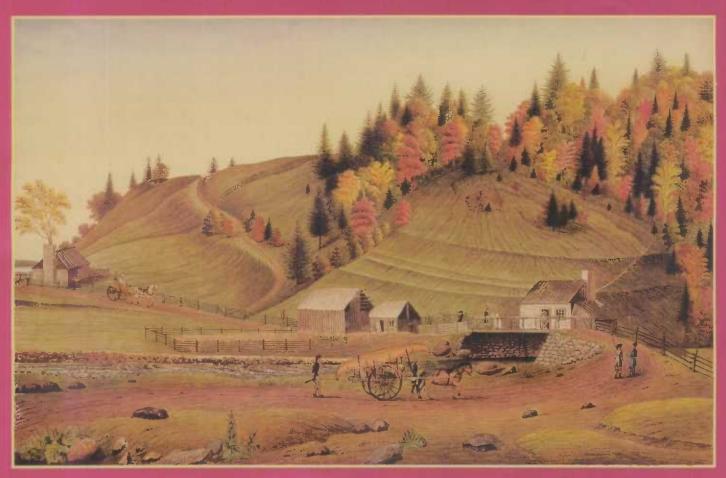
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# ON OUR COVER:

A View of the Bridge on the River La Puce near Quebec in Canada (1788) watercolour over graphite on laid paper, 34.1 x 51.5 cm. Collection: National Gallery of Canada.

# About the artist:

Thomas Davies (c1737-1812)

was born near Woolwich, England. In the military, he was posted in Canada intermittently during the years 1757-1790. Throughout his life, he worked as a topographer, draughtsman and watercolourist. Mr. Davies returned to England where he died in 1812.

# SOCIAL

Editor-in-Chief

## Editors

O ANNE BELLIVEAU JILJIAN ODERKIRK JEFFREY FRANK

Production Co-ordinator CHERYL SARAZIN

Marketing Co-ordinator
ALEX SOLIS

### Art Direction

DISSEMINATION DIVISION, STATISTICS CANADA

## Design

GRIFFE DESIGN INC.

## **Illustrations and Photos**

CANAPRESS PHOTO SERVICES
GEORGE MELO
HERITAGE CANADA
OTTAWA-CARLETON POLICE
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Preparing for the NFORMATION IGHWAY Information Technology in Canadian Households by Jeffrey Frank

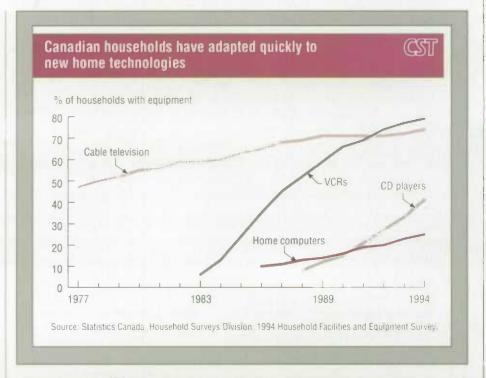
dvances in telecommunications and in computer technology have brought about an information revolution, the impact of which may be as profound as that of the industrial revolution of the nineteenth century. The rapid evolution of telephone, cable, satellite and computer networks, combined with technological breakthroughs in computer processing speeds and information storage capacity, have made this latest revolution possible.

For decades, telephones and televisions have been standard equipment in virtually every Canadian household. More recently. technological developments and declining prices have given consumers access to an expanding range of high-tech products and services. As a result, video cassette recorders (VCRs), compact disc (CD) players, cable television, satellite dishes, facsimile (fax) machines, computers, CD-ROMs and modems have been making their way into the homes of more and more Canadians. The increased presence of such innovations in the home is gradually changing the way many people spend their working, learning and leisure time.

Canadians appear to be keeping pace with the evolution of an increasingly technological environment and their degree of computer literacy is higher than ever. As the information highway grows more elaborate, the number of opportunities for taking advantage of information technology in the home are increasing. Thus far, however, these innovations are most accessible to people in higher income households who can afford them.

Information technology infrastructure has evolved The information highway can be described as a "network of networks" that allows for the sharing of information. In addition to information in the form of text, the information highway facilitates the interactive use of sophisticated graphic, video and audio information. Although telephone and cable systems are competing to be the main carrier of information services in the future, other media, including direct-to-home satellite services, may become equally important lanes on the information highway.

Some information equipment that can be found in the home, including fax machines and modems, make use of



# **CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS BACKGROUNDER**



# The Internet, on-line services and bulletin boards

The Internet: Started in the 1960s as a communications network for the United States military, the Internet spread first to universities and information technology corporations, and eventually to businesses, schools and millions of individuals around the globe. The Internet comprises a free and virtually unlimited worldwide electronic mail system, as well as thousands of news groups and mailing lists. In addition, the Internet provides access to the World Wide Web which contains hundreds of thousands of interlinked home pages. Home pages are sites where companies, organizations and individuals offer information in the form of multi-media documents.

Commercial services: On-line information services and databases have proliferated in recent years. Today, many companies offer value-added information services in exchange for a user or subscription fee. Examples include airline reservation systems, stock market quote services, full-text databases from newswires, and searchable encyclopedias. Commercial on-line services are available in areas as diverse as financial services, science and engineering, medicine and health care, education, libraries and specialized business information

Bulletin board systems: These are small, localized computer networks that are often oriented toward single-interest groups and hobbyists. Organizations, such as businesses and associations, also use bulletin board systems (BBSs) to communicate with specific audiences. Users connect by modem and can share information and software. BBSs are slowly becoming redundant because the Internet and commercial services can serve the same functions. BBSs, however, have the advantage of being low-cost, and some act as local interfaces to the Internet.

standard telephone lines. Sophisticated switching and communications capabilities make telephone systems highly interactive, but the wires these phone systems currently use are limited to transmitting text and low- to medium-quality graphics. Canada's major phone companies, however, are moving quickly to increase the capacity and speed of their networks.

In contrast, cable systems use lines capable of handling high-quality graphics,

animation, video and interactive computer applications. Cable services to date, however, have been a one-way medium, from distributers to consumers. Currently, there are about 1,800 cable systems in Canada serving nearly 8 million households. About 97% of Canadian households are located in areas that are wired for cable service. Like the telephone companies, the cable industry is in the process of upgrading its systems to incorporate the most recent technological developments.

More Canadian households with high-tech products and services Canadians have demonstrated themselves to be quick to adopt many new home-based information technology products. In 1994, for example, 79% of households had at least one VCR, up from just 6% in 1983. Similarly, the proportion of Canadian households with a CD player increased to 41% in 1994 from 8% in 1988 (the first year such information was collected). Also in 1994, more than

Percentage of urban hous	enolas' wi	tn selecte	ea equipment	in 1994			Œ T
Census metropolitan area (number of households) to	Cable elevision	VCRs	Camcorders	Cassette or tape recorders	CD players	Home computers	Modem
				0/0			
Calgary (270,000)	86	82	15	81	45	31	
Chicoutimi-Jonquière (52,000)	77	80	12	56	32	15	
Edmonton (290,000)	79	83	17	84	47	30	1:
Halifax (124,000)	87	85	11	85	46	27	1:
Hamilton (244,000)	87	82	14	78	48	28	4
Kitchener (133,000)	87	85	19	82	55	36	2:
London (137,000)	86	83	16	85	44	29	(
Montréal (1,246,000)	69	71	11	66	38	22	
Oshawa (86,000)	89	88	20	81	49	29	
Ottawa-Hull (352,000)	84	81	12	81	44	34	1
Québec (266,000)	68	75	10	72	44	18	
Regina (67,000)	82	83	12	87	45	26	
St. Catharines-Niagara (131,000	72	82	14	78	35	22	1;
St. John's (54,000)	88	79	12	80	40	22	name of
Saint John (44,000)	88	81	19	84	39	17	
Saskatoon (72,000)	72	78	16	87	43	27	
Sherbrooke (52,000)	89	78	12	71	42	25	
Sudbury (60,000)	83	83	18	82	47	29	2
Thunder Bay (49,000)	79	83	16	78	43	27	
Toronto (1,365,000)	90	82	19	76	46	31	12
Trois-Rivières (49,000)	86	76	13	70	37	24	
Vancouver (660,000)	93	81	17	83	54	36	16
Victoria (129,000)	94	79	14	87	52	36	15
Windsor (99,000)	49	80	16	77	40	25	19
Winnipeg (250,000)	85	77	12	79	40	21	14

<sup>1</sup> Households in census metropolitan areas.

<sup>- -</sup> Estimate not reliable enough to publish.

Source: Statistics Canada, Household Surveys Division, 1994 Household Facilities and Equipment Survey.

400,000 households (4%) had a fax machine.

Consumers will not necessarily embrace any new technology that comes along. Indeed, many media and formats of information-based products and services have been introduced in the past only to quickly become obsolete. Consumer preference plays an important role in determining which home-based information technologies become established.

To receive expanded television programming and viewing choices, nearly three-quarters (74%) of households subscribed to a cable service in 1994, up from 47% in 1977. Of course, some households, especially in rural areas, do not have access to cable service. These households require a satellite dish to receive a wider range of television programming. In 1993, 3% of Canadian households were equipped with a satellite dish. This proportion will likely increase, however, as new direct-to-home satellite television services are poised to compete with established cable services.

Ownership of home computers has also been growing. New hardware and software products, falling prices and the opportunity to link up with larger computer networks and services have made owning a personal computer (PC) more attractive than ever before. In 1994, 25% of Canadian households had a home computer, up from 10% in 1986. Thus, 2.6 million households owned a PC in 1994 (excluding computers that were strictly for business purposes and those that could only be used to play games). One in three of these home computers (34%) was equipped with a modem. This device sends and receives information over telephone lines, and allows households to access on-line services, bulletin board systems and the Internet.

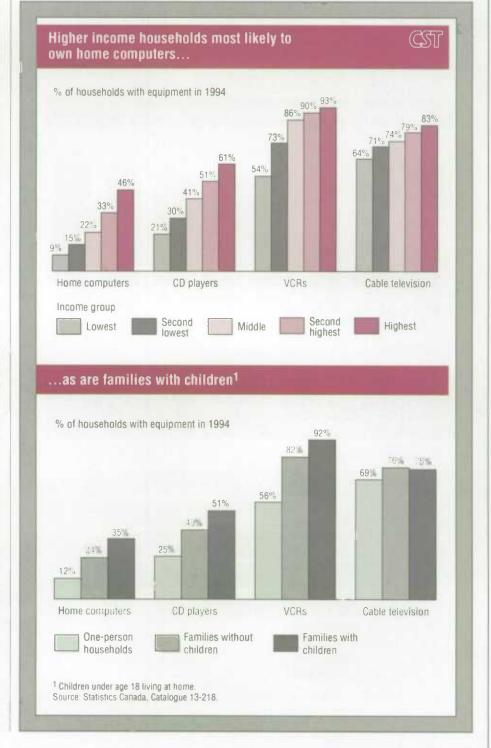
Higher income households and those with children most likely to have home computers Although the vast majority of households, regardless of income, can access many electronic services by telephone, links to the information highway are not as universally available. For example, a computer (along with a modem and appropriate software) is required to access the Internet. As might be expected, income is an important determinant of whether or not a household has

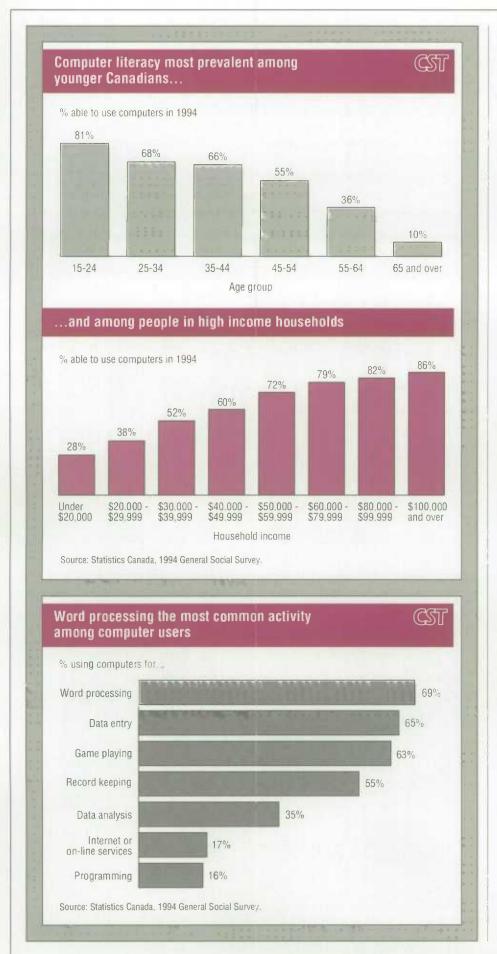
a PC. In 1994, households in the highest income group were five times more likely to have a home computer (46%) than were those in the lowest income group (9%).<sup>1</sup>

Computer ownership also varies by household type (which in turn is related to other factors such as income and age). Families with children under age 18 were more likely to have a computer (35%) than were those without children (24%). Furthermore, families with children were

three times as likely as one-person households (12%) to own a computer. PCs were even less common in the homes of seniors. Less than 7% of households headed by people aged 65 and over had a computer in 1994. In fact, household type is related to ownership of

1 Households were ranked from those with the highest incomes to those with the lowest. Households were then divided into five equally sized groups (quintiles).





many electronic leisure items, including VCRs and CD players. Families with children are most likely to have all of these devices.

