
Newfoundland	20.5	30.5	20.4	31.5
Prince Edward Island	24.2	31.8	24.9	33.8
Nova Scotia	24.7	32.5	25.8	34.5
New Brunswick	22.9	32.3	24.0	34.2
Quebec	24.6	33.4	25.8	35.5
Ontario	26.4	32.9	27.7	34.8
Manitoba	26.1	32.0	27.3	34.2
Saskatchewan	25.8	32.0	26.2	33.5
Alberta	24.7	31.2	24.6	32.1
British Columbia	27.4	34.3	28.3	35.6
<b>Canada</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>32.9</b>	<b>26.5</b>	<b>34.6</b>

Source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM, D892584 and D892901-D895765.

### CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS BACKGROUNDER

**Population projections** Statistics Canada's population projections provide possible scenarios of future age and gender distributions. Four scenarios, projecting varying and plausible fertility, immigration, emigration and death rates to the year 2036, are routinely calculated. The most recent projections are based on 1990 age and gender characteristics of Canadian society.

Statistics Canada's population projections to 2036 are based on four sets of assumptions. They are as follows:

- **Projection 1** – T.F.R.(total fertility rate) of 1.2 by 2011; annual immigration of 140,000 (reached by 1991-92); annual emigration of 74,000 by 2011
- **Projection 2** – T.F.R. of 1.7 by 2011; annual immigration of 140,000 (reached by 1991-92); annual emigration of 76,000 by 2011
- **Projection 3** – T.F.R. of 1.7 by 2011; annual immigration of 200,000 (reached by 1994-95); annual emigration of 80,000 by 2011

- **Projection 4** – T.F.R. of 2.1 by 2011; annual immigration of 200,000 (reached by 1994-95); annual emigration of 81,000 by 2011

When projecting population totals from a 1990 base to the year 2036, wide variation occurs depending on the fertility and immigration rates assumed. Using projection 4, the population rises to over 37 million in 2036 from the present level of about 27 million. On the other hand, using projection 3, the ultimate population size is about 34 million. These projections illustrate how responsive population totals are to immigration levels. Emigration from Canada could have a greater influence on population counts if annual levels rise. During the late 1980s and early 1990s, about 40,000 people emigrated from Canada. In 1978, about 64,000 people emigrated from Canada, and during some years in the 1960s, over 100,000 people emigrated, mainly to the United States.

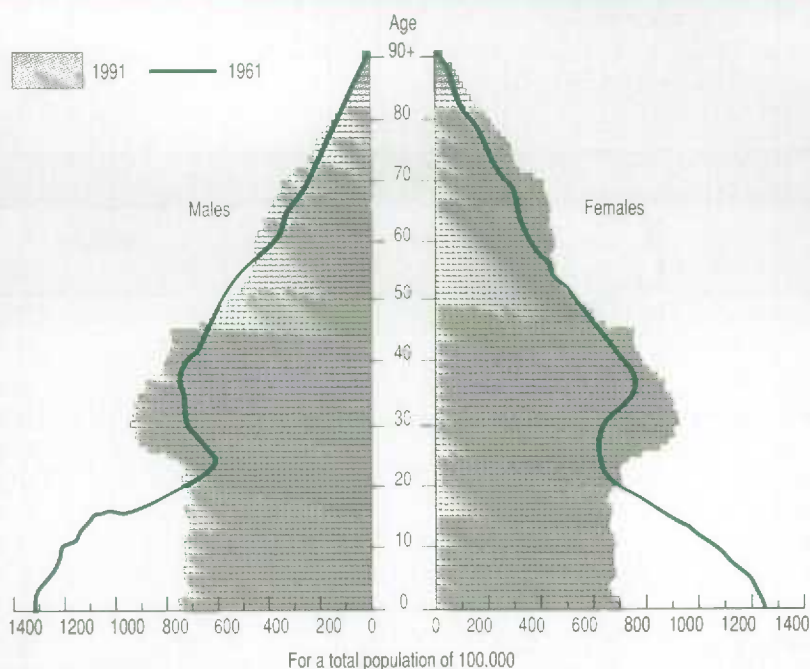
#### Population impact of immigrants

New immigrants to Canada have had a greater impact on population counts since 1970, when the birth rate fell below replacement level, than in the past. In addition, in recent years, the number of immigrants has risen as the government raised annual targets. For 1991, total immigration to Canada amounted to 224,600 people.

Since the mid-1980s, new immigrants to Canada have been making up a rising share of the total population increase. By 1991, the ratio of net migrants (immigrants minus emigrants) to net natural increase (births minus deaths in the resident population) was 0.87, reflecting the rapidly swelling immigration stream. This contrasts sharply with a ratio of only 0.20 in 1985. In other words, for every 100 babies added to Canada's population from net natural increase, net migration was 87 in 1991, compared with only 20 in 1985.

## Population distribution, by age and sex, 1961 and 1991

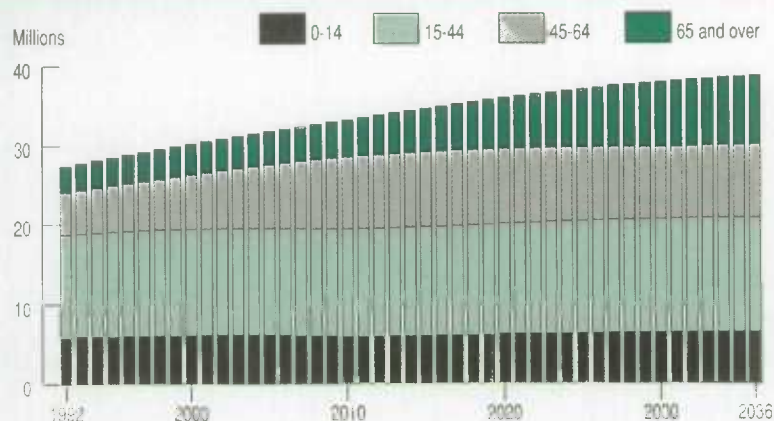
CST



Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division.

## Projected population, by age group, 1992 to 2036

CST



Source: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, unpublished data, projection 3 modified to use T.F.R. of 1.84, annual immigration of 250,000, annual emigration of 86,886.

the size of the population of young people remains constant or declines, many aspects of our society and economy will change. The needs and priorities of the dominant age group will likely shift the focus of public policy, alter the composition of the labour force, and change the nature of privately and publicly provided goods and services.

Pension plans will likely be more stressed in the future because a large number of baby boomers will reach retirement age at about the same time. By 2010, the oldest baby boomers will have reached age 65, the conventional age of retirement. Unlike members of earlier generations, both men and women of the baby-boom generation

have high labour force participation rates. Consequently, by the time they retire, many will have large public pension plan entitlements, as well as employment pensions and Registered Retirement Savings Plans. Pressure on pension plans will be further exacerbated by a decline or stagnation in the number of contributors to these plans.

As the population ages, the future supply of people for the labour force may be limited, especially for some occupations. The younger working-age population will be depended upon to provide many services for the rapidly increasing senior population. Some of these services, such as those provided by police, fire fighters or construction workers, require a level of physical strength and agility that is most prevalent in young people. It is possible, therefore, that labour shortages could occur in these types of occupations.

Finding caregivers for seniors will become a more pressing problem as the population ages. Today's small families may find their capacity to provide care for elderly relatives severely limited, both because of family size and the geographic dispersion of family members. Thus, additional institutional facilities, as well as new approaches to care for seniors may be required in the future.

Also, interprovincial migration associated with retirement has begun and is anticipated to increase. British Columbia, for example, has already become a popular destination for seniors. Concentrations of older people in specific areas would require very age-specific services from both public and private sectors.

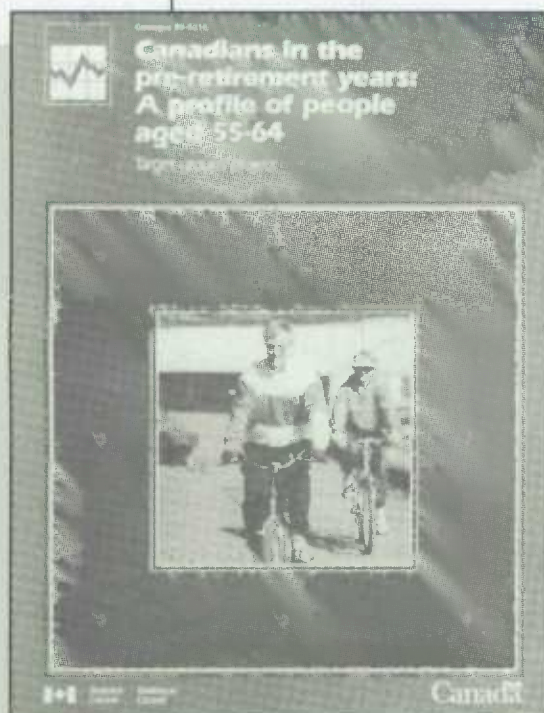
**Craig McKie** is a Contributing Editor with *Canadian Social Trends*.





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# Canada's Immigrants

## Recent Trends

by Jane Badets

**I**mmigrants have represented a similar proportion (approximately 16%) of Canada's population during the past several decades. They are not, however, evenly dispersed across the country. Almost all immigrants live in Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec or Alberta, with most in large urban centres. This pattern is particularly striking among recent immigrants: two-thirds of immigrants who came to Canada during the last decade settled in Toronto, Vancouver or Montreal. The birthplace of immigrants has changed in recent years, with an increasing proportion being Asian-born. Still, European-born immigrants accounted for over one-half of all immigrants living in Canada in 1991.



**Over 4 million immigrants** According to the census, 4.3 million immigrants were living in Canada in 1991. Nearly one-half of these people had been here for more than 20 years. In 1991, 48% of all immigrants had arrived before 1971, while 24% came between 1971 and 1980 and 28% during the last decade.

Between 1986 and 1991, Canada's immigrant population increased by 11%. In contrast, the number of immigrants had grown by just 2% from 1981 to 1986. The overall size of the immigrant population generally reflects changes in annual immigration target levels set by the federal government. For example, the total

number of immigrants admitted into the country fell from 129,000 in 1981 to 84,000 in 1985. Since 1986, however, annual levels have risen, reaching almost 231,000 in 1991. This was the highest annual number of immigrants admitted to Canada since 1957, when 282,000 had entered the country. Immigration was highest between 1911 and 1913, when annual totals ranged from 331,000 to 401,000.

### Population share remains stable

Immigrants have accounted for a relatively stable share of the population since the 1950s, despite the recent growth in numbers. In 1991, immigrants represented

16.1% of the total population, compared with 15.6% in 1986 and 14.7% in 1951.

Earlier in the century, however, when the government was encouraging development of Canada, immigrants had represented a much larger proportion of the total population. Between 1901 and 1911, the immigrant share jumped to 22% from 13%, where it remained until 1931. By 1941, however, the proportion of immigrants in the total population had fallen to 17%, reflecting the sharp drop in immigration during the depression years.

### Ontario attracts most immigrants

Immigrants are not evenly dispersed



throughout the country. According to the 1991 Census, more than 9 out of 10 immigrants (94%) lived in just 4 provinces: Ontario (55%), British Columbia (17%), Quebec (14%) and Alberta (9%). In contrast, 81% of the Canadian-born population lived in these provinces.

Immigrants represented almost one-quarter of the provincial populations of Ontario and British Columbia in 1991. They also accounted for 15% of Alberta residents, 13% of Manitoba residents and 11% of those in the Yukon. At the same time, immigrants represented less than 10% of the populations in the other provinces and territories.

In the early part of the century, immigrants were much more likely to settle in Western Canada in response to policy efforts to develop that area. Because of this influx into a relatively unpopulated area, immigrants represented much higher proportions of Western provincial populations during the early 1900s. In 1911, for example, immigrants represented 57% of the populations of both British Columbia and Alberta, 50% of Saskatchewan's and 41% of Manitoba's populations. In contrast, 20% of Ontario residents were immigrants in 1911. Since then, the proportion of immigrants in the Western provinces has declined steadily.

On the other hand, the proportion of immigrants in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec has been relatively small but stable over time. In Quebec, for example, immigrants throughout this century have accounted for less than 10% of the provincial population. In 1991, 8.7% of Quebec residents were immigrants, the same proportion as in 1931.

