Indigenous insight

NEWSLETTER

National Newsletter
2026 Census Special Edition

Ce bulletin est aussi disponible en français.

The Indigenous liaison program supports Indigenous communities in making the best possible use of Statistics Canada's information and services.

To subscribe to this newsletter, send an email to the regional advisor in your area.

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2026 Census is Coming!

Once every five years, the Census of Population provides a detailed and comprehensive statistical portrait of Canada that is vital to our country. The census is the only data source that provides consistent statistics for small areas such as a neighbourhood or a First Nation Community. The Census collects information that cannot be obtained effectively from other sources.

Census data are used to provide socioeconomic information on First Nations people, Métis and Inuit across Canada. Among other things, these results can assist Indigenous people, their communities, organizations and governments plan for:

- the development of Indigenous language and education programs
- the development and/or expansion of community health and social services
- decisions regarding business and economic opportunities
- the evaluation of existing programs and new service needs

The Census is an essential tool for understanding how Canada is changing over time. Census information has many other important uses in the day-to-day lives of Canadians. Local governments and community administrations can use the census data to develop programs and services, such as planning for schools and health services. Businesses analyze census data to make critical investment decisions, and social services agencies depend on the census to understand the evolving needs of their communities.

Census data are also a key component of emergency preparedness and crisis management. For example, in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, crucial information on vulnerable populations was provided to public health authorities and emergency services officials.

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2026 Census questionnaire—What's new

The 2026 Census of Population long-form questionnaire (2A-L) is now available on the Statistics Canada website.

Statistics Canada has published a series of fact sheets and technical reports explaining the content changes for the 2026 Census of Population, as well as other important details.

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Fact sheets

The following 10 fact sheets provide an overview of content changes for the 2026 Census of Population. They explain, by census topic, the reason for asking the questions, the questionnaire content changes considered, as well as the resulting approach for 2026.

- Content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: Date of birth (age), sex at birth and gender, relationship to Person 1, and marital status
- Content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: Languages and language of instruction
- Content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: Ethnic or cultural origins, religion, immigration, citizenship and place of birth
- Content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: Indigenous Peoples
- Content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: Income and expenditures, housing and homelessness
- Content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: Labour market activities, commuting and education
- Content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: Canadian military experience
- Content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: Mobility
- Content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: Activities of daily living
- Content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: Population group

Technical reports

Data users, stakeholders and key interest groups can refer to this series which provides an in-depth look at changes in content for the 2026 Census of Population questionnaire, as well as detailed information on the design and methodology of the content test component of the 2024 Census Test.

The following reports explain the conceptual frameworks and definitions used and outline the related findings from the 2024 Census Test on sexual orientation, homelessness and general health.

- Report on content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: General health
- Report on content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: Homelessness
- Report on content changes for the 2026 Census of Population: Sexual orientation
- 2024 Census Test: Design and methodology of the content test

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Did You Know?

Privacy and confidentiality of personal information

What does Statistics Canada do with your personal information?

- **We protect it**
  Statistics Canada has strict rules to safeguard all its data holdings, and these rules adhere to or exceed the requirements of the *Statistics Act*, the *Privacy Act* and relevant federal policies and directives. We have put in place information technology (IT) systems that protect your information from cyber attacks, and only approved individuals can enter Statistics Canada premises.

  All employees have taken an oath to protect your information and have received mandatory confidentiality training. The oath is valid even after their employment has ended and is accompanied by penalties that include fines and imprisonment.

Stay Connected with Statistics Canada:

Visit the Stay Connected portal on Statistics Canada's website

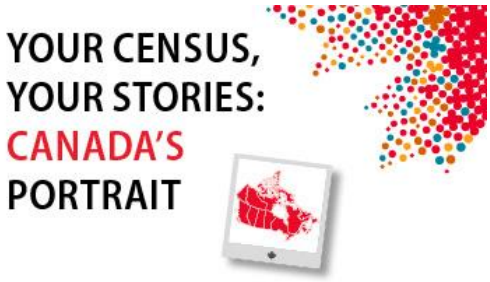
No endorsement of any social media products or services is expressed or implied.

Help us spread the word

If you know an organization or person that may benefit from what this newsletter has to offer, please pass it on or put them in contact with us.

Learning Corner

Why Participate in the Census



The Census is a source of detailed data for small areas such as a neighbourhood, postal code or a First Nation Community. The Census collects information that cannot be obtained effectively from other sources on specific groups, such as, Indigenous people, one-parent families and seniors.

The Census questions remain similar for each Census therefore the data can be used to compare changes that occur over time in the Canadian population.

Some examples of how data are used:

- Population data are used to determine program planning for different populations, e.g. Indigenous Skills and Employment Training Program.
- Age data are the most important information for leaders and decision-makers who plan for the future. Some Indigenous programs are based on age data, e.g. Indigenous early learning and child care, Brighter Future Initiative, Aboriginal Head Start, First Nations Head Start.
- Labour Market Activity Data can assist Indigenous communities to develop programs and make long-term plans in the area of human resources, education and training.

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Why Support the Census?

The Census of Population helps paint a statistical portrait of Canada's diverse population and the places where we live.

Results from the census help provide high-quality information on key socioeconomic trends and analysis that can support important decisions that affect organizations, businesses, municipalities, governments and Indigenous communities across Canada.

Your responses are vital for planning services that support employment, education, public transportation, healthcare, and more.

Questions or Comments?

Please contact one of the Indigenous Liaison Advisors in your area as listed above.

About the Newsletter
Communities, organizations and businesses have specific information needs. Statistics Canada's Indigenous Liaison Program is dedicated to serving you with this newsletter, as well as with ongoing learning and sharing activities.

Statistics Canada is Hiring

Statistics Canada is currently hiring enumerators and crew leaders for the 2026 Census in select northern and remote communities.

Use your local knowledge to broaden your skills and gain professional experience.

Apply now: census.gc.ca/jobs-north.

Census jobs across Canada

Statistics Canada will soon be hiring across Canada.

Hiring across Canada begins on January 6, 2026. Until then, we're focused on hiring for jobs in select northern and remote communities. If you live elsewhere, you are welcome to apply early by selecting the Apply Now! button online at census.gc.ca/jobs.

Note: If you are not located in one of the select northern and remote communities, your application will be reviewed at a later time.

Census engagement

Check out the latest opportunities to spread the word and get involved with the census!

Census Community Supporter Toolkit

This toolkit provides helpful information and ready-to-use resources to promote the census and census job opportunities in your community. It includes materials that you and your organization can use to share the benefits and positive impact of the census.

We need your support to make the 2026 Census a success.

What's in the toolkit?
You can download the following materials:

- Articles
- Printable posters
- Web banners and images
- Social media content