An increasingly computer literate population According to the 1994 General Social Survey (GSS), 56% of adult Canadians (12.3 million) were able to use a computer, up substantially from 47% in 1989. In addition, 41% of Canadians aged 15 and over in 1994 had taken at least one computer course.

Computer literacy is most prevalent among youth, in part because most young people today are exposed to computers in school. In 1994, 81% of people aged 15 to 24 were able to use a computer. Computer literacy declined with each subsequent age group. Among seniors, only 10% were able to use a computer.

As is the case with ownership of home computers, ability to use a computer is related to household income. In 1994, 86% of people living in households with incomes of \$100,000 and over knew how to use a computer. Only 28% of people in households with incomes under \$20,000 were computer literate.

Among computer users, word processing is the most common activity. In 1994, 69% reported having used a computer for word processing. The next most common uses included data entry (65%), game playing (63%) and record keeping (55%). The 1994 GSS asked, for the first time, whether people had used any on-line services or had logged onto the Internet. That year, 17% of computer users (2.2 million) reported having used an on-line service or the Internet in the 12 months before the survey.

It appears that Canadians are well prepared to enter the information age. More Canadians are computer literate than ever before, more people now have a computer in the home and many are making use of on-line services. Using and benefiting from information technology, however, is still most common among Canadians with high incomes and among the young.

Telework is becoming a feasible option Technological advances have made telework a realistic option for many employees and employers. Telework involves working at home while being electronically connected to the workplace. In 1991, over 500,000 Canadians were employees who worked at home. It is not known how many of these homebased workers were actually teleworking, but the phenomenon is thought to be growing. So far, most organizations using telework are in government, and in the banking, computer and telecommunications industries.

Most teleworkers currently work over ordinary phone lines, but a pilot project using a more sophisticated network is in place. CableLink Work is a cable network developed by Rogers Cablesystems Ltd. A six-month field trial in 1995 in Newmarket, Ontario involved 20 IBM employees who were connected by cable modem to an interactive, multi-media system,

enabling them to work on complex tasks. These new cable modems are not yet commercially available, but can transmit and receive information at a speed of 10 million bits per second. This is a dramatic improvement over conventional modems that operate at speeds between 9,600 and 28,800 bits per second. As a result of such technological developments, telework may become even more common in the future.

**Implications for education** In addition to the use of computers and other products (like CD-ROM) with regular education programs, new approaches to education are now possible as a result of advances in information technology. Distance education, traditionally done through correspondence and more recently over radio or television broadcasts, is now possible through computer networks. This type of education has the potential to make interactive instruction accessible to people in remote areas, to people with disabilities, and to people with tight schedules. Also, highly specialized programs of study could become available to more students.

Statistics Canada's 1994 Adult Education and Training Survey estimated that over 400,000 Canadian students were enrolled in some type of distance education course or program that year. Of these students, 19% made use of an information



technology-based medium such as multimedia, the Internet or teleconferencing. An additional 4% received at least part of their instruction over radio or television. As educational institutions make further use of information technology, and as technology continues to proliferate in the home, distance education may become even more commonplace.

Implications for culture In the cultural field, the implications of information technology in the home are also evident. Consumers will be faced with many new choices in terms of content, products and services, and prices. CDs and VCRs, for example, have already changed the way Canadians listen to music and see films. The delivery of cultural and entertainment services may change even more profoundly as cable systems and satellites allow for direct, customized distribution to the home. Everything from pay-per-view movies, to electronically distributed sound recordings, to interactive audio-visual presentations of gallery and museum exhibits will be possible. New products, such as interactive games and virtual reality applications, could lead to unprecedented levels of consumer participation and creativity.

As with all innovations that have been introduced in the past, new information technologies pose challenges to the

protection of intellectual property. Copyright considerations will likely be a major part of public policy discussions as the information highway evolves. Another important consideration is the extent to which new technologies will affect Canadian content. The information highway knows no borders, and although Canadians will be inundated with cultural products from all over the world, so too will the world have access to Canadian culture.

The future of information technology in the home. The manner in which Canadian households will access the information highway in the future is uncertain. Much will depend on how telephone, cable, satellite and computer networks evolve over the next few years. In addition, consumer acceptance of these various, often competing

technologies will play an important part in determining how the information highway is built. No matter how the information highway evolves, however, consumer acceptance will ultimately depend upon the quality of the content offered.

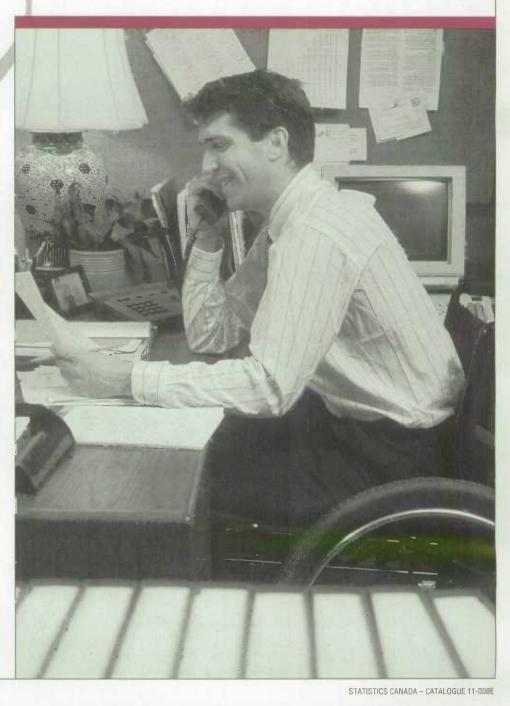
Intercom Ontario is a pilot project looking into the way people interact with technology. The four-year trial currently involves 250 York University students who are connected to a network with access to various services via either a television or a computer terminal, or both. The project is being extended to include a community of 300 new homes in Newmarket, Ontario that have been specially equipped with user-friendly electronic interfaces. Participants can do their banking, access government information, engage in personal teleconferencing, access audio and video information (including music and movies), and play interactive games. The results of the Intercom Ontario trial will provide important insights into the types of services consumers may want to access electronically and the manner in which they prefer to do so.

**Jeffrey Frank** is an Editor with Canadian Social Trends.



# mployment of by Alan Shain PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

uring the past thirty years, attitudes toward people with disabilities have changed significantly. This progress, combined with advances in technology and medicine, has made it possible for people with disabilities to take a more active role in Canadian society. Nonetheless, people with disabilities are still much less likely than other Canadians to be in the labour force. Furthermore, people with disabilities who are in the labour force are concentrated in lower-paying jobs and are more likely than others to experience unemployment.



Although employment patterns may vary according to the nature and severity of people's disabilities, physical and attitudinal barriers that are independent of the disabilities themselves also exist. These barriers restrict, and often prevent, access to employment and higher paying jobs.

In an effort to eliminate these barriers, the 1986 Employment Equity Act designated people with disabilities as one of four groups in Canada that has been disadvantaged in the labour market. Since then, efforts have been made to create equal access to employment opportunities for people with disabilities along with the other designated groups (women, visible minorities and Aboriginal peoples). These efforts address not only all aspects of employment, such as recruiting and hiring practices, but also areas related to employment, such as education and training.

# Disability rates increase with age

According to the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey (HALS), 16% of Canada's population (4.2 million people) had a disability that, for six months or more, restricted or limited their ability to perform an activity in a manner or within a range considered normal. Children under age 15 (7%) and people aged 15 to 34 (8%) had the lowest disability rates. The likelihood of having a disability increased substantially among people aged 35 to 54 (14%), and again among those aged 55 to 64 (27%). Seniors, however, were the most likely to have had a disability (46%). Within the working age population, defined as those aged 15 to 64, the disability rate was 13% in 1991. That year, more than one-half of Canadians with disabilities (2.3 million people) were that age.

Even within the working age population, people with disabilities tended to be older. Within this group, 29% were aged 15 to 34, 43% were aged 35 to 54 and 27% were aged 55 to 64. In contrast, among working age people without disabilities, 50% were aged 15 to 34, 39% were aged 35 to 54 and 11% were aged 55 to 64.

The proportion of people with severe disabilities also increased with age. Severity was determined according to the extent of one's limitations. In 1991, few children with disabilities were severely disabled (3%). Nine percent of disabled adults aged 15 to 34 had severe disabilities, compared with 32% of disabled seniors.

Among the working age population with disabilities, 15% had a severe disability, while 31% were moderately disabled. Just over one-half (54%) had a mild disability.

Similar proportions of working age men and women had a disability in 1991. As well, few differences existed between men and women in the nature and severity of their disabilities.

Mobility and agility disabilities most common In 1991, about one-half of adults aged 15 to 642 with disabilities had a mobility or agility disability. This included limitations in the ability to walk, move from room to room, carry an object a short distance, or stand for long periods of time. As well, 25% of people with disabilities reported a hearing disability, and 9% reported a sight disability. Many disabled people had more than one disability (53%).

Lower education levels among adults with disabilities In 1991, adults aged 15 to 64 with disabilities (18%) were more than twice as likely as those without disabilities (8%) to have less than a Grade 9 education. In addition, 2% of adults with disabilities had no formal education, while virtually no adults without disabilities were in that situation. Similarly, only 6% of adults with disabilities had completed university, compared with 14% of other adults. These proportions were similar for both men and women with disabilities in 1991.

Disparities in educational attainment existed between the populations with and

without disabilities, regardless of age. Among those aged 15 to 34, people with disabilities (6%) were twice as likely as other Canadians (3%) to have less than a Grade 9 education. Similarly, people that age with disabilities (5%) were only half as likely as others (12%) to have a university degree. Those aged 35 to 54 with disabilities were also about twice as likely as others that age to have less than a Grade 9 education (16% compared with 9%), and half as likely to have a university degree (8% compared with 17%). Among those aged 55 to 64 with disabilities, 35% had less than a Grade 9 education and 4% had a university degree. Among other people that age, 25% had less than a Grade 9 education and 10% had a university degree.

Adults with severe (32%) or moderate disabilities (25%) were considerably more likely than those with mild disabilities (13%) to have less than a Grade 9 education. At the same time, 4% of people with severe disabilities had a university degree, compared with 5% of those with moderate and 7% of those with mild disabilities. Part of the reason for these differences is that people with mild disabilities tend to be younger than those with moderate or severe disabilities. Older adults, both with and without

# **CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS BACKGROUNDER**



# Severity of disability

On the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey, adults aged 15 and over were asked about limitations they experienced in their daily routines, including any difficulty they experienced when eating and dressing, using the telephone, reading the printed word, walking long distances or using stairs. The severity of their disabilities was determined by according one point for each partial loss of function and two points for each total loss of function. Those with less than five points were considered as having mild disabilities, while those with five to ten points were considered moderately disabled and those with eleven or more points were considered severely disabled.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A person is not considered to have a disability if the use of a technical aid, such as glasses or a hearing aid, completely eliminates the limitation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The remainder of this article discusses only the population aged 15 to 64 with disabilities who live in private households.

disabilities, generally have a lower level of educational attainment than their younger counterparts.

Lower levels of educational attainment partly caused by barriers Barriers to educational attainment can include inaccessible classrooms, a lack of required services and equipment, and educators' unfamiliarity with how to accommodate people with disabilities. A lack of financial resources can also be a limiting factor. According to a 1993 study by the National Education Association of Disabled Students, more than 40% of students with disabilities found their finances insufficient for their disability-related needs. All of these types of barriers would have been more prominent for older people who were pursuing an education twenty-five or thirty years ago.

In 1991, 20% of people aged 15 to 64 with disabilities had their disability before completing their schooling. Virtually all of these people stated that their education<sup>3</sup> was affected by their disability in some way. The most frequent response was that their choice of courses or careers was affected (61%). The amount of funding available to students with disabilities is often tied to the type of program in which the student is enrolled, thus limiting career choices.

Almost 40% of those whose disability affected their education stated that their schooling was interrupted for long periods of time. This could have been due to operations or treatments needed as a result of their disability. About 30% changed schools because of their disability, attended special education classes or schools, or changed their course of study. In addition, some took courses by correspondence or arranged for home study because of their disability (18%), while others left their own community to attend school (17%).

Lower levels of employment experienced by people with disabilities In 1991, 54% of people aged 15 to 34 with disabilities, 57% of those aged 35 to 54, and 28% of those aged 55 to 64 were employed. In contrast, among those without disabilities, 70% of those aged 15 to 34, 82% of those aged 35 to 54, and 55% of those aged 55 to 64 were employed.