### Most immigrants settle in urban areas

Immigrants are more likely than the Canadian-born population to live in large urban centres. This explains, in large part, the provincial distribution of immigrants. In 1991, more than one-half of Canada's immigrants lived in the census metropolitan areas (CMAs) of Toronto (34%), Montreal (12%) and Vancouver (11%). In contrast, just over one-quarter of the Canadian-born population lived in these CMAs.

Toronto had the largest immigrant population of any census metropolitan area in 1991. Fully 1.5 million immigrants lived in the Toronto CMA, accounting for

38% of its population. In 1991, immigrants represented 30% of Vancouver's and 17% of Montreal's populations.

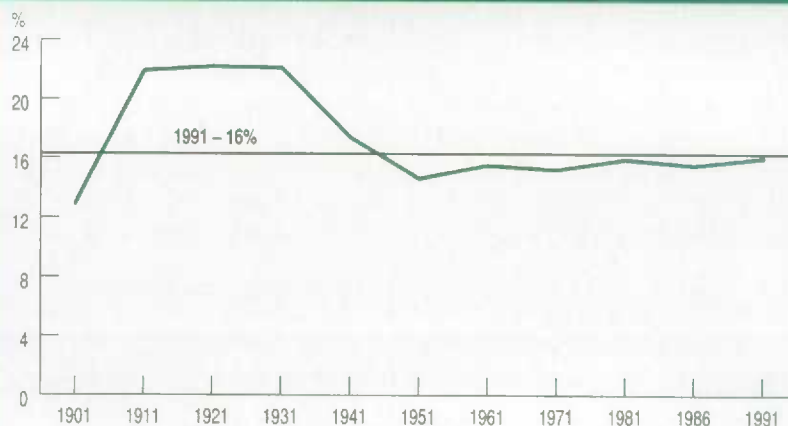
Other CMAs in southern Ontario and the Western provinces have also attracted large numbers of immigrants. In Ontario, immigrants constituted 24% of Hamilton's population, and about 20% of the populations of Kitchener, Windsor, London and St. Catharines-Niagara. In Western Canada, after Vancouver, Calgary and Victoria had the highest proportion of immigrants, at 20% each. Immigrants generally made up relatively smaller proportions of the populations of major urban areas in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces.

Immigrants in Quebec were the most likely to live in a major urban area. In 1991, 88% of the province's immigrants lived in the Montreal CMA, compared with just 45% of the total provincial population. In British Columbia, 66% of the immigrant population resided in Vancouver, compared with 49% of the total population. A similar pattern existed in Ontario: 62% of immigrants lived in the Toronto CMA, compared with 39% of all provincial residents.

**CMAs especially popular among recent arrivals ...** Recent immigrants are even more likely than immigrants who have lived in Canada for a long

Immigrants as a percentage of Canada's population, 1901 to 1991

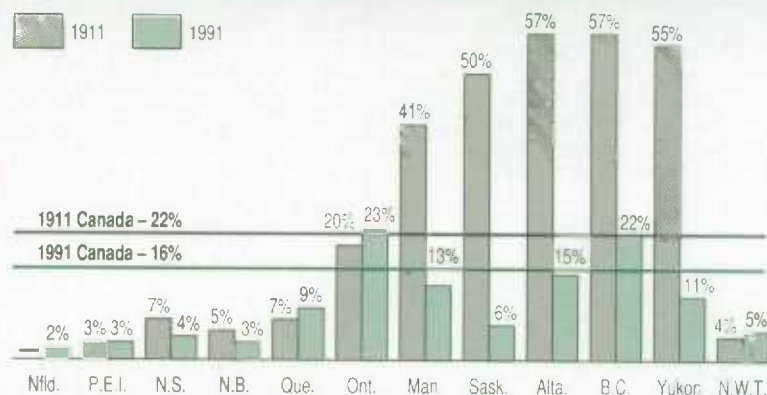
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Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Immigrants as a percentage of provincial and territorial populations, 1911 and 1991

CST



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

time to live in one of Canada's three largest CMAs. In 1991, about two-thirds (66%) of those who came to Canada between 1981 and 1991 were living in Toronto, Montreal or Vancouver. In contrast, 43% of immigrants who arrived before 1961 resided in these three areas. Toronto attracted the largest share of immigrants who came to Canada between 1981 and 1991 (39%). A further 14% resided in Montreal and 13% in Vancouver.

#### ... even more so among Asian-born

Immigrants born in Asia and the Middle East who came to Canada during the last decade were even more likely to settle in Toronto, Vancouver or Montreal. In 1991, nearly three-quarters (73%) of these recent immigrants resided in one of these three CMAs. In fact, those from Asia and the Middle East accounted for 70% of all recent immigrants living in Vancouver in 1991, 50% of those in Toronto and 44% of those in Montreal.

#### Over half of immigrants born in Europe ...

Europeans still represented the largest share of all immigrants living in Canada in 1991, accounting for 54% of all immigrants. This proportion was down

from 62% in 1986 and 67% in 1981. Conversely, the percentage of the immigrant population born in Asia and the Middle East increased to 25% in 1991, from 18% in 1986 and 14% in 1981. The remainder of immigrants living in Canada in 1991 were born in the United States (6%), the Caribbean and Central and South America (each 5%), Africa (4%) and Oceania (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands - 1%).

#### ... but picture different for recent immigrants

Since 1961, the proportion of European-born immigrants arriving in Canada has declined steadily. Among immigrants who arrived between 1981 and 1991, just 25% were born in Europe. In contrast, European-born immigrants represented 90% of those who arrived before 1961.

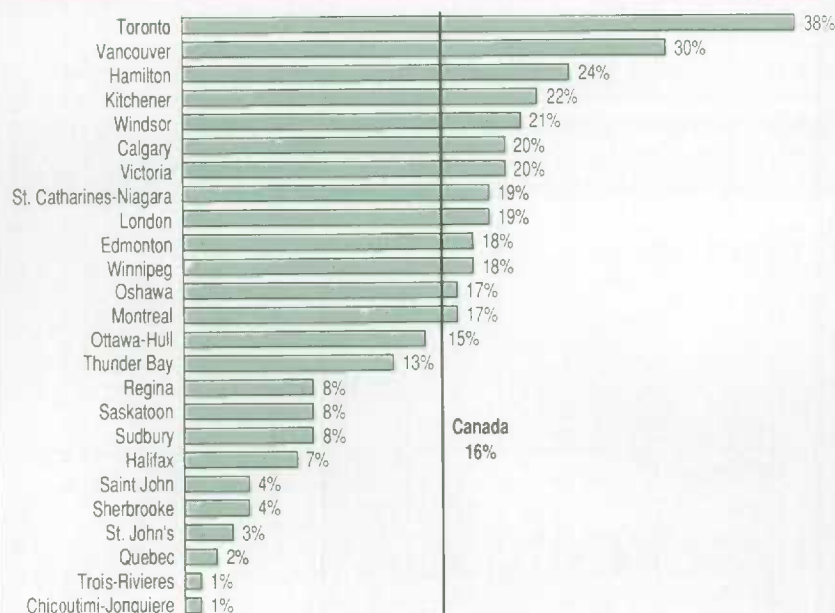
On the other hand, the proportion of immigrants born outside of Europe has increased, with those from Asia and the Middle East predominating. Asian-born people (including those born in the Middle East) represented almost one-half (48%) of immigrants who came to Canada between 1981 and 1991, but only 3% of those who came before 1961. The

European-born were the second largest group, accounting for one-quarter (25%) of immigrants who arrived between 1981 and 1991. An additional 10% were born in Central and South America, 6% in the Caribbean, 6% in Africa, 4% in the United States and 1% in Oceania.

**Top 10 countries of birth** Asian countries accounted for 6 of the 10 most frequently reported countries of birth of recent immigrants. Hong Kong was at the top of the list, with 96,500 of the 1.24 million immigrants who came to Canada between 1981 and 1991. Poland ranked second (77,500) and the People's Republic of China, third (75,900). Among the total immigrant population, however, the countries of birth reported most often were mainly European, with the United Kingdom and Italy being the major source countries. Nevertheless, India, the People's Republic of China and Hong Kong were also among the top 10 for all immigrants.

**An older population** The immigrant population is older than the Canadian-born population. In 1991, 18% of immigrants were aged 65 and over, compared with

Immigrants as a percentage of census metropolitan areas, 1991 CST



Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.





## CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS BACKGROUNDER

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**Definitions** *Immigrant population* refers to people who are not Canadian citizens by birth, but who have been granted the right to live in Canada permanently by Canadian immigration authorities. Most have taken out Canadian citizenship, but some have not. Some have resided in Canada for a number of years, while others are recent arrivals.

*Canadian-born population* refers to people who are Canadian citizens by birth. Most are born inside Canada, but there are some who were born outside Canada to Canadian parents.

### Top 10 countries of birth for recent immigrants and all immigrants, 1991

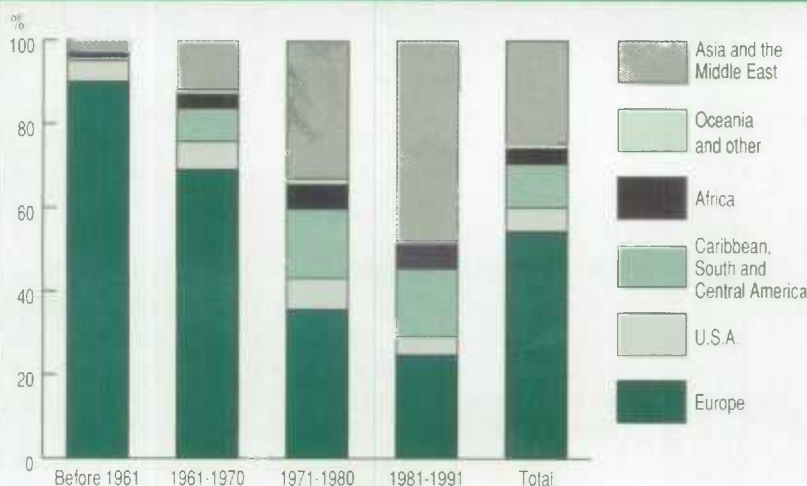
CST

Recent immigrants <sup>1</sup>			All immigrants		
	Number	%		Number	%
1. Hong Kong	96,540	7.8	1. United Kingdom	717,745	16.5
2. Poland	77,455	6.3	2. Italy	351,620	8.1
3. P.R. of China	75,840	6.1	3. United States	249,080	5.7
4. India	73,105	5.9	4. Poland	184,695	4.3
5. United Kingdom	71,365	5.8	5. Germany	180,525	4.2
6. Viet Nam	69,520	5.6	6. India	173,670	4.0
7. Philippines	64,290	5.2	7. Portugal	161,180	3.7
8. United States	55,415	4.5	8. P.R. of China	157,405	3.6
9. Portugal	35,440	2.9	9. Hong Kong	152,455	3.5
10. Lebanon	34,065	2.8	10. Netherlands	129,615	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,238,455</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>4,342,890</b>	<b>100.0</b>

<sup>1</sup>Immigrants who came to Canada between 1981 and 1991.  
Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

### Immigrant population by place of birth and period of immigration, 1991

CST



Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

10% of the Canadian-born. At the same time, only 5% of immigrants were under age 15, compared with 24% of people born in Canada. Because of these different age distributions, 26% of all seniors in Canada in 1991 were immigrants, whereas only 4% of children were immigrants.

One of the main reasons for the different age distributions of the immigrant and Canadian-born population is that most people who immigrate to Canada do so when they are adults. Of the total immigrant population, 62% were aged 20 and over when they came to Canada, whereas 27% were aged 5-19 and only 11% were under age 5. Children born to immigrant parents after their arrival in Canada are part of the Canadian-born population.

