

In addition to the decennial census, a special agriculture and population census was taken in Manitoba in 1896 and extended to all three Prairie Provinces in 1906 to keep up with the rapid settlement of the West. This "mini" census continued every tenth year until 1956, when it was extended to the whole country. It has proved invaluable in updating population and agriculture statistics between major census periods and plans indicate it will be continued in 1976.

Thus the 1971 census crowned 100 years of national census-taking in Canada. And it was really threefold: A combined population and housing census; an agriculture census; a merchandising census.

The People and How They Live

The population and housing census is designed to tell how many people live in Canada, where they live and the kinds of homes they live in.

In 1971, every household received a questionnaire. Two out of three got a short form, requesting basic population data. They were asked to record the name, birth date, relationship, sex, marital status and mother tongue of each household member and to answer nine housing questions.

A longer questionnaire went to every third household. In addition to the basic questions, it asks for further information about housing and such matters as education, employment, migration and income.

This is known as "sampling" -- a technique that permits accurate conclusions about a whole society to be drawn from the replies of some of its members. For example, if the employed adults in the sample have an average income of \$5,000, it is highly probable that the average for all adult Canadian workers will be very close to this figure, too.

The self-census and the sampling method applied to about 97 per cent of the population. The only exceptions were those living in remote parts of Canada, where geographical and other problems made it necessary to use traditional methods of door-to-door enumeration. All households in these localities were asked the full range of census questions.

Census Goes to the Farm

The farmer has a special responsibility in the census. He is asked not only to account for all the members of his household but also for his livestock, machinery and other aspects of his business.

It is a big and important job for the farmer. Canadian agriculture has been undergoing rapid change during the past 20 years or so. And in 1971 farm problems were more urgent and complex than ever.

Farm associations, co-operatives, marketing boards, businesses serving the farmer and local communities need good, up-to-the-minute statistics to do their job on the farmer's behalf. Provincial and federal government agencies use farm facts to assess the rapid changes in Canadian agriculture and to develop new programs to meet new needs.