As severity levels increase, the proportion of people with disabilities who are employed decreases substantially. Sixty-two percent of people aged 15 to 64 with mild disabilities were employed in 1991, compared with only 37% of those with moderate and 19% of those with severe disabilities.

Similar to the situation in the general population, women with disabilities are

less likely than men with disabilities to be employed. In 1991, 41% of women aged 15 to 64 with disabilities were employed, compared with 56% of men that age with disabilities.

Among people with disabilities who were employed, 76% worked 30 or more hours per week. Most were paid employees, while 12% were self-employed. These characteristics were similar to the population without disabilities.

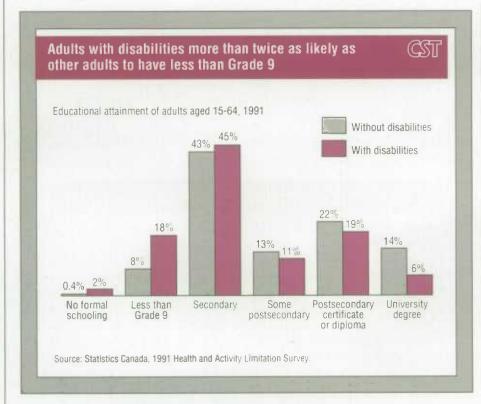
Higher proportion of adults with disabilities not in the labour force Over 30% of people aged 15 to 34 and aged 35 to 54 with disabilities were not in the labour force in 1991. In contrast, among people without disabilities, 20% of those aged 15 to 34 and 12% of those aged 35 to 54 were not in the labour force. Among people aged 55 to 64, 68% of those with disabilities were not in the labour force, compared with 39% of those without disabilities.

To be considered part of the labour force, a person had to be either employed or looking for work in the four weeks prior to the HALS. Some people may still have been looking for work, but not during that four-week period. Limited employment opportunities for people with disabilities may discourage many from actively searching for work.

Over 60% of people aged 15 to 34 and aged 35 to 54 with severe disabilities were not participating in the labour force. Those aged 55 to 64 with severe disabilities were the most likely to not be participating (88%). Among people with moderate disabilities, about 45% aged 15 to 34 and aged 35 to 54, and 76% aged 55 to 64 were not in the labour force. Among people with mild disabilities, 25% aged 15 to 34, 20% aged 35 to 54, and 52% aged 55 to 64 were not in the labour force.

The participation rates of men and women with disabilities differed considerably. In 1991, over one-half of women aged 15 to 64 with disabilities (52%) and 36% of men that age with disabilities were not in the labour force. In comparison, among people aged 15 to 64 without disabilities, 27% of women and 12% of men were not in the labour force.

Unemployment rate higher among people with disabilities Of adults with disabilities who were in the labour force



in 1991, 19% of those aged 15 to 34, 12% of those aged 35 to 54 and 14% of those aged 55 to 64 were unemployed. Among those without disabilities, 12% of those aged 15 to 34, 7% of those aged 35 to 54, and 9% of those aged 55 to 64 were unemployed. The unemployment rate of those with severe disabilities (28%) was over twice the rate of those with mild disabilities (12%). Most unemployed

people with disabilities were looking for full-time work (71%).

Women with disabilities (16%) had a higher unemployment rate than men with disabilities (13%). Among people without disabilities, the unemployment rates of men and women were the same (10%).

Low employment income among those with disabilities Just under one-third of

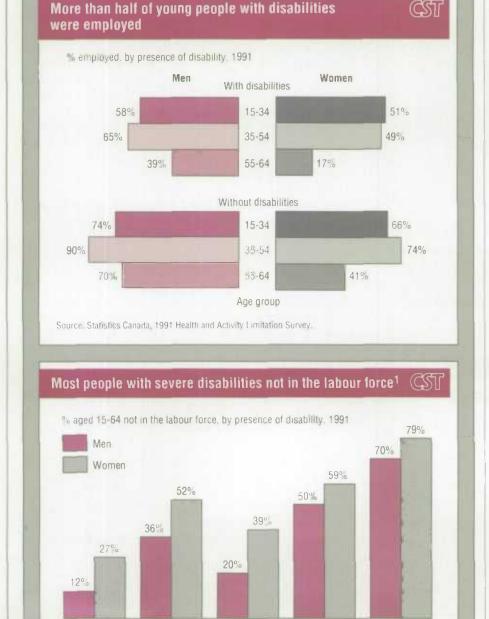
people aged 15 to 64 with disabilities received disability-related income from at least one source in 1990. This income ranged from Social Assistance (12%) and disability pension (10%) to Worker's Compensation (6%) and employer insurance plans (3%). Many types of income support are only available to people who are not working, and thus do not assist people living with low employment incomes. Most people aged 15 to 64 with disabilities (61%), however, had income from employment. Eighty-two percent of people without disabilities had an employment income.

The average annual employment income of people with disabilities was \$22,100 in 1990.<sup>4</sup> This was more than \$3,000 below the average employment income of people without disabilities. Employment income was lowest among those who were severely disabled. People with severe disabilities earned an average of \$18,000 in 1990, compared with \$19,900 for those with moderate disabilities, and \$23,500 for those with mild disabilities.

Average employment incomes of people with and without disabilities were higher in each successive age group from ages 15 to 34 to ages 35 to 54. People aged 55 to 64 with disabilities, however, had lower employment incomes than did those in younger age groups, while non-disabled people that age had employment incomes that were as high as those of younger people. This may be a reflection of the higher incidence of severe disabilities among people aged 55 to 64 with disabilities.

Among people aged 15 to 64 with disabilities, the average employment income of women (\$15,800) was 59% of that of men (\$27,000). This was similar to the proportion in the population without disabilities. The average annual employment income of women without disabilities (\$18,300) was 58% of that of men (\$31,500).

People with disabilities are more likely than others to have low employment incomes. Forty-three percent of employed people with disabilities earned less than \$15,000 in 1990, while 37% of people



With mild

disabilities

With moderate

With severe

Without

disabilities

1 Employed or actively looking for work

With

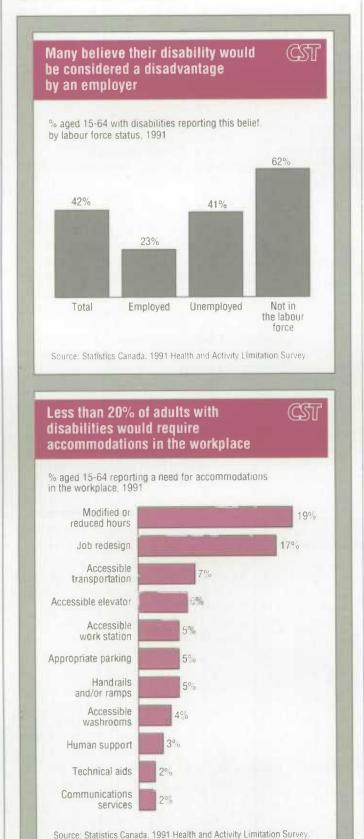
disabilities

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

<sup>3</sup> This included all levels of education from elementary school through university.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Includes the incomes of both part-time and full-time workers.

without disabilities earned that amount. Also, 11% of employed people with disabilities earned \$45,000 or more, compared with 15% of those without disabilities.



Added costs of living for people with disabilities In daily life, people with disabilities often incur costs that are not experienced by people without disabilities. The problem of added costs is often compounded by low employment incomes. In 1990, 33% of the population aged 15 to 64 with disabilities had disability-related expenses that were not reimbursed by either an insurance or health plan. The most commonly reported expenses were for prescription and non-prescription drugs (25%) and transportation (10%).

Many feel an employer would consider their disability a disadvantage In 1991, 42% of people aged 15 to 64 with disabilities believed that an employer would consider their disability a disadvantage. Those not in the labour force were the most likely to believe this (62%), while employed people were the least likely (23%). This is not surprising given that people not in the labour force were more likely than those with employment to be severely disabled. People with severe (76%) and moderate (57%) disabilities were more likely than those with mild disabilities (24%) to believe that their disability would be considered a disadvantage.

Many who were employed also reported that they felt their career progression was held back by their disability. In 1991, 26% stated that their disability made changing jobs or advancing in their current job difficult.

Some people with disabilities are limited in the kind of work they can do In 1991, 34% of employed people with disabilities reported that they were limited in the kind or amount of work that they could do. Those with severe (83%) or moderate (53%) disabilities, however, were more likely than those with mild disabilities (23%) to report being limited in this way.

People with disabilities who were unemployed (55%) were more likely than those who were employed to report this problem. Unemployed people with mild disabilities (44%), in particular, were much more likely than their employed counterparts to report being limited in the kind or amount of work that they could do. Unemployed people with severe disabilities, on the other hand, were about as likely as those who were employed to report this type of limitation.

Among those who were not in the labour force, 59% stated that their disability completely prevented them from working. Twenty percent stated that they could work, but were limited in the kind or amount of work that they could do, while the remaining 20% did not report any such problems. Most of those who did not report being limited had mild disabilities.

Accessibility of the workplace is a key to employment for people with disabilities. The accessibility of the workplace largely determines whether or not people with disabilities can work. The types of accommodations needed to make a workplace accessible depend on the individual, and range from physical alterations, to technical equipment, to a flexible schedule. In many cases, it is the employer's commitment to the integration of people with disabilities that makes the difference.

Very few people with disabilities in 1991 reported that they would need physical modifications in the workplace, such as accessible work stations and washrooms, elevators and ramps. About 2% of those employed, 6% of those unemployed and 10%

of those not in the labour force stated that they had this type of need. In addition, problems faced by those in need of physical modifications have lessened over the past fifteen years. Government grants are available to employers for physical alterations, and many buildings have been renovated to accommodate disabled people. Revisions to building codes have also made accessibility a feature of new building construction.

Some people with disabilities require other types of accommodations in the workplace, including accessible transportation (7%), appropriate parking (5%), human support (such as a personal assistant) (3%), technical aids (2%) and communications services (such as telecommunications devices for the deaf) (2%). While some of these accommodations

involve a sizeable financial commitment, others are relatively inexpensive. In addition, government grants are available to employers to cover the cost of purchasing technical equipment.

"Job redesign" or modified or reduced working hours were also needed by many people with disabilities. Job redesign refers to flexibility in the job description and may mean exchanging certain duties for others to allow for a person's disability. The essential components of the job, however, are maintained. Modified or reduced hours can accommodate the nature of a person's disability or aspects of their daily routine, such as attendant services or transportation arrangements.

In 1991, few people with disabilities who were employed reported that they needed their job redesigned (9%) or that they required reduced or modified working hours (8%). Not surprisingly, a larger proportion of people not in the labour force (25%) and of those unemployed (22%) reported that they would require a job to be redesigned. Similarly, 31% of those not in the labour force and 18% of those unemployed would require modified or reduced working hours.

Access to training is often limited for people with disabilities. In 1991, about 40% of both employed people with disabilities and unemployed people with disabilities stated that they had participated in work-related training courses at some point. Less than one-quarter of people with disabilities who were not in the labour force, however, had participated in these types of courses.

These differences are partially explained by severity levels: those unemployed or not in the labour force are more likely than those employed to have moderate or severe disabilities. Barriers, similar to those faced by people with disabilities seeking education in general, also confront people wanting work-related training. In addition, such training is often only accessible in segregated classes, thus limiting the choice of training available to people with disabilities.

**Employment situation for disabled people is improving** More open attitudes toward people with disabilities, as well as initiatives, such as the *Employment Equity Act*, have improved employment opportunities for people with disabilities. According to the Health and Activity Limitation Survey, the proportion of disabled adults



aged 15 to 64 who were employed increased to 48% in 1991 from 40% in 1986. Growth in employment was particularly strong among women. The proportion of disabled women aged 15 to 64 who were employed increased to 41% in 1991 from 31% in 1986. Over the same period, the proportion of disabled men that age who were employed grew to 56% from 50%.

Other improvements have also helped people with disabilities participate in the workplace and their community. Building designs for residential properties, for example, have begun to meet the needs of people with disabilities. In addition, many urban public transportation systems, which have been largely inaccessible to people with disabilities, have initiated special

programs to aid those who cannot use their regular services.

As a result of these and other initiatives, people with disabilities are becoming more visible in their communities. Although the need for continued recognition of disability issues from governments and the private sector still exists, the increased visibility of disabled people might, in and of itself, help to reduce remaining barriers to full participation.

• For more information on people with disabilities see **A Portrait of Persons with Disabilities**, Statistics Canada Catalogue 89-542E.

