CENSUS • RECENSEMENT

The National Household Survey and your community … working together

The National Household Survey is coming!

In May and June 2011, one in three households across Canada will be asked to participate in the new National Household Survey (NHS).

What is the National Household Survey?

To complement the census, the government has asked Statistics Canada to conduct the NHS.

NHS data are used to:

- support government planning and program delivery, including family services, housing, roads, public transportation, and skills training for employment
- provide data to support government programs directed at target populations, such as visible minorities, lone-parent families and seniors
- support research by academics and the media.

Confidentiality of information

The confidentiality of every NHS form is protected by law. This means that only Statistics Canada employees who have taken an oath of secrecy who work directly with NHS data will see the completed questionnaires.

Online questionnaires

Households have the option of completing their NHS questionnaire online. It is easy, secure and convenient. No pre-registration or lengthy download processes are required.

Trends from the 2006 Census

- More than two-thirds of Canadian households (68.4%) owned their dwelling in 2006, the highest rate of homeownership since 1971. Of the 12.4 million households in Canada, more than 8.5 million owned their home.
- In 2006, an estimated 3 million households, or 24.9% of the total, spent 30% or more of their income on shelter.

- One of the trends pushing up family earnings among couples with children has been a steady increase in the share of these families in which two persons or more worked full time, for the full year. Between 1980 and 2005, the proportion of these families in which two persons or more worked full time full year nearly doubled, from 21.5% to 38.4%.
- The 2006 Census confirmed that higher education is a gateway to higher earnings, as did all previous censuses. For men and women of all ages, full-time full-year earners with a university degree earned substantially more than their counterparts who did not have a high school diploma.
- The 2006 Census counted 289,400 mixed unions (marriages and common-law unions) involving a visible minority person with a non-visible minority person or a person from a different visible minority group. This was a 33.1% increase from 2001, more than five times the increase of 6.0% for all couples.
- People whose mother tongue is neither English nor French (allophones) numbered more than 6 million in 2006. The increase rate of allophones between 2001 and 2006 was 18%, the highest five-year growth rate since the 1986 to 1991 period.

The NHS will provide a portrait of communities in 2011. It will provide a reference for decision makers not only at a federal and provincial level, but in your community too.

For more information...

Please visit the NHS website at www.nhs.statcan.gc.ca.