### Most immigrants obtain citizenship

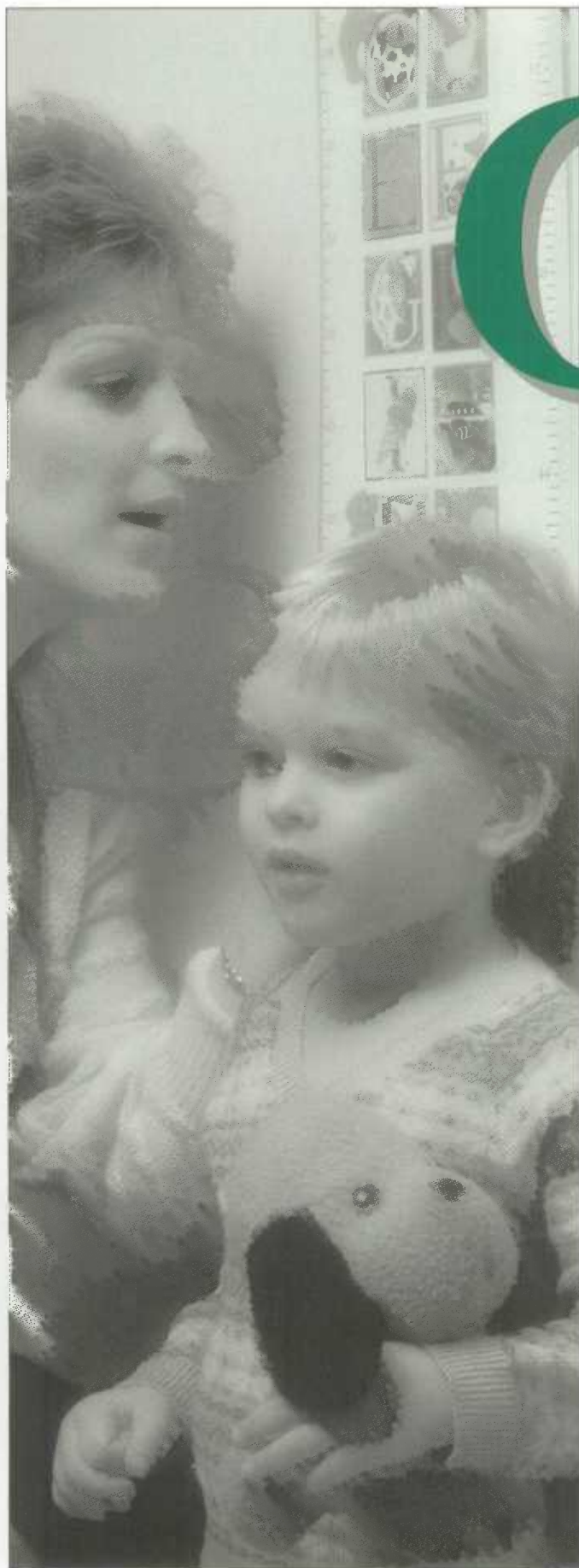
Among immigrants eligible to become Canadian citizens, 81% had done so by 1991. This proportion had increased from 79% in 1986 and 75% in 1981. Immigrants must reside in Canada for a minimum of three years before they are eligible to apply for Canadian citizenship.

Traditionally, the longer immigrants have lived in Canada, the more likely they have been to obtain citizenship. Of the immigrant population eligible to become Canadian citizens, almost all (92%) who came to Canada before 1961 had obtained their citizenship. In contrast, 65% of those who came between 1981 and 1987 had become Canadian citizens.

**Conclusion** Since Confederation, immigrants have composed an important segment of Canada's population. They have provided labour, capital and creativity, thereby contributing to the social and economic development of the country. All immigrants, however, face a transition period during which they become familiar with Canadian culture and institutions and may have to learn a new language. The provision of services to assist new immigrants through this period will likely present a variety of challenges to Canadians and their government.

**Jane Badets** is an analyst with the *Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Statistics Canada.*





# C hanges in Family Living

by Pina La Novara

**M**ost Canadians live in a family. The proportion, however, has been declining. As well, the structure of the families in which Canadians live has changed considerably in recent decades. In particular, the number of lone-parent families, most of which are headed by women, has increased. There are also more common-law families now than in the past. These shifts have been accompanied by a decline in the share of married-couple families, which, nonetheless, remain the vast majority. Average family size is smaller now than it was during the 1970s, not only because of these changes in family structure, but also due to the decline in the number of children families are having. In addition, the share of families without children living at home has risen in recent years.

**Most people live in families** According to the 1991 Census, 83% of all Canadians lived in one of Canada's 7.4 million families as a spouse, parent or never-married child. This proportion, however, has declined over the last two decades, falling from 87% in 1971.

Seniors, especially women, are much less likely than younger people to live in a family. In 1991, for example, just 44% of women aged 65 and over lived in a family. This contrasts sharply with 73% of men that age and 83% of all people aged 15-64.

In 1991, 17% of the population did not live in a family. The largest proportion of these people lived on their own. Over



2.3 million people, or 8% of the total population, lived alone that year. This was the same proportion as in 1986, but higher than in 1976 (5%) and 1981 (7%).

Given the large proportion of elderly women who do not live in families, it is not unexpected that a relatively high proportion live on their own. In 1991, 34% of women aged 65 and over lived alone, compared with 14% of men that age and 8% of all people aged 15-64. The high percentage of elderly women living alone is due, in large part, to women having a longer life expectancy than men: many women live on their own after their spouses die.

The remainder of people not living in a family in 1991 lived in a variety of settings. Some lived with non-relatives (6%), 2% were in institutions and 1% lived with a relative other than a spouse, parent or never-married child.

**Lone-parent families increasing** The number of lone-parent families increased substantially over the past two decades. In 1991, lone-parent families numbered

954,700, up 12% from 853,600 in 1986, and double the 1971 figure of 477,500. Over the same period, the proportion of lone-parent families also increased. By 1991, such families accounted for 13% of all families, about the same as 5 years earlier, but up from 9% in 1971.

Among the provinces, there was little variation in the percentage of all families headed by a lone parent in 1991. Proportions ranged from a high of 14% in Quebec to a low of just under 12% in Saskatchewan and Newfoundland.

Most lone-parent families are mothers with their children: in 1991, the proportion was 82%. This high proportion is partly due to the long-term increase in the divorce rate, with mothers usually receiving custody of children involved in marriage break-ups. There is also a growing incidence of never-married women, especially in the younger age ranges, raising children on their own.

Female lone parents tend to be younger than their male counterparts. In 1991, 61% of female lone parents were under age 45, compared with 46% of male lone parents.

### Common law – a growing family form

In recent years, the reported number of common-law families has increased sharply. In 1991, there were 725,950 common-law families, an increase of 49%. Common-law families represented 10% of all families in 1991, up from 7% in 1986 and 6% in 1981. At least part of this rise is due to an increase in reporting. In 1991, a common-law question was asked directly for the first time on the census questionnaire. In addition, people may be more willing to report living common law now than in the past because of decreased social stigma attached to this type of living arrangement.

Common-law families were most prevalent, by far, in Quebec, where they accounted for 16% of all families in 1991. This contrasts sharply with a proportion of 10% or less in the remaining provinces. For example, common-law families accounted for 10% of all families in British Columbia and only 6% in Prince Edward Island.

Common-law spouses tend to be relatively young, with more than one-half (57%) of them aged 20-34. Not surprisingly, given

## CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS BACKGROUNDER

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### Family structure, by province, 1991

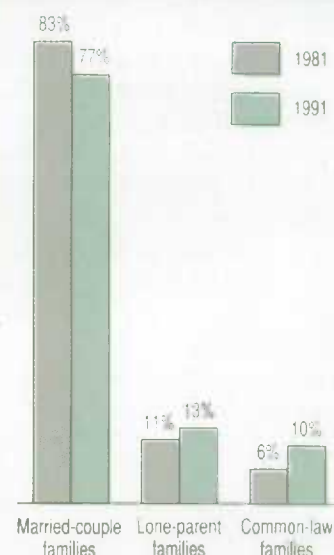
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	Families					Average family size	Families with- out children at home
	Lone- parent	Common- law	Married- couple	Total <sup>1</sup>			
	%			Number			%
Nfld.	11.9	6.6	81.4	100	150,715	3.3	25.1
P.E.I.	12.9	5.9	81.1	100	33,895	3.2	30.3
N.S.	13.5	8.2	78.2	100	244,615	3.1	33.8
N.B.	13.4	8.0	78.6	100	198,010	3.1	31.9
Que.	14.3	16.3	69.4	100	1,883,230	3.0	34.1
Ont.	12.6	6.7	80.7	100	2,726,740	3.1	35.0
Man.	13.1	7.4	79.4	100	285,935	3.1	35.8
Sask.	11.7	6.9	81.4	100	257,555	3.2	36.7
Alta.	12.4	8.9	78.6	100	667,985	3.1	34.4
B.C.	12.1	9.6	78.3	100	887,660	3.0	40.3
Canada <sup>1</sup>	12.9	9.8	77.2	100	7,356,170	3.1	35.1

<sup>1</sup>Includes the Yukon and Northwest Territories.  
Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

### Distribution of families, by structure, 1981 and 1991

CST



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 93-312 and 92-935.

## CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS BACKGROUNDER

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**The Divorce Act and lone parenthood** Changes to the *Divorce Act* have undoubtedly had an effect on the number and characteristics of lone parents. Prior to 1968, there were few divorces in Canada. The 1968 *Divorce Act*, however, offered greater access to divorce by broadening the legal grounds on which divorce could be granted. As a result, the divorce rate increased more than 5 times between the late 1960s and the mid-1980s, rising to over 250 divorces per 100,000 population from around 50.

Restrictions on divorce were further eased when a new *Divorce Act* was passed in 1985. Again, there was a large increase in the number of divorces granted following the introduction of the new legislation. By 1987, the divorce rate rose to 355 per 100,000 population. However, much of this increase appears to have been accounted for by people who put off divorcing in 1984 and 1985, in anticipation of the revised legislation, and then initiated proceedings once the new law was enacted. Indeed, in 1988 and 1989, the divorce rate dropped back to its 1986 level (around 310 divorces per 100,000 population) and then fell a further 4% in 1990 to 294 divorces per 100,000 people.

**Divorces per 100,000 population,  
1968 to 1990**

CST



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 82-003S and 84-205.

this age distribution, most women (64%) and men (63%) in these unions had never been married.

### **Married-couple families still the majority**

There has been only a small increase in the number of married-couple families in recent years. Between 1986 and 1991, the number of such families rose 5%, to 5.7 million from 5.4 million. Married-couple families continue to account for the majority of all families, although the proportion has declined slightly. In 1991, married-couple families made up 77% of all families, down from 80% five years earlier.

About 80% of families in all provinces, with the exception of Quebec, were married-couple families in 1991. That year, just 69% of Quebec families were married-couple families. This pattern is not unexpected, given the relatively high proportion of common-law families in Quebec.

While most men and women still get married, they are doing so at later ages. In 1990, the average age at first marriage for both brides and bridegrooms was a full three years higher than it had been two decades earlier. The average age for brides

marrying for the first time was 26.0 years in 1990, compared with 22.6 years in 1971. Over the same period, the average age for first-time bridegrooms increased to 27.9 years from 24.9. Still, the difference between the average ages of brides and bridegrooms at the time of their first marriage – about two years – has not changed.

As well, many Canadians are now marrying more than once. One out of every four men and women who married in 1990 had been previously married. The rise in remarriage is largely the result of the increase in divorce rates which occurred during the last two decades. This has increased the number of people in a position to remarry.

**Smaller families** During the past twenty years, family size has declined. In 1991, there was an average of 3.1 persons per family in Canada, down from 3.7 in 1971. Average family size, however, remained stable between 1986 and 1991.

Large families are becoming rare in Canada. In 1991, only 1% of families with children at home had 5 or more children living at home. In comparison, in 1971,

10% of families with children had 5 or more children at home.

The increase in the number of families with no children living at home has also contributed to the decline in average family size. In 1991, over one-third (35%) of all families in Canada did not have children living with them. This was slightly higher than the proportion in 1986 (33%). These families include all couples who have chosen to remain childless, as well as younger couples who have not yet had children and older couples who have reached the "empty nest" stage (their children are no longer living at home).

**Pina La Novara** is an analyst with the *Target Groups Project*, Statistics Canada.



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# Mixed-Language Couples and Their Children

by Pierre Turcotte



**A**ccording to the 1991 Census, 10% of couples<sup>1</sup> in Canada were mixed-language<sup>2</sup> couples. The three most important types of mixed couples are: English and French, English and Allophone, and French and Allophone partners. Allophone partners are those whose mother tongue (the language first learned in childhood and still understood) is neither English nor French. Members of linguistic minorities were more likely than others to be part of a mixed-language couple. These included English people in Quebec, French people outside Quebec and Allophones throughout the country.

Partners with different mother tongues may teach their children both or just one of the languages. Some children learn neither of the parents' mother tongues. When one of the parents is Allophone, children most often learn one of Canada's official languages – English or French – as their mother tongue. The language children first learn is affected not only by the language mix of the parents, but also by the language of the majority in their region.