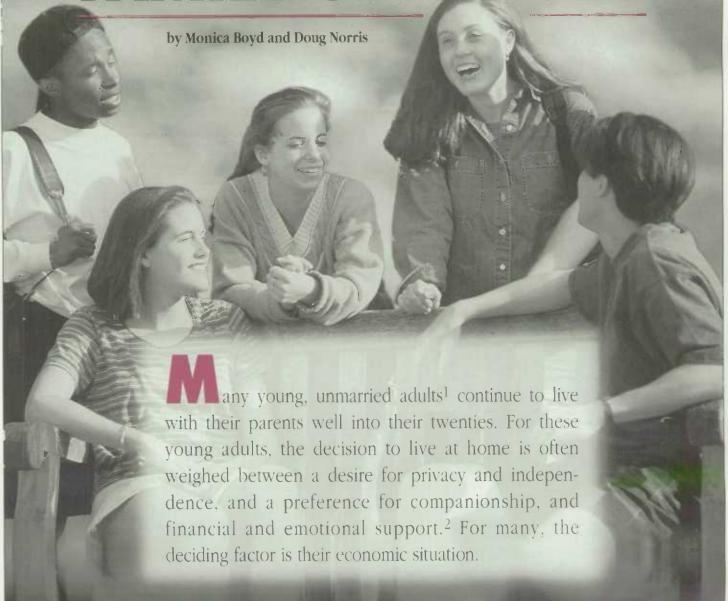
Alan Shain is an analyst with Canadian Social Trends.





# LEAVING THE NEST?

# THE IMPACT OF FAMILY STRUCTURE



According to the census, the proportion of men and women aged 15 to 29 who were living at home declined, if only slightly, between 1971 and 1981. In 1986, however, the proportion of young adults living at home increased slightly.<sup>3</sup> At that time, there was speculation that economic pressures were leading adult children to return to the nest and that this trend could continue. In 1991, however, the proportion of young men and women living at home declined slightly.4

Living at home can benefit young adults by giving them time to invest in their education or to find a job that would allow them to set up an independent household. This type of parental support may be particularly important to young people today, given that youth unemployment is high.

Parents can also benefit from having young adults at home. Adult children can contribute to the physical and financial maintenance of the household and provide companionship. In particular, parents with low incomes may rely on the earnings of adult children to improve the family's standard of living, while elderly parents may depend on adult children for help with the management of household affairs.

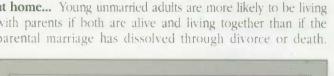
Living together may be a negative experience for both parents and adult children, however, if there is conflict among family members. Adult children whose parents are no longer living together, particularly those whose parents have remarried, are less likely to live at home than those whose parents are still together. The complex nature of family relationships following marital breakdown and remarriage, and any resulting conflict, can lead young people to leave home. Research has shown that adult children with step-parents at home, so-called "blended families," are more likely than others to say that they left home because of family conflict.5

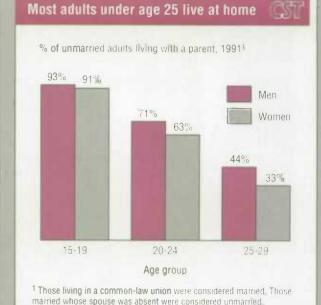
Although leaving home is considered part of the natural progression to adulthood, it can have devastating effects on those who go when they are too young or without skills. Early home leaving often leads to a greater emphasis on employment than on education. There is also a tendency toward early marriages or common-law relationships.<sup>2</sup>

For all young adults, however, the consequences of leaving home depend on their age at departure, their destination and parental support after departure. Ultimately, relationships between parents and children can be close, even though they live apart, or weak, even though they live together.<sup>2</sup>

About two-thirds of men and women aged 20 to 24 live with a parent The ability to be self-supporting financially and the desire for independence generally increase with age. Not surprisingly, therefore, unmarried adults in their late twenties are less likely to be living with a parent than those in their teens. According to the 1991 Census, most unmarried men and women aged 15 to 19 (93% and 91%, respectively) and aged 20 to 24 (71% and 63%, respectively) lived with at least one parent. Among adult children aged 25 to 29, 44% of unmarried men and 33% of unmarried women lived at home.

Children of divorced or widowed parents less likely to live at home... Young unmarried adults are more likely to be living with parents if both are alive and living together than if the parental marriage has dissolved through divorce or death.





married whose spouse was absent were considered unmarried Source: Statistics Canada. Census of Canada.

Young adults most likely to live at

# home if parents still together % of unmarried adults aged 18-29 living with a parent, 19901 68% 510. 46% 38% **Parents Parents** Mother alive. Father alive. living separated father mother together deceased or divorced deceased

(42)

<sup>1</sup> Those living in a common-law union were considered married. Source: Statistics Canada, 1990 General Social Survey

<sup>1</sup> Those living in a common-law union were considered married.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Lynn White. "Coresidence and Leaving Home: Young Adults and Their Parents." **Annual Review of Sociology**. 1994:Vol.20, pp.81-102.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Monica Boyd and Edward Pryor, "Young Adults Living in Their Parents' Homes," Canadian Social Trends, Summer 1989.

<sup>4</sup> For more information on census trends see Monica Boyd and Doug Norris. "The Cluttered Nest Revisited: Young Canadian Adults at Home in the 1990s." Working Paper Series 94-127. Center for the Study of Population and Demography, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Kathleen E. Kiernan, "The Impact of Family Disruption in Childhood on Transitions Made in Young Adult Life," **Population Studies**, 1992:Vol.46, pp.213-234.

According to the 1990 General Social Survey (GSS), over twothirds of unmarried adults aged 18 to 29 whose parents were together were living in the parental home. In contrast, only about one-half of those with separated or divorced parents were still living with a parent. Those with a deceased parent were least

(43) Children of divorced or separated parents are less likely to live at home, even in their teens % of unmarried adults living with a parent, 19901 Parents living together Parents not living together? 95% 88% 75599 61% 40% 15-17 18-19 20-24 Age group 1 Those living in a common-law union were considered married. 2 Parents were separated or divorced, or one parent was deceased Source: Statistics Canada, 1990 General Social Survey Adult children of divorced parents most likely to live at home if neither parent has remarried % of unmarried children aged 18-29 of divorced parents living with a parent, 19901 59% 56% 47% 27% Mother not Mother Mother Mother not remarried. remarried. remarried, remarried. father father not father father not remarried remarried remarried <sup>1</sup> Those living in a common-law union were considered married. Source: Statistics Canada, 1990 General Social Survey

likely to live at home. The proportion living at home was higher, however, if the surviving parent was the mother (46%), than if it was the father (38%).

Teenagers aged 15 to 17 were also more likely to live at home if both parents were living together. In 1990, 99% of children aged 15 to 17 whose parents were living together were living at home, compared with 95% of those whose parents were divorced or widowed. Differences were even greater among older children. Young people aged 20 to 24 were much more likely to live at home if their parents were still together (61%) than if they were not (40%).<sup>6</sup>

...especially if their parents have remarried Adult children in blended families are particularly vulnerable to leaving home early. This is because relations between step-parents and step-children may lessen intergenerational closeness, weaken favourable attitudes toward the continued support of adult children, and generate conflict over parental authority and discipline of children. In addition, parental remarriage may involve a move to a new neighbourhood or community. Young adult children may prefer to live where they have already established roots.

Among those with divorced or widowed parents, young adults aged 18 to 29 were much more likely to live at home if they could live with a parent who had not remarried. When neither parent had remarried, 59% of young adults with divorced parents were still living at home. In contrast, when both parents had remarried, only 27% of young adults were still living at home. Among those with only one remarried parent, a higher proportion of young adults lived with a parent if the father had remarried (56%) than if the mother had (47%).

Most children of divorced parents live with their mother According to the 1990 GSS, when neither parent had remarried, 67% of young adults living with a parent lived with their mother. When both the mother and the father had remarried, 77% of young adults living with a parent lived with their mother. When the mother had not remarried and the father had remarried, 98% of young adults living with a parent lived with their mother. The only exception to this was when the mother had remarried and the father had not. In that situation, most young adults living with a parent (72%) lived with their father.

This tendency to live with a mother is related, in many cases, to the living arrangements young adults had as children. Following divorce, the vast majority of children are placed in their mother's custody. Even if divorce occurs when children are already adults, these children may choose to live with their mothers to remain close to their younger siblings or because their mother had a greater role as their care giver when they were younger. Since most children of divorce have a history of living with their mother, it is likely the mother's living arrangements, more than the father's, that determine whether or not the young adult continues living with a parent.

Nonetheless, when remarriage occurs for one parent and not for the other, a young adult living at home is more likely to be with the unmarried parent, regardless of whether it is the father or the mother. This may be because many young adults want to avoid the family conflict that can arise in blended families.

**Conclusion** Over the past thirty years, divorces and remarriages have become much more common, and the proportion of children with divorced parents has grown. As a result, in the next two decades, when many of these young children reach adulthood, the proportion of adults aged 18 to 29 with divorced parents will also grow. Given that adult children of divorced or remarried parents are less likely than those whose parents are still together to live at

home, the proportion of young adults living at home may fall in

It is difficult to know what impact living at home has on young adults. For many, it enhances their future by giving them time to invest in their education or to increase their work experience. For some, however, it can result in family conflict or postpone their transition to an adult role.

> It is equally difficult to predict the consequences of leaving home. For many young adults, leaving home is associated with steps to adulthood, including school completion, taking a job and establishing independence. Some young adults, however, leave home before they are prepared to be on their own. These young adults may interrupt their education prematurely, and thus restrict their employment opportunities.

- 6 The 1990 GSS sample of children aged 25 to 29 who were living at home was too small to examine
- <sup>7</sup> Barbara A. Mitchell, Andrew B. Wister and Thomas K. Burch, "The Family Environment and Leaving the Parental Home," Journal of Marriage and the Family, 1989:Vol.51, pp.605-613.
- More information on this topic can be found in Monica Boyd and Doug Norris. "Mom, Dad, and Me: Family Structure and Young Adults Living at Home," Canadian Families Today. Toronto: Thompson Educational Publishing, forthcoming.

Dr. Monica Boyd is the Mildred and Claude Pepper Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Florida State University and Adjunct Professor, University of Alberta. Dr. Doug Norris is the Director of the Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division, Statistics Canada.



# CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS BACKGROUNDER



# Blended families are becoming more common

With marital breakdown comes the possibility of remarriage and the creation of new families which bring together parents and children without blood ties. These so-called "blended families" are likely more prevalent today than they were thirty years ago because divorce rates have been rising and remarriage has become much more common.

Following Canada's 1968 Divorce Act, which substantially liberalized the conditions for obtaining a divorce, the number of divorces granted each year for every 10,000 marriages increased greatly from 1,367 in 1968 to 3,908 in 1986. In 1986, a new Divorce Act was introduced which reduced the amount of time a couple had to be separated before a divorce could be granted. Following the new Act, the number of divorces for every 10,000 marriages peaked at 4,789 in 1987. Since then, the number has declined each year, reaching 3.763 in 1991. The decrease in the divorce rate in recent years is partly related to a decrease in marriages as couples increasingly choose to live common law.1

Since each divorce adds two new people to the pool eligible for remarriage, it is not surprising that each year the proportion of marriages that contain at least one previously married spouse has increased. From the mid-1950s to the mid-1960s, about 13% of all marriages involved at least one person who had been married before. By the early 1990s, close to one-third of all marriages included a previously married person. Of those who were remarrying, more than half were younger than age 45, and thus were likely to have had young children from their previous union. As a result, many, if not most, of these new marriages would have created a blended family.

Divorce and remarriage figures do not capture all of the possible types of blended families that are created, however, because they do not consider the formation and dissolution of common-law unions. These unions may breakdown and new unions form without any record.

Considering both common-law unions and marriages, estimates from the 1990 GSS indicate that about 10% of families with children under age 19 were blended families. In addition, many more families may have been blended at one time but that family had since dissolved.

Thus, compared with the post-war period, there is considerable flux in the family life of children today. The experiences of many are shaped by custody arrangements, life in a lone-parent family or life in new families with step-parents and step-siblings. These new families, in turn, may dissolve or change before children reach adulthood.

<sup>1</sup> Report on the Demographic Situation in Canada, 1994, Statistics Canada Catalogue

# ALCOHOL

LTHOUGH MOST CANADIANS DRINK ALCOHOL moderately and responsibly, a small proportion of Canadians abuse alcohol to an extent where it creates problems for themselves and for others around them. Those who drink heavily or who frequently binge drink can have problems with friends, marriage, home life, work and finances. In addition, people who drink are more likely than others to have problems with other drinkers, such as being a passenger with a drunk driver or being assaulted by someone who has been drinking. Further, problem drinking can have major social costs such as lost productivity, family violence, health problems, accidental injuries and death. Knowing who drinks, and who has problems as a result of this behaviour, is essential for supporting the development of strategies to help these individuals and others affected by their alcohol use.

