

# ABE LEARNER HANDBOOK

## What is a census\*?

Every five years, Statistics Canada counts the number of people who live in Canada. This is called the **Census of Population**.\*

## Why do we have a census?

The Census gives us **information**\* about Canada and the people who live in Canada.

- How many people over age 65 live in Saskatoon?
- How many new Canadians live in Vancouver?
- How many families with two children live in Toronto?
- How many people have finished high school or have a university degree?
- Do most people still live in a city?
- What kind of work do people do?

The information makes sure communities get their fair share of:

- hospitals
- schools
- fire and police departments
- community programs
- subsidized housing.

For example:

A city needs a new hospital or another school. The census can help people decide where to build it and how big to make it.

- \* Census (sen-sus)
- \* Population (pop-yu-lay-shun)
- \* Information (in-for-may-shun)

*Cette publication est aussi disponible en français.*

## When is the next census?

There will be a census on Tuesday, May 16, 2006.

## How does it work?

A census form will come to your home a few days before May 16, 2006.

This form has questions such as:

- How many people live here?
- What is the name of each person that lives here?
- Is each person a male or female?
- What is each person's date of birth?
- What languages does each person speak?

This form is called a **questionnaire**.\*

You should fill in the questionnaire by May 16<sup>th</sup>.

If you need help, see the phone number at the bottom of this page, or on the census questionnaire.

There are two ways to complete the census questionnaire. One way is to complete and return it online at [www.census2006.ca](http://www.census2006.ca). The other way is to complete the paper questionnaire and return it by mail in the yellow envelope.

\*Questionnaire (kwes-chun-air)

**Census Help Line** (available from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., starting May 1<sup>st</sup>) **1 877 594-2006**

## What questions will be on the census questionnaire?

There are two kinds of questionnaires:  
a short questionnaire and a long questionnaire.  
You will only get one.

The short questionnaire has eight questions about each person in the household, including:

- age
- sex (female or male)
- **marital\*** status (married, single, divorced)
- language

The long questionnaire has more questions about each person in the household, such as:

- place of birth (where you were born)
- education
- income (job, welfare, EI benefits, pension)
- home

The answers to the long questionnaire tell us many things about the people of Canada.

## Who gets the long census questionnaire?

We don't know who will get the long questionnaire.  
It is a sampling.

Most homes will get the short questionnaire.

Only 1 out of every 5 homes will get the long questionnaire.



\*Marital (mair-it-ul)

## Why should we answer the questions?

It is important for everybody to be counted in the census.

The number of people counted helps the government decide how much money is sent to your province or territory.

The money is for health care, education and other services.

Some provinces could lose millions of dollars because some people were not counted in the census.

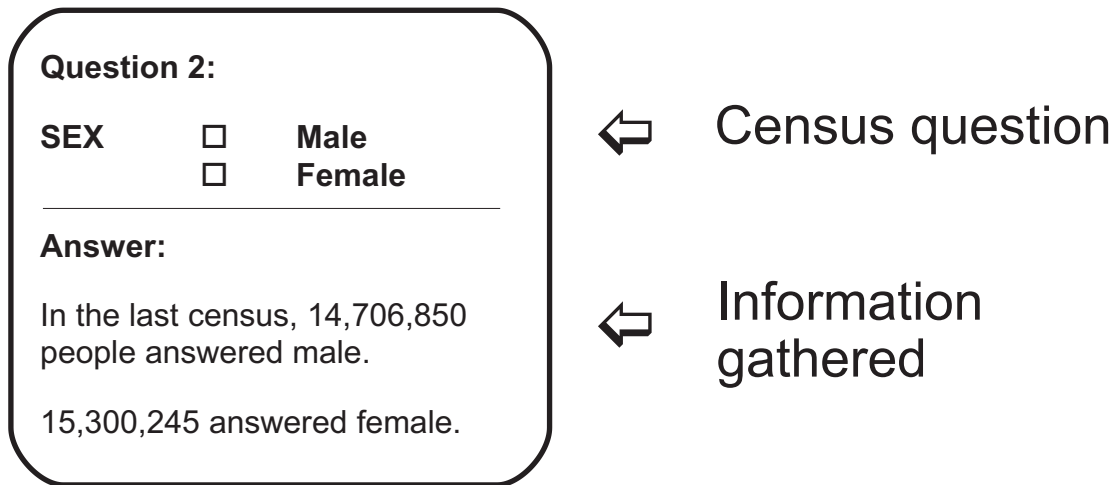
The census is so important, the law (called the *Statistics Act*) says you must fill in the questionnaire.

By the same law, Statistics Canada must keep the personal information you provide confidential.

## What happens to the census questionnaire?

Once completed, all the questionnaires go to the Census Office.  
This is part of Statistics Canada which is part of the Government of Canada.  
Only certain employees of Statistics Canada see your answers.  
Not even police officers, immigration officers or tax officers can see your answers.

The computer adds up all the answers.



Many different people use the census numbers:

- governments
- businesses
- communities.

For example:

A bus company wants to plan some new routes.

The census numbers show which parts of the city are growing and need more buses.

You can use census numbers too.

They are in books at your library and on the Internet at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca).

## What is the Census of Agriculture?

There is a second questionnaire for farmers.  
It is called the **Census of Agriculture**.\*

The Census of Agriculture will also be on May 16, 2006.

For the Census of Agriculture, the **Census Help Line**  
telephone number is: **1 877 594-2006**

\*Agriculture (ag-rik-kul-chur)

## When was the first census?

Countries started counting their people hundreds of years ago.

Canada's first census was in 1666.

In those days, Canada was called New France.

It was important to know:

- how many people lived in New France
- what kinds of farms they had.

A census was done to find the answers.

The information helped to plan for the **future**\*

Canada became a country in 1867.

Canada decided to have a census every 10 years.

It wanted to know:

- how many people live in the many parts of Canada?
- whether people in these many parts are **represented**\* in the decisions made about their areas?

In 1956, Canada decided to have a census every five years.

Please remember to fill in your census questionnaire and return it by May 16, 2006.

\*Future (few-cher)

\*Represented (rep-ruh-zen-ted)

## Notes

Census questions are available in 62 languages (44 ethnic/non-official and 18 Aboriginal) as well as in English and French.

### **Census Help Line**

(available from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.,  
starting May 1<sup>st</sup>)

**1 877 594-2006** (free of charge)

TTY (teletype machines only) users call:

**1 888 243-0730** (free of charge)