**Language minorities more likely to mix** In areas where a person's mother tongue is a minority language, there are fewer same-language partners to choose from. Consequently, a greater proportion of those whose language is in the minority form mixed-language couples.

In Quebec, almost one-third of English spouses lived with a partner with a different mother tongue in 1991: 26% with a French partner and 5% with an Allophone. In contrast, less than 4% of French spouses in Quebec had a partner with a different mother tongue.

Outside of Quebec, just over one-third (37%) of French spouses had a partner with a different mother tongue: 33% lived with an English partner and 4% with an Allophone. This compares with only 7% of English partners outside Quebec living in a mixed-language couple.

<sup>1</sup> The term "couples" includes both married couples and those living common law (that is, living in a couple relationship outside of marriage).

<sup>2</sup> A mixed-language couple is one in which the spouses do not have the same mother tongue. Where a spouse reported more than one mother tongue, all the languages reported were different from their spouse's. Couples, where neither spouse was English or French, were also excluded from the mixed-language couple categories, although they may be made up of different language Allophone partners.

### Spouses in mixed-language couples, by mother tongue, 1991

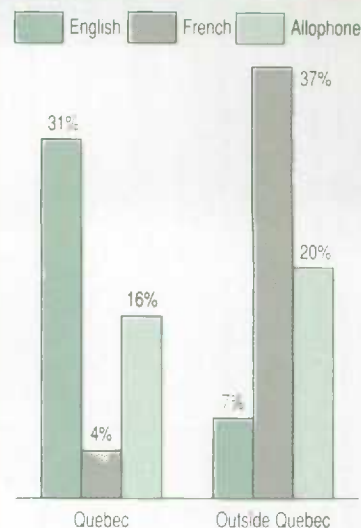
CST

	Total		English		French		Other than English or French	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Canada	1,231,490	9.6	567,610	7.7	274,410	8.8	389,470	19.4
Quebec	218,125	6.8	79,955	31.2	94,095	3.6	44,075	16.5
Canada outside Quebec	1,013,365	10.6	487,655	6.9	180,315	37.4	345,395	19.8
New Brunswick	33,365	9.7	16,330	7.6	14,930	12.9	2,105	41.4
Ontario	514,880	10.8	246,555	7.3	98,370	39.9	169,955	16.7
Rest of Canada	465,120	10.4	224,770	6.4	67,015	56.0	173,335	24.0

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census unpublished data.

### Percentage of spouses in mixed-language couples, by mother tongue, 1991

CST



Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

The proportion of Allophones living in a mixed-language couple was similar for those living inside and outside of Quebec. In 1991, 16% of Allophone spouses in Quebec and 20% of those outside Quebec lived in a mixed-language couple. The proportion was much higher in New Brunswick (41%).

**Language mixes reflect regional populations** Well over one-half of all mixed-language couples in Quebec were English-French. In 1991, 60% of Quebec's mixed-language couples were English-French, 26% were French-Allophone and 14% were English-Allophone. Outside Quebec, however, English-Allophone couples predominated. In 1991, 64% of mixed-language couples were English-Allophone, 32% were English-French and 4% were French-Allophone.

English-French couples were much more common in New Brunswick than anywhere else in Canada, including Quebec. In 1991, 87% of all mixed-language couples in New Brunswick were English-French. This is due, in large part, to the high representation of the minority language group in that area: 33% of New Brunswick's population was French in 1991. This was

proportionately the largest official language minority in any province.

**Common-law couples more likely to mix** Members of language minorities in a common-law relationship were much more likely to be in a mixed-language couple than those who were married. This held true regardless of age.

Both inside and outside Quebec about 50% of Allophones in common-law unions lived with a partner whose mother tongue was English or French. In contrast, 15% of married Allophones in Quebec and 19% of those outside Quebec had a spouse whose mother tongue was English or French.

For the English minority in Quebec, 49% of common-law partners lived in a mixed-language couple, compared with 29% of married people. In contrast, the incidence of English partners in mixed-language couples outside of Quebec was the same (about 7%) for common-law partners and married people.

Outside of Quebec, however, 46% of French common-law partners lived in mixed-language couples, compared with 36% of their married counterparts. In Quebec, French married partners were just as likely as common-law partners to have spouses with a different mother tongue (3.6% versus 3.5% for common law).

**Couple's language mix affects children's mother tongue** The reproduction of language groups depends not only on fertility, but on the tendency for parents to teach their mother tongue to their children. Since the language spoken at home becomes, in most cases, the mother tongue of the children, parents play an obvious role in determining their children's first language identification.

The language learned by children of mixed-language couples depends on their parents' languages and the majority language of the region. In 1991, 67% of the children of English-French couples had learned English, 23% had learned French and 10% had learned both languages as a mother tongue. Outside Quebec, the tendency for children of English-French couples to learn English was especially strong (79%). In Quebec, this situation was reversed, but the influence of the majority language was not as pronounced. About one-half (49%) of Quebec children living with an English and a French parent had learned French first, while one-third (34%) had learned English. There was a much greater tendency for the children in this type of family in Quebec to learn both languages: 17%, compared with 8% outside Quebec.



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**Mother tongue definition in the Canadian Census**

All Canadians were asked the mother tongue question on the 1991 Census. The question reads as follows:

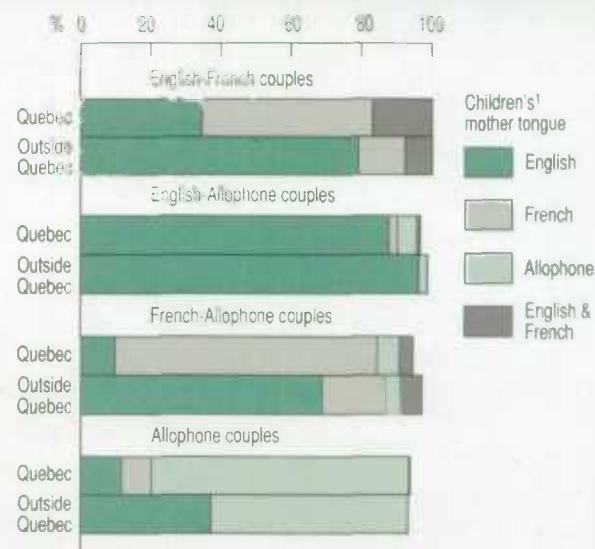
*"What is the first language that this person first learned at home in childhood and still understands?"*

Four out of five households received a short questionnaire that contained only one language question, that on mother tongue. One out of five households received the long questionnaire that included four language-related questions: two questions on the knowledge of official and non-official languages, the question on language spoken most often at home, and last, the question on mother tongue.

Changes in certain aspects of the collection and processing of data on mother tongue from one census to the next have introduced difficulties when making comparisons over time (for more information see the 1991 Census report *Mother Tongue*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue No. 93-313). This article focuses on the 1991 Census results only.

**Mother tongue of children of mixed-language and Allophone couples, 1991**

CST



<sup>1</sup>Excludes children with one official and one non-official language mother tongue.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Census of Canada.

In 1991, almost all children of English-Allophone couples had English as their mother tongue, regardless of where they lived. In Quebec, this was the case for 88% of the children of English-Allophone couples. Outside Quebec, 96% had English as their mother tongue.

In 1991, among the children of French-Allophone couples across Canada, a little over one-half (53%) had French as a mother tongue, 32% had English and 6% had a language other than English or French. This reflects the concentration of French-Allophone couples in Quebec and the tendency to pass on the majority language. In 1991, 75% of the children living with French-Allophone parents in Quebec had learned French first, 10% had learned English and 6% had learned another language. In contrast, most French-Allophone parents outside of Quebec taught their children English (69%), even though it was neither parent's mother tongue.

Among English couples and French couples with the same mother tongue, the first language learned by their children is nearly always that of the parents. This tendency persists even when the couple's

language is in the minority. In 1991, 98% of English couples in Quebec, and 93% of French couples outside Quebec had passed their mother tongue on to their children. Outside of Quebec, New Brunswick and Ontario, however, 79% of French-language couples had taught their children French as a first language.

Allophone couples are less likely than English or French couples to pass their own mother tongue on to their children. In Canada, 33% of their children learned English as their mother tongue and 59% first learned their parent's language. Allophone couples in Quebec, however, were more likely than those living outside of Quebec to pass on their own mother tongue. In 1991, 73% of their children learned a mother tongue other than English or French. When Allophone parents in Quebec did teach their children one of the official languages, however, it was more likely to be English than French. In 1991, 12% of the children in these families had learned English first, while 9% had learned French. Outside of Quebec, 37% of the children of Allophone couples had learned English,

while 56% had learned a language other than English or French.

**More "mother" in "mother tongue"**

Mothers in mixed-language couples were more likely than fathers to teach their mother tongue to their children. For example, 75% of children living with an English mother and a French father learned English. In comparison, when the father was English and the mother was French, 60% of the children had learned English first. Conversely, 29% of the children with French mothers and English fathers had learned French, compared with 17% when the father was French and the mother English.

**Pierre Turcotte** is a Cycle Manager with the *General Social Survey*, Statistics Canada.



1994 International Year of the Family  
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# Canadian Content in the Cultural Marketplace

by Jeffrey Frank and Michel Durand

*The international environment in which Canada's cultural industries operate influences both the availability and the demand for Canadian products. Canada's great size, relatively small population and proximity to the United States create an unusual cultural marketplace. Most sound recordings, films, books and broadcast programming sold in Canada are imported, mainly from the United States, or are produced by foreign-controlled firms. Many American and other foreign firms located in Canada take little or no risk distributing popular "mass appeal" recordings, films and books. Despite this situation, the market share of foreign-controlled firms in cultural industries has declined in the past decade and sales of Canadian-produced sound recordings, films and books have increased.*

In 1990, the Canadian arts and culture sector<sup>1</sup> employed more than 330,000 people and contributed over \$14 billion (2.4%) to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). In addition, the sector generated considerable spending, leading to further demand for goods and services from other industries. Including these indirect impacts, arts and culture accounted for more than 465,000 jobs and contributed almost \$22 billion (3.7%) to the GDP that year. The arts and culture sector in Canada, however, is important not only because of its economic impact, but also because of its less quantifiable role in influencing how Canadians think about themselves.

**Consumer spending on culture up since 1969** Shifts in spending patterns result from changing

income levels, prices and tastes, as well as changes in the availability of products. According to the Family Expenditures Survey, shifts in the spending patterns of Canadian families have occurred since 1969. In 1990, more than 8% of current household consumption was on recreation and cultural goods and services. This was up from just over 6% in 1969. Over the same period, the proportion spent on food declined steadily to 18%, from nearly 24%. In contrast, shelter accounted for 33% of family spending in 1990, up from 28% in 1969. Although spending on recreation and culture as a proportion of all family expenditures increased slightly over this period, such spending tends to come from discretionary income. It is not surprising, therefore, that during times of economic recession, consumers' budgets for cultural products shrink.





Spending on particular cultural activities has also changed since 1969. This is due, in part, to changes in technology that have affected the availability and the affordability of different cultural products. Spending on video tapes and video discs has increased since these products appeared in the late 1970s. In contrast, spending on movie theatre admissions decreased since 1978, though it rebounded somewhat between 1986 and 1990. Family expenditures on sound recording products (records, tapes and compact discs) and live stage performances increased steadily between 1969 and 1990, while spending on printed material remained relatively stable, except for spending on newspapers which declined slightly.

**Governments spent nearly \$6 billion on culture in 1990-91** Federal, provincial and municipal governments spent a total of \$5.9 billion on culture in 1990-91. Federal cultural spending amounted to \$2.9 billion or about 2% of the total

federal budget. Spending was concentrated on support for the broadcasting, book and periodical publishing, film and video and sound recording industries. Although this support accounted for two-thirds of all federal cultural spending, most of these funds were directed toward sustaining cultural infrastructure, mainly the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). In 1990-91, just 14% of federal government expenditures on culture (\$405 million) was direct assistance to organizations and artists. In contrast, 62% of the \$1.8 billion provincial governments spent on culture (\$1.1 billion) went directly to organizations and artists. Municipal governments channelled nearly four-fifths of the \$1.1 billion they spent on culture into libraries.