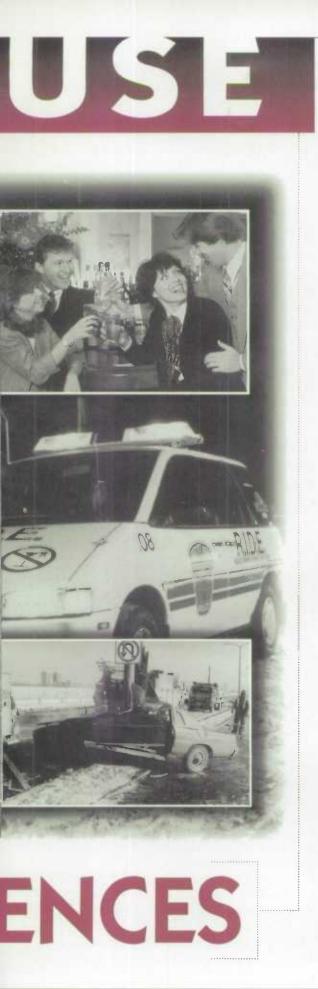
Most Canadians drink Since the late 1970s, the proportion of adults who drink alcohol has been declining. According to the 1993 General Social Survey (GSS), 74% of Canadians aged 15 and over were current drinkers, that is, they drank at least one alcoholic beverage<sup>1</sup> that year. This proportion was down from 84% in 1978<sup>2</sup> and 78% in 1989.<sup>3</sup> Over the same period, the proportion of people who used to drink, but had stopped, rose to 18% in 1993 from 4% in 1978. Relatively few Canadians reported never having had a drink in 1993 (8%), down from 12% in 1978.

In addition, heavy drinking has become less common. Almost half (46%) of current drinkers were considered heavy drinkers, that is, they consumed 5 or more drinks on at least one occasion in 1993. In contrast, according to the 1989 National Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey, 51% of Canadians consumed 5 or more drinks on at least one occasion that year.

Recent declines in heavy drinking, as well as in the proportion of Canadians who drink, are likely due, in part, to changes in people's attitudes toward drinking. With increased awareness of health and other risks related to alcohol consumption, moderate drinking has become more common.



and its CONSEQL



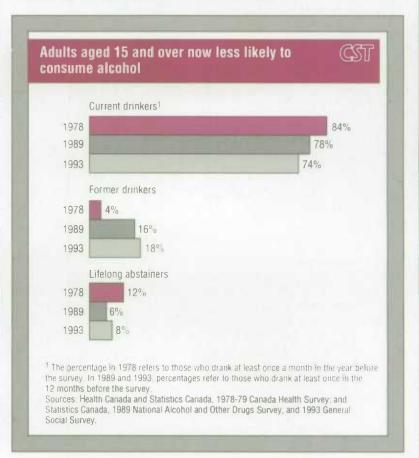
Despite shifts in drinking habits, however, the average amount of alcohol consumed by current drinkers has varied only slightly since the mid-1980s. In both 1993 and 1989, these people drank an average of 4 drinks per week, compared with 5 drinks per week in 1985.<sup>4</sup>

**Drinking patterns vary across the country** According to the GSS, 77% of adults living in Ontario consumed alcohol in 1993, compared with 75% of those in the Prairie provinces and 74% of those in the Atlantic provinces. Residents of Quebec (72%) and British Columbia (71%) were the least likely to have drunk alcohol. Among those who drank, differences in the amount of alcohol consumed were small. On average, current drinkers in Quebec drank only slightly more each week (5 drinks) than those in the other provinces (4 drinks).

Current drinkers in the Atlantic provinces (53%) and those in the Prairies (50%) were more likely than those in Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia (each about 45%) to have consumed 5 or more drinks on at least one occasion in 1993. Among these people, the average number of heavy drinking occasions ranged from 18 in Quebec, and 17 in Ontario and the Atlantic provinces, to 14 in the Prairies and 10 in British Columbia.

**Young adults more likely to be heavy drinkers...** People aged 20 to 24 were the most likely to have consumed alcohol in 1993 (85%). In each successive age group, the proportion dropped, falling from 82% among

- <sup>1</sup> A drink was defined as one bottle of beer or glass of draft; one glass of wine or a wine cooler; or one straight or mixed drink with 44 ml. (1.5 oz.) of hard liquor.
- <sup>2</sup> Health Canada and Statistics Canada, Canada Health Survey.
- 3 Statistics Canada, National Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey.
- <sup>4</sup> Health Canada and Statistics Canada. Health Promotion Survey.



people aged 25 to 34 to 55% among those aged 65 and over. Among young people aged 15 to 19, 66% drank alcohol in 1993. This proportion may have been lower than that for people aged 20 to 24 because many young people aged 15 to 19 were not of legal drinking age.

Young adults aged 20 to 24 were also more likely to drink heavily, and to do so more often, than were people in other age groups. In 1993, 69% of current drinkers aged 20 to 24 and 66% of current drinkers aged 15 to 19 reported drinking 5 or more drinks on at least one occasion. In contrast, only 15% of current drinkers aged 65 and over were heavy drinkers. Furthermore, people aged 20 to 24 who drank heavily did so an average of 19 times in 1993. Among heavy drinkers in other age groups, the number of heavy drinking occasions ranged from 14 to 17. Regardless of age, however, current drinkers consumed similar amounts of alcohol, averaging between 4 and 5 drinks per week.

...as are men Only among people aged 15 to 19 did a larger proportion of women (69%) than men (64%) drink in 1993. In all older age groups, men

**CIT** Current drinkers aged 15-24 and those in the lowest income group most likely to have drinking-related problems % of current drinkers reporting problems related to their drinking, 1993 Age group 15-19 18% 20-24 10% 25-34 896 35-44 6% 45-54 55-64 65 and over Women - 6% Men - 12% Income group Lowest Second lowers Middle Second highest Highest 136 Source: Statistics Canada, 1993 General Social Survey

were more likely than women to consume alcohol. Furthermore, the gap between the proportions of men and women who drank increased with age. For example, while 89% of young men and 80% of young women aged 20 to 24 drank, 66% of senior men and 47% of senior women consumed alcohol. As a result, men overall were more likely to drink alcohol (81%) than were women (68%).

Regardless of age, men who drink tend to consume more than women who drink. Among those who drank in 1993, men consumed almost three times more each week (an average of 6 drinks) than did women (2 drinks). Men, however, are generally able to drink more than women without becoming impaired because they tend to weigh more and to have a lower percentage of body fat.

Men are also more likely than women to drink heavily. Of those who drank alcohol in 1993, more than one-half (58%) of men had 5 or more drinks on any one occasion, compared with one-third of women. Of people who drank heavily, men did so an average of 19 times during the year, while women did so an average of 8 times.

Frequent heavy drinking more common among people with only some postsecondary education... Just over 80% of people with a university degree or with some postsecondary education had consumed alcohol in 1993, compared with 76% of those with a high school diploma and 62% of those who had not completed high school. This pattern was similar for men and women.

Differences in drinking behaviour by educational attainment were partly due to age. Younger people, who were the most likely to drink, generally had higher levels of educational attainment than did older Canadians. Those with some postsecondary education, in particular, tended to be young. This is because this group included those who had not yet completed their education. Nonetheless, regardless of age, people who had less than a high school education in 1993 were the least likely to drink.

University-educated Canadians and those who had not completed high school were the least likely to have reported one or more heavy drinking occasions (each 44%), while adults with some postsecondary education were the most likely (53%). Heavy drinkers with some postsecondary education also reported the highest average number of heavy drinking occasions (20 in 1993). This was similar to the situation among those who had not completed high school (an average of 19 occasions). In contrast, university graduates who reported drinking heavily did so an average of 13 times.

...and among those with lower incomes In 1993, 88% of people in the highest of five household

income groups<sup>5</sup> and 82% of those with the next highest incomes reported drinking. Almost three-quarters (72%) of those in the middle-income group had consumed alcohol, as had 67% of those in the second lowest and 63% of those in the lowest income group.

In addition, current drinkers in the highest income group were the most likely to have reported that they drank heavily at least once in 1993 (53%), while those in the second lowest income group were the least likely (39%). Among those who drank heavily, however, people with the highest incomes reported the lowest average number of heavy drinkers with the second lowest incomes reported the highest average number of heavy drinking occasions (21).

In all income groups, men were more likely than women to drink alcohol. As income increased, however, the gap between the proportion of men and women who consumed alcohol narrowed considerably. Among those in the lowest income group, for example, 73% of men drank alcohol, compared with 56% of women. In contrast, among those in the highest income group, 89% of men and 85% of women reported having consumed alcohol.

The proportion of current drinkers declined with age in all income groups. In the highest income group, however, differences were small: 91% of those aged 15 to 24 reported that they drank, compared with 82% of those aged 55 and over. In contrast, in the lowest income group, the proportion of people aged 15 to 24 who were current drinkers (82%) was double that of those aged 55 and over (41%).

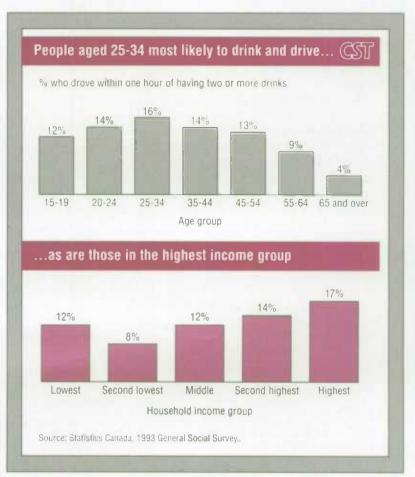
Problems related to drinking increase with the number of heavy drinking occasions. Moderate drinking may have some health benefits. For example, it appears to have a protective effect against some forms of cardiovascular disease and of cancer. The use, and in particular, the abuse of alcohol, however, is not without risk. For example, 5% of people who drank in 1993 reported that their drinking affected their finances and their physical health. About 2% reported that their drinking harmed their marriage and home life, as well as their social life and relationships with friends. Just over 1% said they had problems with their work or school.

Although men were more likely than women to have had every kind of drinking-related problem, financial and health difficulties were the most common problems reported by both men and women.

In 1993, among those who consumed alcohol, men (7%) were more than twice as likely as women (3%) to have reported that their drinking harmed their physical health and their finances.

Overall, 9% of Canadians who consumed alcohol reported having had at least one problem related to their own drinking. People who often drank heavily, however, were by far the most likely to have had drinking-related problems. Over one-third (35%) of people who consumed 365 or more drinks in 1993 and who drank heavily at least 7 times during the year had some problem due to their drinking. In contrast, only 2% of those who never drank heavily and who had less than 365 drinks reported a problem.

Drinking-related problems were more common among certain groups within the population. Among those who consumed alcohol, men (12%) were twice as likely as women (6%) to have had problems related to their own drinking in 1993. Also that year, young people were more likely than older people to have had drinking-related problems. For example, 17% of young adults aged 20 to 24 reported such problems, compared with only 3% of seniors. People with low incomes were also more likely than others to have had problems related to their own drinking. Among current drinkers, 18% of those with the lowest incomes reported such



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Five income groups were derived taking into account both household income and household size. For a more detailed explanation, see Statistics Canada Catalogue 11-612E, No. 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See "Moderate Drinking and Health: Report of an International Symposium," Canadian Medical Association Journal, 1994; Vol. 151, No. 6.

problems, compared with 8% of those in the two highest income groups. Part of the reason that problems due to drinking are more common among men, young adults and those with low incomes is that these people tend to drink heavily more often than do others.

**Drinking and driving still a problem** One of the biggest hazards drinking can pose for people is its combination with driving a vehicle. In 1993, 13% of current drinkers reported that they had driven within one hour of having consumed 2 or more drinks. Men were three times as likely (18%) as women (6%) to have driven after drinking.

Unlike many other problems related to drinking, drinking and driving is highest among those aged 25 to 34 and those with high incomes. In 1993, 16% of current drinkers aged 25 to 34 reported driving within one hour of consuming 2 or more drinks. The proportion reporting drinking and driving declined to 13% among those aged 45 to 54 and to 4% among seniors. Seventeen percent of current drinkers in the highest income group drove within one hour of consuming 2 or more drinks. Drinking and driving was least common among those in the second lowest income group (8%).

Patterns of drinking and driving varied considerably across the country. Current drinkers in Quebec

# CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS BACKGROUNDER



# Impaired driving declining

In 1987, the federal government introduced the Long Term Program on Impaired Driving. This program was designed to help reduce the number of traffic deaths and injuries related to drinking and driving. Despite declines in impaired driving over the past decade, this behaviour has remained a substantial public health and road safety problem in Canada. For example, in 1992, it was estimated that more than 1,600 people lost their lives in alcoholrelated motor vehicle accidents. Among drivers killed on Canadian roads, 48% had been drinking.2 In addition, according to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, more than one-half (59%) of the 197,800 Criminal Code traffic offences reported in 1993 involved impaired driving.

The rate of people charged with impaired driving has decreased considerably since the late 1970s. For every 100,000 people, 322 people were charged with impaired driving in 1993, down from 588 people in 1978.

- <sup>1</sup> Dealing with DWI Offenders in Canada: An Inventory of Procedures and Programs, Final Report, 1994. Ottawa: Minister of Supply and Services Canada, 1994.
- <sup>2</sup> D.R. Mayhew, H.M. Simpson and S. Brown, Alcohol Use Among Persons Fatally Injured in Motor Vehicle Accidents: Canada, 1992. Ottawa: Traffic Injury Research Foundation of Canada.

