



Census figures for 1981 are expected to show a 5.9 per cent growth in population.

enumerate Canadian households.

In major urban areas, the questionnaires are being delivered by the enumerator with the request that they be completed and mailed back to Statistics Canada. Approximately 70 per cent of households are located in these areas.

In smaller urban areas and in rural communities, where communications may be difficult and mail service less accessible, the questionnaires are being dropped off with the request that they be completed and then held for the census representatives to pick up. In remote areas, canvassers are conducting personal interviews and attempting to complete a questionnaire during one visit to each household.

Persons of German, Italian, Ukrainian, Asian and other ethnic origins who are not proficient in either English or French, will be advised of special help available. Store-front centres have been set up in

some major metropolitan areas, and the questionnaires have been translated into 13 languages for use in these centres. Canadian government employees and their families living abroad will also be included in the census count.

Canadians are required by law to participate in the census to ensure its completeness and accuracy. The Statistics Act, under whose authority the census is taken, guarantees that the information provided on the questionnaire is confidential. The information is used only for the production of statistics, and the disclosure of information which would identify an individual is prohibited.

Census projections

Using data from the mid-decade 1976 census as a benchmark, several projections of 1981 census findings have been made:

- the population is expected to have

- grown by 5.9 per cent in the past five years, bringing it to 24,338,000;

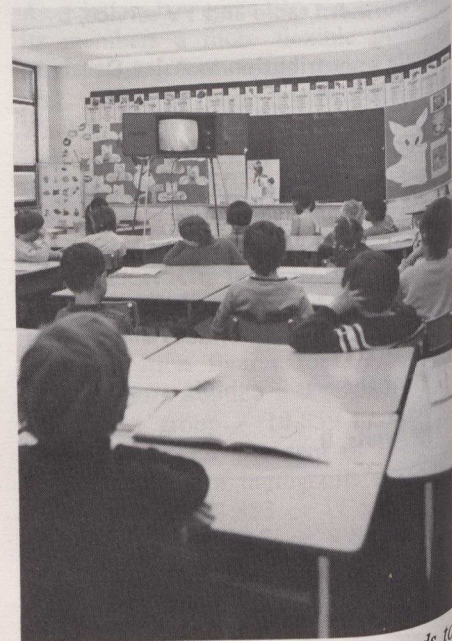
- although the total population will have increased, there is an anticipated drop of 11.2 per cent in the school-age group of 5-14 years, reflecting the dip in the birth-rate experienced late in the Sixties;

- the biggest increase in the population is expected in the age group representing the majority of the work force – ages 25 to 44 – with a possible gain of 15.5 per cent;

- a similar increase is anticipated in the population group aged 65 and over: 15.3 per cent;

- all provinces are expected to show population increases with Alberta's being the highest at about 14.9 per cent and Quebec's being the lowest growth rate at 2.7 per cent;

- there will be an increase in the total number of households: up an anticipated



Census data is used by school boards to predict student enrolment.

- the population is expected to have 14.3 per cent to 8,190,200. However, the average number of people living in one household will have decreased: down 7.5 per cent from 3.21 to 2.97 persons;

- the total number of family households will have risen by 10.5 per cent while the number of non-family households will have risen by 27.9 per cent; and

- a 9.3 per cent increase is anticipated in the number of two-parent family households while single-parent families with a male head are expected to increase by 20.2 per cent and with female heads by 23.0 per cent.

The first census of Canada, 315 years ago, was also the world's first modern census. While that survey gathered information on only 3,215 persons then living in New France, its significance carried world-wide import by demonstrating census principles used in most countries. The practice of counting the persons in a country dates from ancient times, but until 1666 the purposes had been primarily to tax and control the populations, and to identify particular individuals. Jean Talon, the first intendant of New France, believed that a census could serve additional purposes. He had been instructed by Louis XIV to reorganize New France and for this reason his census also included questions on age, sex, marital status and occupation. The Fathers of Confederation considered the taking of a dicennial census so essential to the nation's well-being that they made it mandatory in the British North America Act.