**Radio and sound recording** According to the Radio Listening Database, in the fall of 1992, 94% of Canadians listened to radio at least once each week. Children and teens listened somewhat less (79% and 90%, respectively) than adults (96%).

On average, Canadians listened to about 19 hours of radio each week.

The Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) licences radio stations to broadcast material within specific formats. In 1992, Adult Contemporary and Gold formats accounted for one-quarter of all radio listening time, while the middle-of-the-road format (softer than Adult Contemporary with most program selections released before 1960) made up another 20%. Country (12%), Album-Oriented-Rock (10%) and CBC (9%) stations each accounted for smaller proportions of the market. "Other" Canadian (8%), Contemporary (5%), Easy Listening (4%) and U.S. stations (4%) made up the remainder.

<sup>1</sup> For this estimate, the arts and culture sector covers most cultural industries. These include written media, film and video, sound recording, broadcasting, wholesale and retail trade, non-profit performing arts, heritage institutions, visual arts, as well as some government cultural activity. Excluded are commercial performing arts, wholesale and retail trade among non-specialized firms and other activities such as advertising and design.

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CST

### Culture Statistics Program

Most of the data used in this article were produced by the Culture Statistics Program (CSP) at Statistics Canada. The CSP consists of a series of surveys covering cultural activities and institutions, as well as cultural industries. In addition, the CSP has begun work on the Cultural Labour Force Project which will provide detailed information about people who work in the cultural sector. For information on products, special tabulations or specific surveys, contact Iain McKellar, Assistant Director, Education, Culture and Tourism Division, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0T6 (613-951-9038).

**CRTC Canadian content rules** *Radio:* According to the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC), a musical selection qualifies as Canadian content if it meets any two of the following criteria:

- The music was composed by a Canadian.<sup>1</sup>
- The lyrics were written by a Canadian.<sup>1</sup>
- The instrumentation or lyrics were principally performed by a Canadian.
- The live performance was wholly performed in Canada and broadcast live in Canada or wholly recorded in Canada.

For AM radio, at least 30% of all music aired must meet this definition of Canadian content. Moreover, a Canadian must have composed the music or written the lyrics to a minimum of 5% of the number of selections broadcast. In recognition of FM radio's diversity of formats (and the corresponding supply of appropriate Canadian content recordings), the CRTC allows different levels of required

Canadian content. The quota ranges from 10% to 30% for different groups of FM radio stations. AM and FM stations must also play at least 25% Canadian content between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

*Television:* To be considered Canadian, a television program must have a Canadian producer and must earn a minimum 6 of a possible 10 points based on key creative positions. The CRTC awards points when the duties of these positions are performed by Canadians. There are additional criteria regarding financial and creative control for programs involving foreign production partners. The CRTC requires that Canadian programs be used to fill at least 60% of the overall schedules of both public and private television broadcasters.

<sup>1</sup> A 1993 amendment provides that when a Canadian receives at least 50% of the credit for both the music and the lyrics, a musical selection is given one of the two points necessary to qualify as Canadian. The amendment affects only musical selections recorded or performed live after September 1, 1991.

Radio broadcasters depend on the international sound recording industry to provide musical material for most of their programming. The Canadian recording industry is dominated by a small number of large, foreign-controlled multinational companies. These companies also control much of the distribution network in Canada. Smaller Canadian companies often depend on securing distribution agreements with larger multinationals. The concentration of foreign influence in the industry has increased in recent years with the takeover of two multinationals by large Japanese conglomerates. In 1990-91, 14 foreign-controlled companies took in 88% of the \$509 million in sound recording sales in Canada. In addition, these companies accounted for 79% of new releases, up from 72% in 1988-89.

Canadian-controlled companies, however, produce most Canadian content recordings. In 1990-91, Canadian companies accounted for 71% of new Canadian content releases. These releases, however, made up only one-half of Canadian companies' sales. On the other hand, foreign companies accounted for just 29% of new Canadian content releases, while having 43% of all Canadian content sales. Thus, Canadian companies produce more Canadian content recordings with smaller sales, while

multinationals generate fewer but more successful Canadian content recordings.

Generally, the more airplay a recording receives, the more it will sell. By giving Canadian recordings more broadcast exposure, Canadian content regulations stimulate demand for Canadian sound recording products. It is estimated that before the implementation of Canadian content regulations, Canadian music made up only 4% to 7% of all selections played on radio.<sup>2</sup> In accordance with CRTC regulations, radio stations must now play a minimum of 10% to 30% Canadian con-

tent, depending on their format. The introduction of Canadian content regulations in 1971 was followed by substantial growth in the production of Canadian content recordings. In 1990-91, sales of Canadian content recordings reached \$54 million, up from \$28 million in 1984-85. This represented a real average annual increase of over 11% (using the industry product price index).

**Television, film and video** According to Statistics Canada's television viewing data, Canadians watched an average of 23

### Expenditures on selected cultural activities, 1969 to 1990

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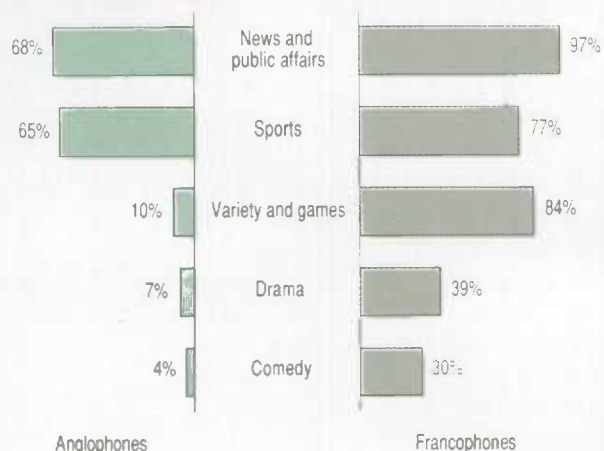
Average family expenditures  
(constant 1986 \$)

	1969	1978	1982	1986	1990
Admission to museums	N/A	27	18	24	21
Live stage performances	19	23	36	39	50
Books	106	109	94	104	110
Magazines	24	54	56	51	57
Newspapers	94	87	79	82	83
Movies	57	84	47	41	55
Records, tapes and CDs	32	45	54	63	87
Video tapes and discs	0	0	6	41	85

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Family Expenditures.

### Percentage of television viewing time spent watching Canadian content programs, Anglophones and Francophones, 1991

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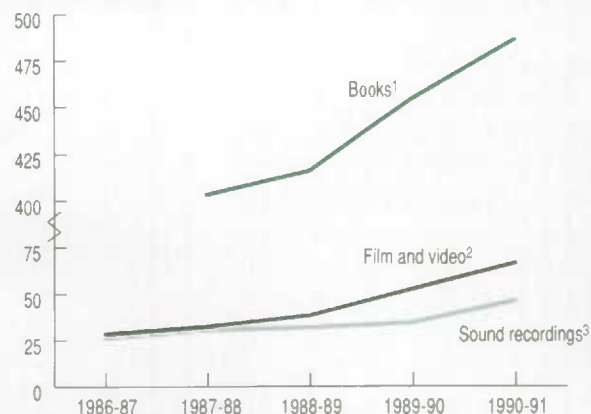


Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 87-208.

### Total sales of cultural products with Canadian content, 1986-87 to 1990-91

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Constant 1986 \$ Millions



<sup>1</sup> Canadian authored titles.

<sup>2</sup> Distribution of Canadian film and video.

<sup>3</sup> Canadian content records, tapes and compact discs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Culture Statistics Program.



hours of television per week in 1991, the lowest level in the past decade. Residents of Newfoundland watched more television (27 hours per week) than residents of other regions. In addition, Canadians aged 60 years and older spent an average of 34 hours per week watching television, more than any other age group.

Foreign programming, mostly American, accounted for nearly two-thirds (64%) of all television programming that Canadians watched in 1991. That year, 85% of the time that Canadians watched television drama was spent on foreign programming. Drama constituted the largest single category of television programming watched, occupying 29% of Canadians' viewing time. Almost all (92%) comedy shows that Canadians watched were foreign in origin. All comedy programming accounted for 17% of total viewing time.

When it comes to news and sports, however, Canadians prefer Canadian programming. In 1991, the proportion of time spent watching Canadian content programs was 75% for news and public affairs and 68% for sports. That year, news and sports made up 23% and 7%, respectively, of Canadians' total viewing time.

Canadians who most often speak French are more likely to watch Canadian content programming than those who speak mainly English. Overall, 63% of viewing time among Francophones was spent watching Canadian programs, compared with 27% among Anglophones. In 1991, 96% of news and public affairs and 39% of drama programming seen by French speakers was Canadian. These findings are not surprising given that most American programming is only available in English.

The supply of Canadian content programming – that is, the proportion of Canadian television broadcast schedules filled with Canadian programs – has increased in recent years. The Canadian content of news and public affairs programs has always been very high. In 1990, 52% of this type of programming on English stations, and 100% on French stations, was Canadian. Canadian drama, in contrast, accounted for only 10% of total drama programming on English stations and 33% on French stations in 1990. Overall, this was up substantially, however, from just 6% in 1984. Over half of variety and game shows were Canadian in 1990

(19% of English shows and 96% of French shows), compared with 42% in 1984.

Foreign-controlled companies continue to account for a substantial portion of earned revenue in the film and video production industry. Foreign firms' share of film and video production revenue, however, declined substantially in the past decade. In 1989-90, foreign companies held 59% of these revenues (including 86% of the theatrical market, 54% of the television market and 26% of the pay television and home video markets), down from 74% in 1982-83.

As with the sound recording industry, foreign firms largely control film and video distribution. In 1989-90, 21 foreign-controlled companies represented just 16% of firms in the industry, but accounted for 59% of all distribution revenues. Canadian films and videos continue to account for only a small proportion of distribution companies' total revenues. In 1989-90, Canadian films and videos generated 9% of distribution revenue, up from 7% in 1984-85. Canadian theatrical films made up just 4% of theatrical movie distribution revenues. This represented a slight decrease from 5% in 1988-89, but about the same proportion as in 1984-85. Also in 1989-90, 10% of licensing costs paid to producers by distributors and videocassette wholesalers was for Canadian-owned copyrights.

**Printed material and publishing** The share of domestic book sales by foreign-controlled publishers and exclusive agents has fallen in recent years. In 1990-91, 40% of the sales of books published in Canada was generated by foreign publishers, down slightly from 45% in 1986-87. Over the same period, foreign-controlled firms' share of the exclusive agency market fell to 53% in 1990-91, from 66% in 1986-87. An exclusive agent is a firm that, in return for agreeing to publicize and market the works of another firm, is authorized to act as sole representative for the sale of those works.

Own-book sales of publishers operating in Canada increased to \$813 million in 1990-91, up 34% from \$606 million in 1986-87. Of the 8,130 new titles published in Canada in 1990-91, 5,850 were authored by Canadians, down slightly from a high of 6,100 in 1989-90, but up substantially from 4,560 in 1987-88. Meanwhile, sales

from exports of Canadian books increased to \$33 million in 1990-91, from \$25 million in 1987-88. This represented a real average annual increase of nearly 6% (using the printing and publishing industry product price index).

In 1990-91, subscription and single-copy sales of Canadian periodicals increased to \$248 million, up 33% from \$187 million in 1985-86. Similarly, the combined sales of Canadian daily and non-daily newspapers increased to \$689 million in 1990-91, up 29% from \$533 million in 1985-86. The major source of revenue for periodicals and newspapers, however, is not subscription and single-copy sales, but advertising sales. In 1990-91, advertising sales accounted for 65% of the \$884 million in total revenue for periodicals, and 80% of the \$3.5 billion in revenue for newspapers.

**Conclusion** Foreign-controlled firms continue to be the dominant force in Canada's cultural industries. In sound recording, film and video, and to a lesser extent written media, foreign firms have a firm grip on market share. Canadian radio and television broadcasters, in turn, rely on the output of these industries to fill their programming schedules. Nevertheless, Canadian-produced cultural commodities continue to find and expand their markets. Although the Canadian content share of cultural products has not increased sharply in recent years, it has remained stable in some areas and made moderate gains in others.

<sup>2</sup> Paul Audley, Canada's Cultural Industries, Ottawa: Canadian Institute for Economic Policy, 1983 177.