# Alcohol consumption in the Yukon Territory<sup>1</sup>

Traditionally, it has been much easier to obtain alcohol in the Yukon Territory than in Canada's provinces. Drinking in a bar or tavern was allowed 7 days a week and liquor could be purchased 24-hours a day through licensed off-sale establishments. For many years, it was legal to carry a drink while walking down Main Street, or to drink while driving a car or truck.

Much of that changed in the 1980s, as new legislation began to reflect societal demands. Drinking in public places was abolished in Whitehorse in 1979, drinking while driving was disallowed in 1985, and 24-hour a day sales were stopped in 1986.

Changes in drinking behaviour accompanied these legislative changes. Although the Yukon Territory used to have the highest proportion of current drinkers in Canada, this was no longer the case in 1990. According to the 1990 Yukon Alcohol and Drug Survey, 77% of adult residents of the Yukon (78% of men and 76% of women) reported drinking that year. This was about the same as the national average (78%), and lower than the proportions in Alberta (82%), and British Columbia and Newfoundland (each 83%).

Although fewer people in the Yukon drink, those who do drink consume large amounts of alcohol. In 1990, 6% of the population aged 15 and over in the Yukon consumed 90 or more drinks per month. This accounted for 47% of all alcohol consumed in that territory. In the 10 provinces combined, only 3% of the population had more than 90 drinks per month in 1990, accounting for about 30% of all alcohol consumed.

in 1990, Aboriginal adults aged 15 and over in the Yukon were less likely to be current drinkers (63%) than were other Yukon residents (82%). Aboriginal adults were twice as likely (32%) as others (15%) to be former drinkers, and also slightly more likely (5%) than others (3%) to have never consumed alcohol.

<sup>1</sup> Based on the **Yukon Alcohol and Drug Survey Technical Report**, May, 1991. Available from The Yukon Government, Executive Council Office, Bureau of Statistics. The territories were not included in the 1993 General Social Survey.

were the most likely to have driven within one hour of consuming 2 or more drinks (19%). In contrast, 13% of those in British Columbia and in the Prairies, 11% in the Atlantic provinces, and 9% in Ontario reported drinking and driving.

Adult drinkers most likely to have problems resulting from others' drinking People who drink often socialize with other drinkers. It is not surprising, therefore, that people who drink are more likely than non-drinkers to have problems related to someone else's drinking. In 1993, 48% of people who had consumed alcohol reported having had a problem related to others' drinking, compared with 34% of those who were former drinkers, and 29% of those who had never consumed alcohol. This pattern was similar among both men and women.

In addition, heavy drinkers were even more likely to have had problems related to other people's drinking. Almost two-thirds of people who drank heavily on 7 or more occasions reported at least one problem resulting from other people's drinking. In contrast, just over one-half of those who drank heavily on 1 to 6 occasions, and 39% of those who never drank heavily, reported problems with other people's drinking.

Regardless of whether or not people had consumed alcohol in 1993, their most common complaints about problems with other people's drinking were related to loud parties and being insulted. Drinkers, however, were more likely than non-drinkers to have reported such problems. In 1993, 25% of current drinkers reported a problem with loud parties, compared with 22% of former drinkers, and 17% of lifelong abstainers. At the same time, 23% of current drinkers had been insulted by someone who had been drinking, while this was the case for 15% of former drinkers, and 11% of those who had never consumed alcohol.

Being in a car driven by someone who had been drinking, or being assaulted by a person who had consumed alcohol were less common problems, but were problems with potentially more severe consequences. In 1993, current drinkers were more than twice as likely (10%) as former drinkers (4%) and lifelong abstainers (3%) to have been a passenger in a car with someone who had been drinking. Also that year, 6% of people who drank had been assaulted by someone who had been drinking, compared with 4% of former drinkers, and 2% of those who had never consumed alcohol.

In 1993, Canadians were much more likely to have experienced problems as a result of someone else's drinking (44%) than as a result of their own drinking (9%). Although men (46%) were more likely than women (43%) to have had problems with other people's drinking, certain types of problems were more common among women. In particular, women were



twice as likely (12%) as men (6%) to have reported a problem with their marriage or home life as a result of someone else's drinking. Women were also more likely (2%) than men (1%) to have reported financial problems related to someone else's drinking. Similar proportions of men and women reported problems with loud parties (about 24%), being insulted (21%), and arguments (about 16%) related to others' drinking. Men, on the other hand, were more likely than women to have been assaulted by someone who had been drinking (7% compared with 5%), and to have been in a vehicle with someone who had been drinking (10% compared with 8%).

Efforts to reduce drinking-related problems continue The Canadian government employs a range of strategies to minimize the harm that can be associated with alcohol use. These include taxation and price policies, controls on access to alcohol (such as limits on the conditions and times of sale, and minimum drinking ages) and measures against drinking and operating a vehicle. During the past twenty years, public campaigns have also been an important means of conveying the message of responsible alcohol use. One result of these efforts is that fewer people are being charged with impaired driving. Nonetheless, many Canadians continue to abuse alcohol, and that abuse can cause problems for them and for others around them.

• For more information on this topic, see Eric Single, Anne MacLennan and Patricia MacNeil, Horizons 1994: Alcohol and Other Drug Use in Canada, Health Canada, 1994.





# VANCOUVER'S DIVERSE

by Jennifer Chard

ancouver is Canada's third largest and fastest growing census metropolitan area (CMA). Located on the mainland of south-western British Columbia, Vancouver is bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the west, Washington State on the south, and by the mountains of the Coast Range on the north. The physical size of the CMA has remained virtually unchanged for over two decades, with a land area of nearly 2,800 sq. km.

Strategically located at Canada's gateway to the Pacific rim, Vancouver and its economy have benefited from an increasing level of commercial activity with Asian trading partners. Vancouver's mild climate and natural beauty contribute to the area's appeal, and the CMA's population has grown at an increasing rate.

Many people have moved to the Vancouver CMA from elsewhere in Canada, as well as from outside the country. Shifts in immigration patterns have changed the CMA's ethnic composition dramatically in the past twenty years. Today, more than one-fifth of Vancouver residents are of Asian ancestry.

Rapid population expansion has contributed substantially to Vancouver's cultural diversity and to its economic well-being. At the same time, however, this growth has put pressure on the area's infrastructure. Social, education and health services have had to keep pace with changing demands, and issues such as traffic congestion, pollution and housing affordability have become areas of concern.

Home to a large and rapidly growing population In 1991, the 1.6 million people living in the Vancouver CMA accounted for 49% of British Columbia's population and 6% of Canada's total population. Only the populations of the Toronto (3.9 million) and Montréal (3.1 million) CMAs were larger than that of Vancouver.

Over the past two decades, Vancouver's population has grown at an accelerating rate. The number of residents increased twice as quickly between 1986 and 1991 (16%) as it did between 1971 and 1976 (8%). Among CMAs, population growth in Vancouver from 1986 to 1991 was second only to that in Oshawa (18%). Over the same period, Toronto's population rose 13%, while Montréal's grew 7%, and the total population of Canada increased 8%. Since the 1991 Census, Vancouver has been the fastest growing CMA in the country, with an average annual population increase of 2.5% between 1991 and 1994.

A large part of the Vancouver CMA's rapid population growth is attributable to patterns in internal migration as well as immigration. Twenty percent of the Vancouver CMA's growth between 1986 and 1991 was due to migration to the area from other parts of Canada. In addition, the CMA's immigrant population grew to 477,000 in 1991, up 22% from 392,000 in 1986.

A common destination for migrants and immigrants Net internal migration to Vancouver was higher than that to any other CMA in Canada in the five years prior to the last census. Between 1986

# AND GROWING POPULATION

and 1991, 40,000 more people moved to Vancouver from other places in Canada, than moved away from Vancouver. This was 60% greater than net migration to Ottawa-Hull (25,000), the CMA with the next highest net migration. Both Toronto and Montréal had negative net migration (losses of 115,000 and 30,000 people, respectively) between 1986 and 1991.

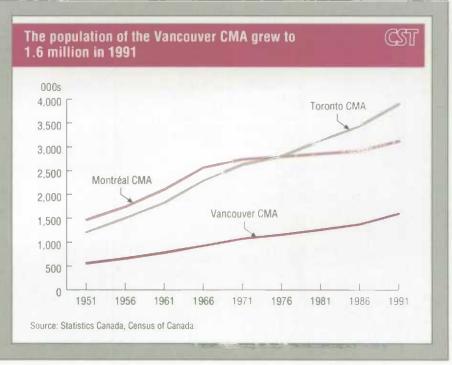
Overall, 11% of immigrants living in Canada in 1991 made their home in Vancouver. Most of Vancouver's immigrants were relatively recent arrivals to this country. One-third came to Canada between 1981 and 1991, and 27% arrived between 1971 and 1980. Smaller proportions came between 1961 and 1970 (17%), and before 1961 (22%).

Political developments in China and the impending return of Hong Kong from British to Chinese rule have encouraged many Chinese to immigrate to Canada. Vancouver, with its location and established Chinese community, has attracted many of these recent immigrants. Nearly 40,000 immigrants from East Asia (mostly from China) arrived between January 1988 and May 1991.

Of the 477,000 immigrants living in Vancouver in 1991, 44% were from Asian countries, 23% were from Europe and 18% were from the United Kingdom. Smaller proportions of Vancouver's immigrant population (5% or less) came from the United States, Oceania, Africa, Central and South America, and the Caribbean and Bermuda.

Most residents are of British or Asian ethnic origin In 1991, 65% of people in Vancouver reported belonging to only





one ethnic or cultural group, while 35% reported having two or more ethnic or cultural origins. Nearly one-quarter of Vancouver residents (23%) were of Britishonly origin. The next most common single ethnic origins were Chinese (11%), South Asian (5%) and German (4%). Only 2% of Vancouver residents were of French-only

In comparison, across Canada, the most common single ethnic origin was British (28% of the total population), followed by French (23%) and German and Italian (3% each). People of Chinese-only descent accounted for 2% of Canada's population. In Toronto, people most often reported having single British (19%), Italian (8%), Canadian (7%) and Chinese origins (6%). In Montréal, the most frequently reported single ethnic origins were French (59%), British and Italian (5% each) and Jewish (2%).

Vancouver's ethnic composition has changed dramatically in recent years. In 1971, only 6% of Vancouver residents reported Asian origins (4% were Chinese).1 By 1991, people of single Asian origins accounted for 20% of the CMA's population. East and South East Asian origins (14%), and South Asian origins (5%) were the most common, while 1% of Vancouver residents had other single Asian origins. In addition, of those who reported more than one ancestry in 1991, 2% reported an Asian origin. In total, people of any Asian origin accounted for 22% of Vancouver's population that year.

Many residents speak languages other than English or French More than one-quarter of Vancouver residents (27%) had a mother tongue (the first language learned and still understood) other than English or French in 1991. Most residents (82%), however, spoke only English in their homes. That year, 9% of Vancouver residents had a Chinese mother tongue, 3% had Punjabi and 2% had German. Next to English, the languages most often spoken at home by Vancouver residents were Chinese (7%) and Punjabi (2%).

While most people living in Vancouver speak at least one of Canada's official languages, just over 3% of those residing in the CMA could speak neither English nor French in 1991. That year, 4% of people living in Toronto, 2% living in Montréal and 1% of those across Canada could speak neither English nor French.

A well-educated population In 1991, over one-half (56%) of all Vancouver residents aged 15 and over had at least some postsecondary schooling, including 14% who had a university degree. In comparison, 52% of adults in Toronto had at least some postsecondary education, including 17% who had a university degree. Adults in Montréal were the least likely to have had some postsecondary schooling (48%) or to have had a university degree (13%).

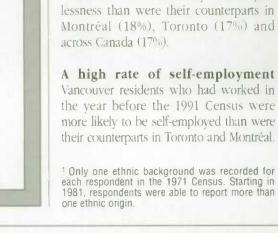
Less than one-third (30%) of adults in Vancouver had not graduated from high school by 1991. This was the case for 34% of adults in Toronto and for 35% of those in Montréal.

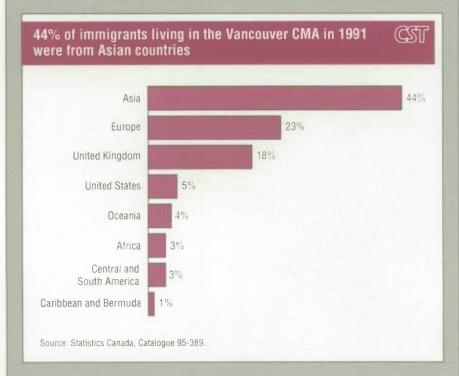
Higher labour force participation and lower unemployment According to the 1994 Labour Force Survey, 69% of Vancouver residents aged 15 and over were in the labour force, that is, either employed or looking for work. As was the case across Canada, men in Vancouver had a higher labour force participation rate (76%) than did women (61%). These rates were slightly higher than those across Canada (73% of men and 58% of women), those in Toronto (74% of men and 60% of women), and those in Montréal (73% and 55%).

