

## 2016 Census: What You Need to Know

The census collects demographic information on every person living in Canada. Such information is used by governments, businesses, associations, community organizations and others to make important decisions at the municipal, provincial and federal levels.

- On May 2nd Statistics Canada began mailing out access codes to allow households to complete the 2016 Census of Population questionnaire online. However, there is the option of having a paper version mailed to your home as well.
- Census Day is May 10, but it is encouraged to complete the census form as soon as you receive it.
- One in four randomly selected households in Canada will receive the 36-page long-form questionnaire known as the National Household Survey (NHS), while the remainder will receive the 10-question short version.
- Both the long and the short form questionnaires are mandatory.
- Agricultural operators are required to complete the 2016 Census of Agriculture questionnaire. This year will feature 18 fewer questions than in 2011.
- Under Section 31 of the Statistics Act, the consequence for failing to provide information to a mandatory census or falsely answering is liable to a summary conviction carrying a fine of up to \$500, imprisonment of up to three months, or both.
- 2016 Census Questions are available in 22 different languages, including 11 Aboriginal languages.

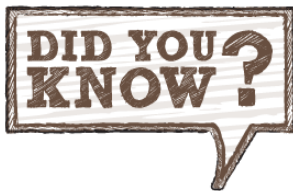
### Changes from the 2011 Census

While most of the questions in the 2016 census remain the same as those in the 2011 surveys to maintain comparability over time, it is worth noting a few changes:

- The long form census is reinstated after participation dropped significantly from 2006 to 2011.
- Income data will be retrieved from personal income tax and benefits files, replacing income-related questions asked on previous censuses. This is an effort to reduce the burden on Canadians, manage collection costs and obtain the most accurate information on

income. The department is allowed to access the Canada Revenue Agency statistical data under Sections 13 and 24 of the Statistics Act.

- The 2016 census will not contain a question regarding religion, which is only included every 10 years and was asked in 2011.
- The scope of the long-form survey has also changed. One in four Canadian households this year will receive the long-form questionnaire, which is lower than the one in three households that received the voluntary NHS in 2011.
- Finally, the timetable for sharing census results has changed. All results will be released within 18 months, six months sooner than in 2011.



- ❖ Our census has a 350-year-old tradition. The first census was conducted in New France by Jean Talon in 1666.
- ❖ The census counted 3,215 inhabitants of European descent and logged their age, sex, marital status and occupation. Talon conducted the census to gather information that would help plan and develop the colony. In fact, Talon was so committed to the process that he collected much of the information personally, visiting settlers throughout the colony!

**Sources:**

[http://www.census.gc.ca/ccr16\\_r000-eng.html](http://www.census.gc.ca/ccr16_r000-eng.html)

<https://www.facebook.com/StatisticsCanada/>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/mandatory-census-mail-out-1.3557511>

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