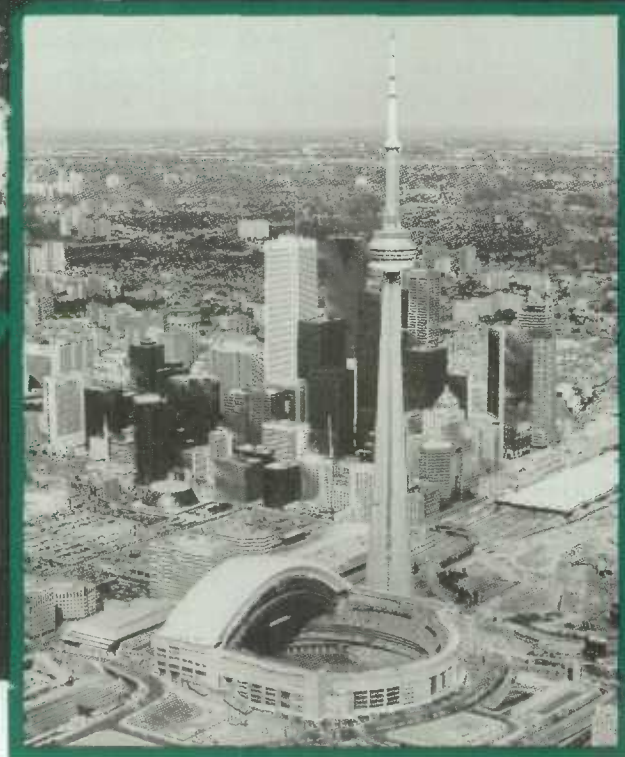
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# Defining Toronto

by Bruce Orok



**A**ccording to the 1991 Census, Toronto had almost 4 million residents and was home to 14% of the country's population that year. As such, Toronto continues to be Canada's largest census metropolitan area (CMA), a ranking it has held since 1976. In addition, Toronto residents outnumber people living in the 4 Atlantic provinces by over 1.5 million. The Toronto CMA was also more populous than British Columbia, Canada's third largest province. Other social and economic indicators, such as Toronto being the headquarters of Canada's financial community, confirm Toronto's stature as Canada's largest, if not most influential, metropolitan area. The continued rapid growth of an already expansive Toronto leads to an interesting question: to what area do people refer when they talk about Toronto?



Satellite images of southern Ontario reflect common knowledge that Toronto is part of the ongoing urban sprawl that has created a built-up area extending roughly from Hamilton in the west, to Barrie in the north and Oshawa in the east. These satellite images suggest that a precise geographic delineation of Toronto is extremely difficult. Political borders, statistical definitions, and provincial government delineations provide only a few of the many alternatives which can be used for defining Toronto's boundaries.

**Political boundaries** Probably the simplest definitions of Toronto are based on political boundaries. For example, the City of Toronto is a municipality covering 97.15 square km with a 1991 population of 635,395. As early as the 1950s, however, the City of Toronto recognized the substantial interaction it had with neighbouring municipalities, such as Etobicoke, Scarborough and North York. Consequently, in 1953, the provincial government consolidated the City of Toronto and 12 other nearby municipalities into a single government entity, now commonly known as Metropolitan Toronto (Metro).

Substantial growth in and around Metro, however, has extended Toronto's social and economic influence well beyond these limits. In an attempt to specify these limits, Statistics Canada's definition of the Toronto CMA expands the range of Toronto to include nearby towns and cities which are home to thousands of workers commuting daily to Metropolitan Toronto.

**Toronto as a statistical unit** Statistics Canada formally introduced the concept of a census metropolitan area (CMA) as "an expanding social and economic entity" in 1941. Since then, many changes have occurred in the definition of a CMA. For example, commuting characteristics have formed part of the CMA concept since 1976.

The CMA is currently defined as a very large urban area (urbanized core) of at least 100,000 population (based on the previous census), together with adjacent urban and rural areas that have a high degree of economic and social integration with that urban area. The CMA comprises municipalities completely or partially inside the urbanized core. Outlying

municipalities are also included if at least 50% of the employed labour force residing in the municipality works in the urbanized core or if at least 25% of the employed labour force working in the municipality lives in the urbanized core.

Changes in the CMA definition have expanded the land area of the Toronto CMA considerably. In 1966, the Toronto CMA consisted of 2,071 square km. Over the next 10 years, changes to the CMA concept resulted in an 81% increase in area (to 3,743 square km by 1976). The Toronto CMA now covers an area of 5,584 square km, due to further definitional changes in 1986 and 1991. These land area changes add another dimension to comparing population statistics over time.

Population growth in the Toronto CMA, as in any CMA, is attributable not only to natural increase and net migration, but also to expanding boundaries. One approach for comparing population changes would be to adopt an identical boundary, for example, that of Metro Toronto. However, the changing CMA definition likely reflects more accurately the changing limits of Toronto.

**Population up 80% since 1966** In 1991, 3.89 million people lived in the Toronto CMA, up about 80% from 1966. Over the same period, residents of the Toronto CMA represented an increasing share of Canada's population. By 1991, the proportion had risen to 14%, from 11% in 1966. Also, the Toronto CMA population accounted for a greater proportion of Ontario residents in 1991 (39%) than in 1966 (31%).

The population of the Toronto CMA is still increasing rapidly. Toronto was Canada's fourth fastest growing CMA between 1986 and 1991 (behind Oshawa, Vancouver and Kitchener), with a population increase of 13%. In addition, Toronto continues to be the largest CMA, with about three-quarters of a million more people than the next largest CMA, Montreal. Since 1976, when the population of Toronto first surpassed that of Montreal, the gap between the numbers of people in these two CMAs has grown.

Compared to large American metropolitan areas (as defined by the U.S. Census), the Toronto CMA ranked tenth in total population in 1991. That year, it was larger than Houston, Miami and Atlanta,

but trailed New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Detroit, Boston, Washington and Dallas, respectively.

The Toronto CMA includes several large urban areas. Eleven of the 28 geographic areas (including cities, towns and boroughs) in the Toronto CMA had populations of over 100,000 in 1991. These areas comprised 86% of the Toronto CMA total population. The cities of North York, Scarborough and Toronto, each with a population over one-half million in 1991, were home to 44% of the CMA's residents.

Five of the six fastest growing Canadian cities between 1986 and 1991 were within the Toronto CMA. Vaughan's population increased the fastest (71%) from 1986 to 1991. Markham was the third fastest growing, increasing 34%, followed by Oakville (32%), Brampton (24%) and Mississauga (24%). In addition, no cities in the Toronto CMA were among the top 50 cities in Canada experiencing declining populations.

**Toronto as a planning area** CMAs may differ from metropolitan areas designated by local authorities for planning or other purposes. In 1988, the Ontario provincial government, recognizing the influence of Metro Toronto on neighbouring municipalities, established the Office for the Greater Toronto Area (OGTA) as part of the Ministry of Environment. The initial task of the OGTA was to determine what constitutes the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). Discussions with area municipalities, government and industry groups resulted in a consensus-based definition of the GTA.

The GTA encompasses 30 area municipalities within the 5 regional municipalities of Metro Toronto, Halton, Peel, York and Durham. It constitutes much of the same area as the 1991 Toronto CMA, but includes additional cities such as Oshawa, Whitby and Burlington. There is, however, a small area (Orangeville, parts of Simcoe County) included in the 1991 Toronto CMA that is not part of the GTA. In 1991, the population of the GTA (4.24 million) was 9% greater than that of the Toronto CMA.

**The Greater Toronto Bioregion** A Toronto area similar but slightly smaller

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**Population and employment projections in the GTA** The main priority of the Office of the Greater Toronto Area is to develop a growth strategy for the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) in conjunction with various political bodies, community groups and citizens. Numerous working groups have been formed to study specific policy areas ranging from urban form, environmental protection, infrastructure requirements and economic growth. The policy recommendations of these working groups will form the basis of a strategic action plan prepared by provincial and municipal representatives, to be gradually implemented starting in 1993.

According to population projections by Clayton Research Associates,

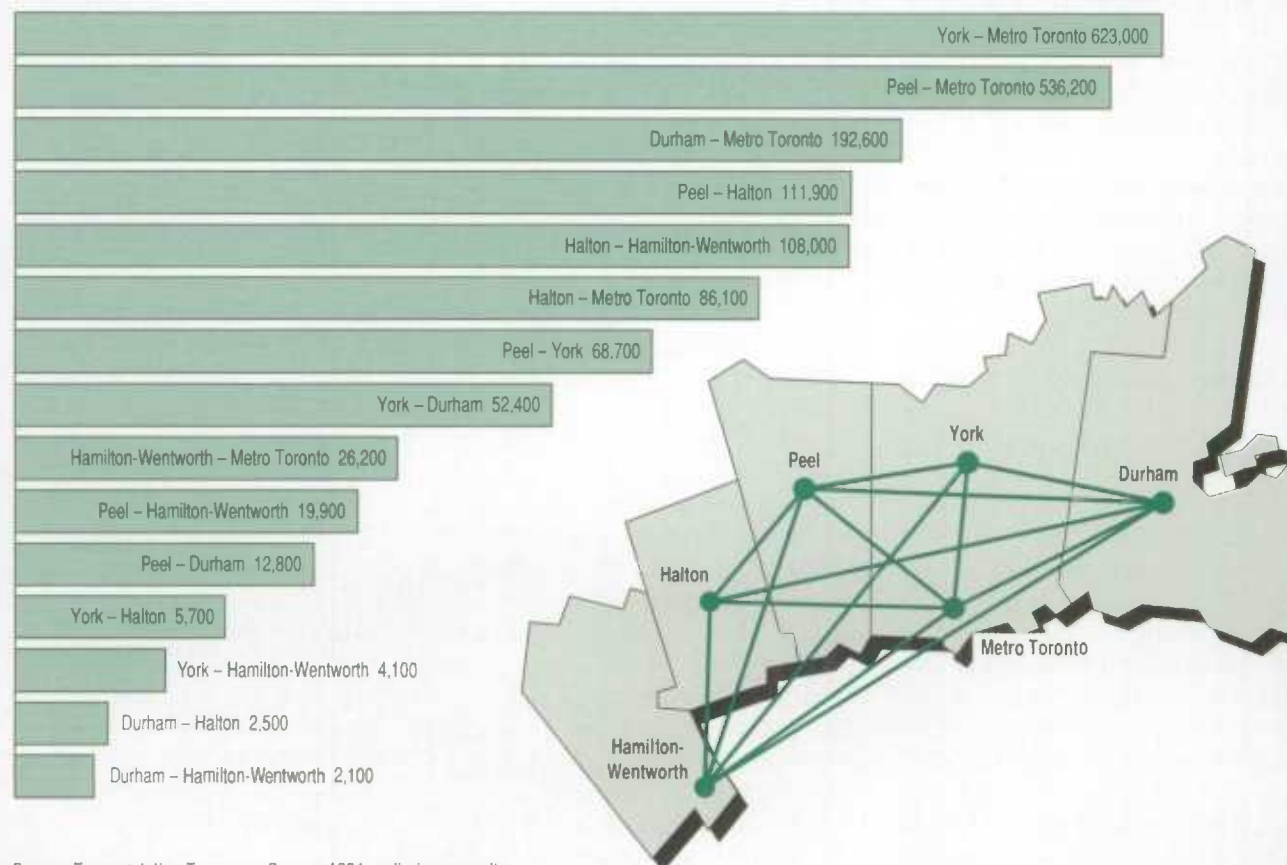
6.5 million people will be living in the GTA by 2031. Metro Toronto's share of the total GTA population, however, is expected to decline significantly, to 39% in 2031 from 59% in 1986. In absolute measures, regional municipalities experiencing the most population growth from 1986 to 2031 are predicted to be York, with an increase of 773,000 (220%) and Peel, with a population increase of 714,000 (121%). Age profile projections for the GTA are similar to projected national trends. For example, children will represent a decreasing share of the population. In contrast, the proportion of people aged 65 and over will increase to nearly one-in-four (23%) residents of the GTA by 2031. One implication of the population growth in the GTA is

the provision of urban services, estimated to cost \$102 billion by 2021, up 29% from 1986.

Currently, about 45% of Canadian corporations have their head offices in the GTA. Employment projections by Henson Consulting Limited indicate that absolute job growth from 1986 to 2031 will be led by Metro Toronto, with an increase of 389,000 jobs. The projections indicate that employment in Metro Toronto will account for a decreasing share of total employment in the GTA. By 2031, employment in Metro Toronto will make up 49% of total employment in the GTA, down from 65% in 1986. Employment in the York regional municipality will grow the fastest, increasing 213% between 1986 and 2031.