Unemployment rates were low in Vancouver compared to elsewhere in Canada. Vancouver residents who were unemployed (without a job and looking for work) made up 9% of all people in the CMA's labour force in 1994. That year, 13% of the labour force in Montréal, 10% in Toronto, and 10% across Canada were unemployed.

In 1994, the unemployment rate in Vancouver was higher among men (10%) than it was among women (8%). Similar to the overall situation in Canada, vounger residents in Vancouver were more likely to be unemployed than were older residents. About 14% of Vancouver residents aged 15 to 24 were unemployed in 1994, compared with 9% of those aged 25 to 44, and 7% of those aged 45 and over. Nevertheless, young people in Vancouver were less likely to face joblessness than were their counterparts in Montréal (18%), Toronto (17%) and across Canada (17%).

A high rate of self-employment Vancouver residents who had worked in the year before the 1991 Census were more likely to be self-employed than were their counterparts in Toronto and Montréal.





That year, 11% of Vancouver workers were self-employed, compared with 9% of Toronto workers and 8% of Montréal workers. Furthermore, women comprised a slightly larger proportion of the self-employed in Vancouver (29%) than in either Toronto (28%) or Montréal (26%).

Nearly one-third of labour force employed in trade and manufacturing industries Wholesale and retail trade (19%) and manufacturing industries (11%) accounted for nearly one-third of Vancouver's employed labour force in 1991. Similar proportions of the employed labour force in Montréal and Toronto were in trade industries. Workers in Montréal (19%) and Toronto (18%), however, were more likely to be employed in manufacturing than were those in Vancouver.

For a large urban area, Vancouver has a relatively high concentration of people working in primary industries. In 1991, 2% of the CMA's employed labour force worked in primary industries, including fishing and forestry. In comparison, less than 1% of workers in Toronto and Montréal were employed in primary industries.

The occupational profile of Vancouver men did not differ considerably from that of men in Toronto and Montréal in 1991. Men in Vancouver most often worked in managerial and administrative (14%), sales (12%) and service occupations (11%). In comparison, women were most likely to be in clerical (35%), service (17%) and sales occupations (11%). The proportion of women in Vancouver employed as managers or administrators (9%) was smaller than that in Toronto (14%) and Montréal (12%).

High average incomes, but women earn less... In 1993, the average annual family income in Vancouver was \$59,700. This was higher than the average annual family income across Canada (\$53,500) and in Montréal (\$49,100). The average annual family income in Toronto (\$61,000), however, was higher than that in Vancouver. Unattached individuals living in Vancouver had an average annual income of \$27,200, compared with \$28,500 in Toronto, \$21,700 in Montréal and \$23,300 across Canada.

Vancouver women who worked full-time all year earned less (\$29,100) than



# CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS BACKGROUNDER



# Housing is expensive in Vancouver

Housing prices are higher in Vancouver than in most other places in Canada. In 1991, the average value of owner-occupied dwellings in Vancouver was \$244,500, compared with \$144,500 in Montréal. The same year, dwellings were worth, on average, \$187,100 in Victoria (British Columbia's next largest urban area). Only in Toronto was the average dwelling value higher (\$280,400) than it was in Vancouver.

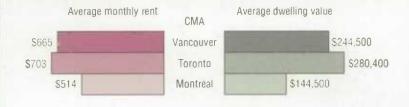
Rental accommodation also tends to be expensive in Vancouver. In 1991, the average monthly rent in Vancouver (\$665) was higher than that in any other CMA with the exception of Toronto, where renters paid an average of \$703 a month for accommodation. Montréal tenants paid, on average, \$514 a month in rent. Average monthly rent in Victoria was \$619.

The cost of housing is a problem for many Vancouver residents. When households pay more than 30% of their income on housing, the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation considers them to have a housing affordability problem. In 1991, Vancouver had a higher proportion of renters with housing affordability problems (41%) than any other CMA except Victoria (44%). In comparison, 36% of Montréal renters and 33% of Toronto renters had problems affording housing in 1991.

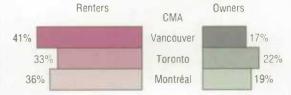
The same year, 17% of Vancouver residents who owned their own homes spent at least 30% of their household income on major payments including utilities, monthly mortgage payments, property taxes and condominium fees. While Vancouver home-owners had higher housing costs than those across Canada, the proportion spending more than 30% was higher in both Toronto and Montréal. In 1991, 22% of home-owners in Toronto, 19% of those in Montréal and 15% of those across Canada spent 30% or more of their household income on housing.

# In the Vancouver CMA, 41% of renters had problems affording housing 1 in 1991





# % with housing affordability problems



<sup>1</sup> At least 30% of household income spent on housing. Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 95-330, 95-354 and 95-389. their male counterparts (\$43,900) in 1993. Nevertheless, men and women in Vancouver who worked full-time throughout 1993 earned more than men (\$39,400) and women (\$28,400) across Canada. The average earnings of women who worked full-time all year as a percentage of those of comparable men was somewhat lower in Vancouver (66%) than across the country (72%).

Proportion of residents living with low incomes has increased Vancouver families with average annual incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs<sup>2</sup> (LICOs) accounted for 18% of all families living in the CMA in 1993, up from 13% in 1990. Similarly, the proportion of unattached individuals with low incomes increased to 41% in 1993, from 34% in 1990. Over the same period, the incidence of low income also increased across Canada, although less sharply than it did in Vancouver, Toronto and Montréal.

In 1993, 15% of families and 41% of unattached individuals across Canada had low incomes. The same year, 22% of families and 52% of unattached individuals in Montréal were living with low incomes, as were 18% of families and 35% of unattached individuals in Toronto.

<sup>2</sup> These cut-offs were determined from an analysis of 1992 family expenditure data. Families who, on average, spent 20% more of their total income than did the average family on food, shelter and clothing were considered to have low incomes. The LICO for a family of three living in Canada's largest cities was \$25,600 in 1993.

Jennifer Chard was an analyst with the Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division and is now with the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.



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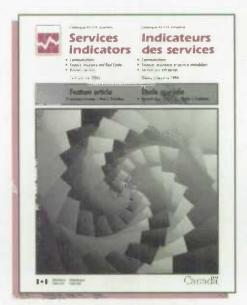
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# TRACKING CHANGE

**Longitudinal Information at Statistics Canada** 

It is no longer good enough to know about the current social conditions of Canada's people. We need to understand how they came about. — Ed.

Statistics Canada has recently launched several important surveys that have one thing in common: they collect information on the same people at different times in their lives. This type of survey, a longitudinal survey, provides reliable and accurate information about individuals' or families' experiences throughout part of their life cycle.

Before the introduction of longitudinal surveys, Statistics Canada gathered information on changes in people's lives by asking questions about past events. This approach, however, depends heavily on people's memory. Longitudinal surveys ask respondents about recent events or behaviours at different points in time. The responses to these questions provide a chronicle of the changes that have occurred in their lives. Longitudinal surveys also offer insight into how people are affected by their life experiences.<sup>1</sup>

Statistics Canada's longitudinal surveys deal with important social and economic issues. Questions that can be investigated using the results of these surveys include:

- What are the characteristics, experiences and other factors associated with the development of healthy children?
- Why do some young people have problems making a transition from school to work?
- How do individuals and families adjust following a job loss?
- Are low-income families trapped or does their economic situation change over time?

Information from the Labour Market Activity Survey (LMAS), one of Statistics Canada's first longitudinal surveys, illustrates the type of analysis made possible by longitudinal surveys. The survey followed the labour market experiences of two panels of respondents: one from 1986 to 1987 and the other from 1988 to 1990. Results from this survey indicated that the labour force is in a constant state of flux.

During the three-year period from 1988 to 1990, for example, 45% of working age Canadians changed their labour force status. Some people entered the labour force for the first time, while others retired. Some people found paid work, while others became unemployed. Among people who had a job at some time during the three-year period, 39% had changed jobs. Workers who changed jobs had an average of 3 jobs over the period.

# □ SURVEY OF LABOUR AND INCOME DYNAMICS

In 1993, Statistics Canada replaced the LMAS with the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics (SLID), a new longitudinal survey that also examines labour market activity. SLID will track people's educational development, labour market experiences, as well as changes in family circumstances and income. The information collected from SLID will support the examination of factors that influence employment and income in an ever-changing labour market.

SLID began tracking a group of about 16,000 households in 1993. Data will be collected from this panel over a six-year period. A new longitudinal panel will be started every three years.

# □ NATIONAL LONGITUDINAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN

Many studies have speculated about the influence of children's upbringing, home and school experiences on their development throughout childhood and into adult life. To address the need for this type of information, Human Resources Development Canada (under the federal government's "Brighter Futures" program) contracted with Statistics Canada to jointly develop the National Longitudinal Survey of Children (NLSC). Survey results will generate a national database of the characteristics and life experiences of a sample of children as they grow from infancy to adulthood. Also covered by the survey are factors related to a child's environment, including family background, neighbourhood characteristics and school experiences. Results from the survey can be used to examine the critical factors influencing a child's development, particularly in their early developmental years.

The first cycle of the survey, administered in 1994-95, focussed on a sample of about 25,000 young children, from newborns to those aged 11. The NLSC will collect information on these children every two years until they reach adulthood.

# ■ NATIONAL POPULATION HEALTH SURVEY

Until now, little information has been available on how people's lifestyles and experiences affect their health over time. To fill this information gap, the National Population Health Survey (NPHS) was developed by Statistics Canada in consultation with representatives of Health Canada and the provincial and territorial Ministries of Health. On different occasions, the NPHS asked respondents about their health status, their use of health services and medications, and their lifestyle. The survey also collected demographic and economic information. Results from the NPHS will improve understanding of the determinants of good health, and support the development and evaluation of health policies and programs during a time of economic pressures on Canada's health-care system.

# TRACKING CHANGE (cont.)

The NPHS began its first cycle of data collection in early June 1994. From each of the 26,000 households surveyed, one person aged 12 and over was selected for a more in-depth interview and became part of the longitudinal panel. The NPHS plans to collect information from this panel every two years over two decades. For children under age 12, the health survey was integrated with the National Longitudinal Survey of Children

# ☐ SURVEY ON SMOKING IN CANADA

Given the serious health consequences of smoking, there is a need to understand what motivates people to start, continue or stop smoking. Statistics Canada, on behalf of Health Canada, conducted a one-year longitudinal survey on a panel of Canadians. The survey measured the prevalence of cigarette smoking, the amount smoked, and any changes in smoking patterns over the year. It investigated the extent to which changes in smoking patterns were influenced by price changes, including changes in taxes.

Statistics Canada conducted the first cycle of the Survey on Smoking in Canada in the Spring of 1994, with a sample of about 20,000 individuals aged 15 and over. Respondents from this first cycle were interviewed three more times, with the last cycle occurring in February 1995. The study estimated that during the six months from May to November 1994, 509,000 Canadians aged 15 and over started smoking, while 657,000 quit.

# SCHOOL LEAVERS SURVEY

Although almost two-thirds of all new jobs between 1991 and 2000 will require at least 13 years of schooling, and 45% will require more than 16 years, 2 many young people are dropping out of high school. Statistics Canada's 1991 School Leavers Survey, commissioned by Human Resources Development Canada, provided national information on the demographic and social characteristics of people leaving school before graduation, and on reasons why they dropped out. A follow-up survey, conducted in 1995, will ask these same young people about their school-to-work transitions.

The 1991 survey questioned a sample of over 9,000 people aged 18 to 20, including school leavers, graduates and those who were continuing their education. Respondents were asked about their school experiences, family background, and labour market and life outcomes. Results from the School Leavers Survey indicated that in 1991, 18% of 20-year-olds had not completed high school.<sup>3</sup>

In the Autumn of 1995, the School Leavers Follow-up Survey will conduct interviews with the 1991 respondents, who will then be between the ages of 22 and 24. The survey will gather information on their education and labour market activities since the end of high school. The School Leavers Follow-up Survey wilf also examine the extent to which young people possess the skills that help in finding employment. These

include basic skills such as numeracy, reading and writing, as well as communication, creativity, learning and teamwork skills.

# SELF SUFFICIENCY PROJECT

In 1992, Human Resources Development Canada initiated the Self Sufficiency Project (SSP). This research project is designed to provide a broader understanding of the experiences of lone parents on Income Assistance programs in Canada. By offering an earnings supplement generous enough to provide an incentive to work, the SSP will examine how alternatives to welfare can help individuals and their families become more self-sufficient.

The project covers a sample of 9,400 lone parents in New Brunswick and British Columbia who, prior to the study, had been on Income Assistance for at least one year. The purpose of SSP is to determine whether an earnings supplement alone will encourage lone parents to find a full-time job and leave Income Assistance. Lone parents who find paid employment will be eligible to receive the earnings supplement for up to three years.

Statistics Canada's role is to manage the data collection activities and prepare the required research files. Surveys will be administered at the point of enrolment into the program, and then at 18, 36 and 54 months after enrolment.

# ☐ THE EARNINGS SUPPLEMENT PROJECT

In recent years, the number of people receiving Unemployment Insurance (UI) has been increasing, as has the average benefit period. The Earnings Supplement Project (ESP), sponsored by Human Resources Development Canada, is a research project designed to determine if an earnings supplement would help regular UI claimants find work again as early as possible. In particular, the ESP is aimed at exploring ways of expanding employment possibilities and reducing the use of UI among displaced workers and repeat users. These two groups have historically drawn a disproportionate share of UI benefits.

Statistics Canada's role is to participate in the data development component of the ESP. By July 1996, about 20,000 participants in a selection of regions will have been identified and invited to enroll in the project. An ESP application form asking for some background work history and sociodemographic information will be completed at enrolment. Participants will then be assigned either to a group that will

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Longitudinal surveys also lend themselves to the analysis of data from a particular point in time (cross-sectional analysis). To ensure that the sample of respondents is large enough to support this type of analysis, some longitudinal surveys interview additional people who take part in the survey only once.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Estimates from Human Resources Development Canada.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Sid Gilbert and Bruce Orok, "School Leavers," Canadian Social Trends, Autumn 1993.

# TRACKING CHANGE (cont.)

receive the supplement or to a control group. Statistics Canada will conduct a follow-up survey 15 months after participants' enrolment in the project.

# □ LONGITUDINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DATABASE

A new longitudinal database supports analysis of income changes over the life course of a representative sample of the population. The Longitudinal Administrative Database (LAD) was created in 1993 by the Small Area and Administrative Data Division at Statistics Canada, in association with Human Resources Development Canada, Health Canada and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

With the LAD, the dynamics of income and demographics can be identified and examined. For example, movements in and out of low income can be related to other factors such as age, family composition and migration. LAD information is currently being used to study the impact of alimony and child support payments on the incomes of both payers and recipients.

The LAD follows a sample of 1% of T1 Personal Income Tax records from 1982 to 1992. Data for 1993 will be added by December 1995. As with all Statistics Canada data, these records were masked to protect the confidentiality of the information.

# For more information about these longitudinal studies, contact:

- National Longitudinal Survey of Children: Gilles Montigny (613)951-9731
- National Population Health Survey: Gary Catlin (613) 951-3830
- Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics: Philip Giles (613)951-2891
- Survey on Smoking in Canada: Lecily Hunter (613) 951-0597
- School Leavers Survey: Lynn Barr-Telford (613)951-1518
- Self Sufficiency Project:
   Richard Veevers (613) 951-4617
- Earnings Supplement Project: Marc Lachance (613) 951-2902
- Longitudinal Administrative Database: Shelley Harris (613)951-4660





# **EDUCATORS' NOTEBOOK**

Suggestions for using Canadian Social Trends in the classroom

Lesson plan for "Vancouver's Diverse and Growing Population"

# **Objectives**

- To expose students to demographic statistics on Vancouver and an objective analysis of the data.
- To review the basic elements of and procedures for creating
- ☐ To serve as a stimulus for generating discussion on the theme of public policy on housing.

# Method

- 1. Begin by having the students read the first half of the article.
- **2.** Have the students construct tables summarizing the data on population growth and ethnic mix by age or region.
- 3. As a class, examine the tables produced by the students. Discuss whether the tables can be completed using information in the article; and if not, where data to complete the tables could be found.
- **4.** Have the students re-read the first four paragraphs. In small groups or as a class, generate a list of problems that could be caused by the rapid expansion of Vancouver's population.
- **5.** Have the students read the rest of the article. As a class, discuss whether the data suggest that any of the problems in the class list are occurring in Vancouver. Summarize the key points on the board for the students.

# Using other resources

- Use the E-STAT or the Census CD-ROMs from Statistics Canada to analyse the demographic profile of your municipality or region. What are the similarities and differences between your area and Vancouver?
- ☐ Examine the interrelationships of population, economy and the natural environment with *Human Activity and the Environment: Teachers' Kit*, Statistics Canada product number 10-300-2XKE.



# Share your ideas!

Do you have lessons using CST that you would like to share with other teachers? Send your ideas or comments to Harris Popplewell, Social Science

Teacher at J.S. Woodsworth Secondary School, c/o Joel Yan, University Liaison Program, Statistics Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0T6. FAX (613) 951-4513. Internet: yanjoel@statcan.ca.



EDUCATORS – You may photocopy *Educators'* Notebook for use in your classroom.

# CANADIAN SOCIAL TRENDS

# Moonlighting



Over the past decade, the number of families with one or both spouses moonlighting (holding more than one job) increased by more than 50% - reaching 362,000 in 1994. The families most likely to have moonlighters are young and have no children at home.

Perspectives on Labour and Income, Summer 1995. Statistics Canada Catalogue 75-001E.

# Higher education



Total university enrolment almost doubled between 1972 and 1993 even though the number of Canadians aged 18 to 24 had declined. Women have been enrolling at a faster rate than men.

From 1972 to 1993, women's enrolment grew 151%, compared with 39% for men. Students aged 25 and over are a growing minority on campus. This group grew by 142%, while the under 25 age group grew by 65%.

Education Quarterly Review, Spring 1995. Statistics Canada Catalogue 81-003

# Policing



In 1993, there were 56,876 police officers in Canada, 115 fewer than the year before. This represented one police officer for every 509 Canadians. Among the provinces, Quebec had the highest ratio of police officers to population (one officer for every 491 people), while Prince Edward Island (1:690) and Newfoundland (1:669) had the lowest.

Juristat, Vol.15, No.8, March 1995, Statistics Canada Catalogue 85-002

# Renovating



In 1993, the 6.7 million homeowners in Canada spent an average of \$1,846 on repairs and renovations, down 1.4% from 1992. Homeowners in the first year in their home spend the

most. Those who moved in during 1993 spent an average of \$2,704 on repairs and renovations, with half going toward renovations.

Homeowner Repair and Renovation Expenditure in Canada, 1993, Statistics Canada Catalogue 62-201.

# Composting



In 1994, 23% of households used a compost heap, compost container, or composting service, compared with 17% in 1991. British Columbia households were most likely to compost in 1994 (38%), while Newfoundland households were the least likely (9%).

Households and The Environment, 1994. Statistics Canada Catalogue 11-526.

# The cultural tourist



In 1992, 25% of Canadians took in a play or concert during a trip to an overseas destination. In contrast, Canadians rarely included this type of entertainment when travelling within Canada (only 3% of overnight trips of 80 km or more).

When travelling in Prince Edward Island, however, one in ten Canadians attended plays and concerts. This is likely because of the attraction of such theatre presentations as "Anne of Green Gables."

Focus on Culture, Spring 1995. Statistics Canada Catalogue 87-004.

# Visitors from abroad



In 1993, residents of the United States made 12 million trips of one or more nights to Canada. This represented 80% of all foreign travel to Canada that year. Residents of New York,

Michigan, Washington and California accounted for 44% of these trips. The second and third largest number of trips to Canada were made by residents of the United Kingdom (562,000 trips) and Japan (409,000 trips).

Travel-log, Winter 1995, Statistics Canada Catalogue 87-003.

# **Broken hips**



Hip fractures are a common cause of death and disability among Canada's aging population, and a major cause of hospital stays. In 1990, 974 deaths, 23,936 hospital admissions and 714,650 hospital days were associated with fractures of the femur among people aged 55 and over. Women aged 75 and over accounted

Health Reports, Vol.6, No.3, February 1995, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-003.

# Sliding family incomes

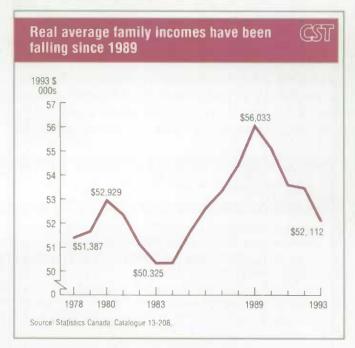
for 63% of these hospital days.



In 1993, the average family income was \$52,112. After adjusting for inflation, this was 2.5% lower than the year before and 7% lower than the peak of \$56,033 enjoyed by families in 1989.

The 1993 average income for two-parent families with children (\$58,006) was more than double that for female lone-parent families (\$22,621). People not in families had an average income of \$22,115 in 1993.

Family Incomes, Census Families, 1993. Statistics Canada Catalogue 13-208.





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	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
POPULATION								
Canada, July 1 (000s)	26,549.7	26,894.8	27,379.3	27,790.6		28.542.2 PD	28,940.6 PR	29,248.1
Annual growth (%)	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.5	1.2 PD	1.5 PD	1.4 PR	1.1
Immigration <sup>1</sup>	130.813	152,413	178.152	202.979	219.250	241,810 F	264,967 R	
Emigration*	47,707	40,978	40.395	39.760	43,692 IR	45,633 PD	43,992 PR	44,807
FAMILY								
Birth rate (per 1.000)	14.4	14.5	15.0	15.3	14.3	14.0	13.4 P	
Marriage rate (per 1,000)	6.9	7.0	7.0	6.8	6.1	5.8	5.5	
Divorce rate (per 1.000)	3.6	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.7	
Families experiencing unemployment (000s)	872	789	776	841	1,046	1,132	1,144	1,077
LABOUR FORCE								
Total employment (000s)	11,861	12,244	12,486	12,572	12.340	12,240	12,383	12,544
- goods sector (000s)	3,553	3,693	3,740	3,626	3.423	3,307	3,302	3,393
- service sector (000s)	8,308	8,550	8,745	8,946	8,917	8,933	9,082	9,252
Total unemployment (000s)	1,150	1,031	1,018	1,109	1,417	1,556	1,562	1,458
Unemployment rate (%)	8.8	7.8	7.5	8.1	10.3	11.3	11.2	10.3
Part-time employment (%)	15.2	15.4	15.1	15.4	16.4	16.8	17.3	17.1
Women's participation rate (%)	56.4	57.4	57.9	58.4	58.2	57.6	57.5	57.2
Unionization rate - % of paid workers	33.3	33.7	34.1	34.7	35.1	34.9	*	٠
INCOME								
Median family income	38,851	41.238	44,460	46.069	46,742	47.719	47.069	
% of families with low income (1992 Base)	12.8	12.0	10.9	12.0	12.9	13.3	14.5	
Women's full-time earnings as a % of men's	65.9	65.3	65.8	67.6	69.6	71.8	72.0	
EDUCATION								
Elementary and secondary enrolment (000s)	4,972.9	5,024.1	5,074.4	5,141.0	5,207.4	5,294.0	5,367.3	
Full-time postsecondary enrolment (000s)	805.4	816.9	832.3	856.5	890.4	930.5	949.3	
Doctoral degrees awarded	2,384	2,415	2,600	2,673	2,947	3,136	3,237	
Government expenditure on education – as a % of GDP	5.6	5.5	5.5	5.8	6.3	6.4	6.2	
HEALTH								
of deaths due to cardiovascular disease — men	40.5	39.5	39.1	37.3	37.1	37.1	37.0	
- women	44.0	43.4	42.6	41.2	41.0	40.7	40.2	+
% of deaths due to cancer – men	26.4	27.0	27.2	27.8	28.1	28.7	27.9	+
- women	26.1	26.4	26.4	26.8	27.0	27.3	26.9	•
Government expenditure on health – as a % of GDP	5.9	5.8	5.9	6.2	6.7	6.8	6.7	
JUSTICE								
Crime rates (per 100,000) - violent	856	898	948	1.013	1,056	1,081	1,079	
- property	5,731	5,630	5,503	5,841	6,141	5.890	5.562	*
- homicide	2.5	2.2	2.5	2.5	2.7	2.6	2.2	
GOVERNMENT								
Expenditures on social programmes <sup>2</sup> (1993 \$000,000)	175.423.6	179,817.8	187,892.3	196,762.4	205,481.1	211,778.7	211,432.6	
as a % of total expenditures	56.1	56.1	56.0	56.8	58.5	59.6	59.6	
as a % of GDP	25.5	24.7	25.2	26.9	29.5	30.2	29.7	
UI beneficiaries (000s)	3.079.9	3.016.4	3,025.2	3,261.0	3,663.0	3,658.0	3,415.5	3,086.2
OAS and DAS/GIS beneficiaries <sup>m</sup> (000s)	2.748.5	2.835.1	2,919.4	3.005.8	3,098.5	3.180.5	3,264.1	3,340.8
Camida Assistance Plan beneficiaries <sup>iii</sup> (000s)	1,904.9	1.853.0	1.856.1	1.930.1	2,282.2	2,723.0	2,975.0	3,100.2
ECONOMIC INDICATORS								
GDP (1986 S) - annual % change	+4.2	+5.0	+2.4	-0.2	-1.8	+0.6	+2.2	+4.5
Annual inflation rate (%)	4.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.6	1.5	1.8	0.2
Urban housing starts	215,340	189,635	183,323	150,620	130,094	140.126	129,988	127,346
Not available     Not yet available     P Prelimina     PP Final postcensal estimates     PP Preliminary postcensor of Property in the pr	ensal estimates		m Figures a dated postcens Culture.	as of March al estimates	IR Revised	l intercensal est data	imates <sup>F</sup> Final data	

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