## Daily inter-regional total person trips, 1991

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Source: Transportation Tomorrow Survey, 1991 preliminary results.



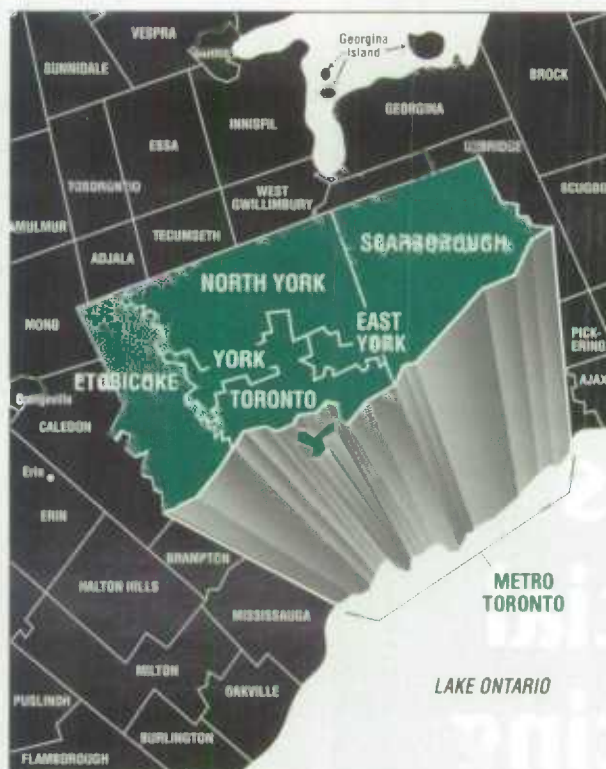
than the GTA has been called the Greater Toronto Bioregion (GTB) by the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront. The GTB is the area bounded by the Niagara Escarpment in the west, the Oak Ridges Moraine in the north and east, and Lake Ontario in the south. The Commission, a joint federal-provincial effort, was appointed in 1988 to study issues affecting the development of the Toronto Waterfront. The Commission suggested that the Greater Toronto Area Waterfront, extending along Lake Ontario from Burlington to Newcastle, could not be studied in isolation from a larger biological region (GTB) of which it is part.

The Commission held public hearings with government and community interest groups across the Greater Toronto Bioregion. These consultations contributed to the Commission's support of an ecosystem approach, whereby environmental, economic and social values are all considered in the decision-making and planning process.

**Traffic flows** In 1991, the Ontario Ministry of Transport, in conjunction with several regional municipalities and transport industry groups, conducted the Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS). Its purpose was to supply traffic information for all types of transportation, within Metropolitan Toronto and its neighbouring regional municipalities: Peel, Halton, York, Durham and Hamilton-Wentworth. Trip information for a 24-hour period was gathered for all people aged 6 years or older in each of the surveyed households. A trip was defined as a single purpose, one-way movement between two sites. These daily origin-destination (O-D) data can be used to illustrate the complexities of travel behaviour in an urbanized region or to determine yet another boundary for the Toronto area. Several interpretations, however, are possible.

Origin-destination data from the survey indicate that the majority of all traffic over a 24-hour period is confined entirely within each of the six regional municipalities of the study area. According to the survey, 81% of daily personal travel takes place within regional boundaries. There is, however, considerable variability in the self-containment rates of traffic, ranging from 91% for Hamilton-Wentworth to 64% for the York region. Using only this measure of traffic flows would indicate a city structure of Toronto resembling Metro Toronto, with each of the surrounding municipalities representing relatively independent regions.

Another way of interpreting the travel data, and thus of perceiving the Toronto area, is to focus on the daily traffic entering Metro from the surrounding municipalities. Of the total daily traffic destined for Metro Toronto from neighbouring regional municipalities, 43% of the trips originate from York, followed by Peel with 39%. There are also significant flows to Metro from



Durham and Halton. In contrast, the Hamilton-Wentworth region constitutes less than 2% of regional traffic flows destined for Metro. This perspective supports the GTA definition, which excludes the Hamilton-Wentworth municipality.

If traffic flows among all the regional municipalities are considered, travel data from the TTS can provide an even wider Toronto area definition. Daily traffic flows between Halton and Hamilton-Wentworth are substantial. In 1991, there were more daily traffic flows between Hamilton-Wentworth and Halton (108,000) than between Metro Toronto and Halton (86,100). By considering the interaction between Hamilton-Wentworth and Halton, Toronto could be defined as a transportation network, extending from Hamilton-Wentworth in the west to Durham in the east.

**Conclusion** Different interpretations of travel survey data, along with the formulations by the OGTA, Statistics Canada and satellite imagery illustrate the arbitrariness of defining the boundaries for the Toronto area. The range of what is considered to be Toronto is contingent upon the method and criteria utilized: administrative, political, statistical and topographic approaches are among the several alternatives.

For further information, see:

1. *Working Paper CMA/CA Program: A Review, 1941-81*, No. 8-GE084 by Grafton Ross
2. *GTA 2021 – The Challenge of Our Future*, A Working Document (OGTA, 1992)
3. *Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront (Canada)*, Watershed: Interim Report (Ottawa, 1990)
4. *Toronto: An Urban Study* by Richard P. Baine and A. Lynn McMurray (Irwin Publishing, third ed., 1984)
5. *The Transportation Tomorrow Survey: An Overview of Travel Characteristics in the Greater Toronto Area* (Ontario Ministry of Transport, 1988)

- Remote sensing involves the observation and measurement of the environment via earth observation satellites. The satellite image on page 22 shows not only the Toronto area, but also Montreal and parts of the east coast of Canada and the U.S.A. The image was produced from USAF DMSP (Defense Meteorological Satellite Program) film transparencies archived at the University of Colorado, CIRES/National Snow and Ice Data Center, Campus Box 449, Boulder, CO U.S.A. 80309.

**Bruce Orok** is a junior analyst with *Canadian Social Trends*.

# 75

## Years of Social Reporting

by Cynthia Silver



*So like all the other  
communications  
she had edited  
with H.O. Wotton.  
Dale Stewart*

**T**his year marks the 75th anniversary of Statistics Canada, Canada's national statistical agency. Known as the Dominion Bureau of Statistics (DBS) until 1971, Statistics Canada was officially formed on May 24, 1918. That year, the population of Canada was estimated at 8.1 million, less than one-third the size of the population estimate of 27.6 million in January 1993. But much more than the size of the Canadian population has changed. The social and economic issues of concern to Canadians have multiplied and evolved with each successive generation, providing a formidable challenge to the agency whose role was to furnish the information needed to guide a young nation's development.

Then, as now, the agency was responsible for producing both economic and social statistics. In 1918, DBS divided its responsibilities for reporting on the Canadian economy into the following areas: Agriculture, the Industrial Census, Foreign Trade, Transportation and Communication, Internal Trade and Finance. Three additional divisions dealt with social information: Demography, Administration of Justice and Education. Today, social reporting at Statistics Canada reflects not only the evolution of these still-important areas, but a continually developing program of information and analysis. This program addresses the entire spectrum of current and emerging social issues – health, employment and unemployment, income, culture, family structures, housing, living conditions and much more.





**The census has recorded Canada's social history for over a century** The main source of social information from 1871 through to the early 1900s was the census. Prior to 1918, the census of the Dominion of Canada had been the responsibility of the "Census and Statistics Office." The challenge to the newly formed DBS was to complete its organization "during the year 1919-1920 so that the Census of 1921 may proceed from a sound basis."<sup>1</sup>

5 The 1921 Census counted 8.8 million people. About half of them lived in rural areas. Households were much larger than they are today, averaging 4.6 people, compared with the 1991 Census count of 2.7.

5 In 1921, 12% of the Canadian population was born in the British Isles, while 0.4% was born in China. In 1991, 2.6% of the population was born in the United Kingdom and 1.1% in the Peoples Republic of China and Hong Kong.

**Births, deaths and marriages** Administrative records, in the form of vital statistics, were also an important source of social information. The collection of vital statistics began in Canada with the registration by the ecclesiastical authorities of baptisms, marriages and burials. In 1918, a procedure was set up where DBS supplied the standard registration forms for births, deaths and marriages and the provinces forwarded transcripts of the completed forms. By 1926, DBS vital statistics information covered all of the provinces within Confederation. When Newfoundland (in 1949) and the Territories (in 1950) joined Confederation, they also became party to the vital statistics agreement.

5 The birth rate following the First World War was high. In 1921, it was 29 births per 1,000 population. It dipped to only 20 births per 1,000 population in 1937, but peaked again during the baby boom that followed the Second World War. That peak, in 1954, was 28 births per 1,000. The rate in 1990, in contrast, was only 15 births per 1,000.

5 In 1926, about 18% of births took place in hospitals. By 1950, three-quarters were hospital births, and today, almost all births take place in hospitals.

5 Between 1926 and 1990, infant mortality dropped from 102 deaths per 1,000 live births to a rate of less than 7.

5 The death rate in 1926 was 11 per 1,000 population in Canada. By 1990, it had fallen to 7 deaths per 1,000.

5 In 1931, life expectancy at birth was calculated at 62 years for women and 60 years for men. By 1986, life expectancy had risen considerably for both men and women, but the spread between the genders had also increased. Women born in Canada can expect to live almost 80 years, while men can expect to live 73 years.

5 Almost 9% of men who married in 1926 had been widowers. That year, 6% of brides had been widows. In 1926, only 1% of newly married men and women had been divorced. Sixty years later, in 1990, only 3% of both men and women who married in that year were widowed, while divorced individuals accounted for 21% of the men and 20% of the women.

**Tracking diseases** The need for continuing vigilance over health issues is illustrated by the trends in tuberculosis.

5 Tuberculosis death rates fell continuously between 1921 and 1990. The impact of the use of streptomycin and other TB antibiotics introduced in the late 1940s is reflected in very steep falls in rates. In 1945, there were 47 deaths per 100,000 population, in 1950, the rate was 27. In recent years, the death rate from tuberculosis has reached a plateau at a rate of less than 1 per 100,000 population.


<sup>1</sup> Dominion Bureau of Statistics, **Annual Report**, 1918-1919.



Tuberculosis has become an uncommon disease in Canada. Fewer than 2,000 new cases are diagnosed annually. However, the rapid decrease in TB observed in the 1960s and 1970s gave way to slower declines in the early 1980s. There have been no further declines in most recent years (1988-1990). Most cases occur among high risk groups such as the urban poor, recent immigrants from high prevalence countries and Aboriginal Canadians.<sup>2</sup>


For the high risk populations identified, the fight against tuberculosis continues. While tuberculosis is no longer feared by most of the population, deaths from cardiovascular disease and cancer are of foremost concern.


**A nation of immigrants** Canada has often been described as a nation of immigrants.

 Canada experienced its largest wave of immigrants in 1913 (401,000 people, equivalent to 5% of the population that year). By the end of the First World War in 1918, immigration fell to only 42,000. Immigration picked up again through the 1920s, but dropped considerably during the Great Depression and even further during the Second World War. Annual numbers during the last 4 decades have generally ranged between one and two hundred thousand. The lowest number recorded during this period was 72,000 in 1961. In 1991, 231,000 people immigrated to Canada, less than 1% of the population.


**Justice** A product of the court system, criminal statistics have been available since 1876. But a historical review of crime in Canada is difficult. Laws, law enforcement and social mores have changed and crime reporting has changed. In an effort to increase consistency, a Unified Crime Reporting Survey was put into place in 1962. The demand for information on crime and the administration of justice continues to grow. This has led to the recent introduction of a more comprehensive Crime Reporting Survey and other improvements to the information available to legislators, law enforcement agents and the public.


**Education** Education statistics have been collected since 1866. However, it was during the 1960s, a period of unprecedented expansion and re-organisation of Canadian education, that a demand for improved statistics emerged. The demand is even greater today, as education policies and programs throughout the nation undergo intensive review and evolution.

 Today, it is taken for granted that children go to school. However, back in 1867, only 44% of those aged 5-24 were enrolled at school. This proportion rose moderately through the early years of this century, reaching 58% by 1921. Enrolment levels fluctuated during the depression years and into the period of the Second World War, but by the late 1970s, 70% of all persons in this age group attended school.

 Women's presence in universities is commonplace today. Women represented 62% of university enrolment in 1991-92. In 1920, however, women were very much in the minority, accounting for only 16% of full-time enrolment.


**Canadians at work** In 1946, responding to the need for information to support post-war labour market adjustments, DBS inaugurated the Labour Force Survey, a quarterly sample survey designed to measure employment and unemployment. Since 1953, the survey has been conducted on a monthly basis, providing key information on current labour market conditions and trends.


 In 1921, 53% of the population aged 14 years and over was employed. One-third was employed in agriculture. In 1991, 60% of those aged 15 and over were employed, but less than 4% in agriculture.

 Increasing female participation in the labour force has been one of the most important social trends in recent decades. In 1921, only one-in-five women 14 years and over was in the labour force. By 1991, 58% of women aged 15 and over were in the labour force.


The Labour Force Survey has also served as a vehicle for hundreds of special surveys. These include regular and occasional surveys covering topics such as literacy, child care, travel, health and shelter costs, to name a few.

**The Canadian consumer** Statistics Canada has been tracking the material well-being of Canadians for many years in terms of their personal incomes and spending power. While the census has collected information on the wages of Canadians for many decades, it did not begin collecting information on the total incomes of individuals and families until 1961. The Survey of Consumer Finances, beginning in 1951, was the first Statistics Canada survey to collect comprehensive information on all sources of income. Conducted in conjunction with the Labour Force Survey, this sample survey responded to the growing need for timely information on changes in the level and distribution of incomes throughout the country.

 In 1951, the average income of people who did not live on a farm was \$2,086. This was the equivalent to \$12,494 in constant 1991 dollars. In 1991, the average income of both farm and non-farm individuals was \$24,038.

 In 1951, the average family income was \$3,535 (equivalent to \$21,172 in 1991 dollars). Since then, family incomes in constant 1991 dollars have increased 250% to \$53,131 in 1991. The steady increase in women's participation in the labour force was an important factor in this growth.

Inflation is nothing new to the consumer. Except during the 1930s Great Depression, the cost of a typical "basket of goods and services" has moved up steadily.

 In 1991, it took \$9.28 to equal the buying power of \$1.00 in 1918.

It was not until 1937 that DBS initiated its own survey to determine the content of the "basket" of consumer goods and services used to monitor price changes. That year, the Survey of Family Expenditures targeted a specific type of average urban wage-earning family composed of two parents and children. The





survey was later expanded to include the expenditures of people in all types of households.

- 3 In 1937-38, food made a big dent in the family budget (28.8%), while personal taxes made up only 0.2% of family expenditures. In 1986, food accounted for only 14.4% of the expenditures of comparable families, while personal taxes had risen to 20.6%.<sup>3</sup>

**Shedding light on emerging social trends** In 1985, Statistics Canada introduced the General Social Survey (GSS), a program designed to focus on both current and evolving social issues and concerns. Over a five-year cycle, the GSS provides systematic and comprehensive information on the evolution of important social trends and their impact on the lives of Canadians. For example, the first and sixth cycle of the survey focused on the health of Canadians and lifestyle issues related to persons aged 55 and over. Subsequent cycles covered topics such as time use, personal risk, trends in work and education and family structures.

- 3 The percentage of men who were regular smokers dropped sharply from 54% in 1966 to 26% in 1991. The percentage of women who smoked daily dipped only slightly from 28% to 26% over the 25-year period.

- 3 Men are more likely than women to expend energy in leisure pursuits. In 1985, 31% of men and 23% of women were physically active. This increased to 39% of men and 26% of women in 1991.

**What's in store tomorrow?** These anecdotes describing a few of the changes measured over the years don't touch on all of the social data series that Statistics Canada has developed. Nor do they highlight important new initiatives currently under development in the areas of health, education, income and labour market participation. Over the past 75 years, changes in social conditions, developments in information science, as well as increases in the demand for information have been reflected in the growth and development of Statistics Canada's information programs. New challenges undoubtedly will continue to shape them over the next 75.

2 A. Brancker, D.A. Enarson, S. Grzybowski, E.S. Hershfield, C.W.L. Jeanes, "A Statistical Chronicle of Tuberculosis in Canada: Part II. Risk Today and Control". Health Reports (Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-003) 1992, Vol.4, No.3.

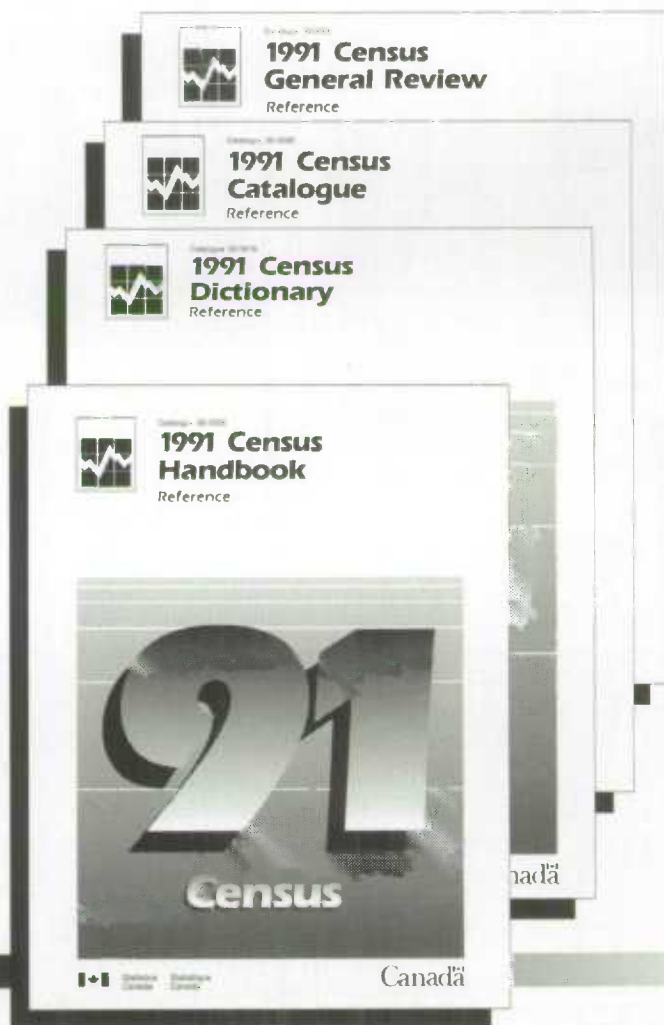
3 H. Champion, "Fifty years ago: Canada's first Family Expenditure Survey," unpublished, Statistics Canada, 1988.

**Cynthia Silver** is Editor-in-Chief of *Canadian Social Trends*.



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# SOCIAL INDICATORS

	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
<b>POPULATION</b>								
Canada, June 1 (000s)	25,165.4	25,353.0	25,617.3	25,909.2	26,240.3	26,610.4	27,004.4 <sup>PD</sup>	27,402.2 <sup>PD</sup>
Annual growth (%)	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.5 <sup>PD</sup>	1.5 <sup>PR</sup>
Immigration <sup>1</sup>	84,062	88,051	125,696	152,285	174,495	199,527	221,798	236,723 <sup>R</sup>
Emigration <sup>1</sup>	46,252	44,816	51,040	40,528	37,437	39,650	39,201	42,503 <sup>PD</sup>
<b>FAMILY</b>								
Birth rate (per 1,000)	14.8	14.7	14.4	14.5	15.0	15.3	14.9	•
Marriage rate (per 1,000)	7.3	6.9	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.1	6.4	•
Divorce rate (per 1,000)	2.4	3.1	3.4	3.1	3.1	2.9	2.8	•
Families experiencing unemployment (000s)	990	915	872	789	776	841	1,046	1,132
<b>LABOUR FORCE</b>								
Total employment (000s)	11,221	11,531	11,861	12,244	12,486	12,572	12,340	12,240
– goods sector (000s)	3,425	3,477	3,553	3,693	3,740	3,626	3,423	3,307
– service sector (000s)	7,796	8,054	8,308	8,550	8,745	8,946	8,917	8,933
Total unemployment (000s)	1,311	1,215	1,150	1,031	1,018	1,109	1,417	1,556
Unemployment rate (%)	10.5	9.5	8.8	7.8	7.5	8.1	10.3	11.3
Part-time employment (%)	15.5	15.5	15.2	15.4	15.1	15.4	16.4	16.8
Women's participation rate (%)	54.6	55.3	56.4	57.4	57.9	58.4	58.2	57.6
Unemployment rate – % of paid workers	34.4	34.1	33.3	33.7	34.1	34.7	•	•
<b>INCOME</b>								
Median family income	34,736	36,858	38,851	41,238	44,460	46,069	46,742	•
% of families with low income (1986 Base)	14.3	13.6	13.1	12.2	11.1	12.1	13.1	•
Women's full-time earnings as a % of men's	64.9	65.8	65.9	65.3	65.8	67.6	69.6	•
<b>EDUCATION</b>								
Elementary and secondary enrolment (000s)	4,927.8	4,938.0	4,972.9	5,024.1	5,074.4	5,141.0	5,221.1 <sup>P</sup>	5,287.7 <sup>e</sup>
Full-time postsecondary enrolment (000s)	789.8	796.9	805.4	816.9	832.3	856.5	890.5 <sup>P</sup>	921.3 <sup>e</sup>
Doctoral degrees awarded	2,000	2,218	2,384	2,415	2,600	2,672	2,947	3,140 <sup>P</sup>
Government expenditure on education – as a % of GDP	6.0	5.7	5.6	5.5	5.4	5.5	•	•
<b>HEALTH</b>								
% of deaths due to cardiovascular disease – men	41.7	41.4	40.5	39.5	39.1	37.3	•	•
– women	45.3	44.9	44.0	43.4	42.6	41.2	•	•
% of deaths due to cancer – men	25.4	25.9	26.4	27.0	27.2	27.8	•	•
– women	25.7	25.5	26.1	26.4	26.4	26.8	•	•
Government expenditure on health – as a % of GDP	5.8	6.0	5.9	5.9	6.0	6.2	•	•
<b>JUSTICE</b>								
Crime rates (per 100,000) – violent	749	808	856	898	948	1,013	1,099	•
– property	5,560	5,714	5,731	5,630	5,503	5,844	6,395	•
– homicide	2.8	2.2	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.5	3.0	•
<b>GOVERNMENT</b>								
Expenditures on social programmes <sup>2</sup> (1990 \$000,000)	155,990.6	157,737.2	160,670.7	164,293.2	170,125.0	175,640.0	•	•
– as a % of total expenditures	55.8	56.4	56.1	56.2	56.2	56.7	•	•
– as a % of GDP	26.2	26.1	25.5	24.7	25.0	26.3	•	•
UI beneficiaries (000s)	3,181.5	3,136.7	3,079.9	3,016.4	3,025.2	3,261.0	3,663.0	•
OAS and OAS/GIS beneficiaries <sup>m</sup> (000s)	2,569.5	2,652.2	2,748.5	2,835.1	2,919.4	3,005.8	3,098.5	3,180.5
Canada Assistance Plan beneficiaries <sup>m</sup> (000s)	1,923.3	1,892.9	1,904.9	1,853.0	1,856.1	1,930.1	2,282.2	2,723.0
<b>ECONOMIC INDICATORS</b>								
GDP <sup>2</sup> (1986 \$) – annual % change	+4.8	+3.3	+4.2	+5.0	+2.3	-0.5	-1.7	+0.9
Annual inflation rate (%)	3.9	4.2	4.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.6	1.5
Urban housing starts	139,408	170,863	215,340	189,635	183,323	150,620	130,094	140,126
• Not available    • Not yet available <sup>P</sup> Preliminary data <sup>e</sup> Estimate <sup>m</sup> Figures as of March <sup>PD</sup> Final postcensal estimates (1987-1992 population estimates are still based on 1986 census counts) <sup>PR</sup> Updated postcensal estimates <sup>R</sup> Updated data <sup>1</sup> For year ending May 31 <sup>st</sup> <sup>2</sup> Includes Protection of Persons and Property; Health; Social Services; Education; Recreation and Culture.								



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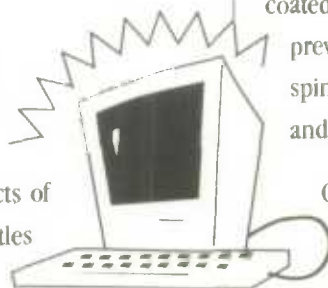
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