

- (3) that the answers given by the individual are absolutely confidential, every enumerator and all other employees of the Bureau being under oath not to reveal any single item about any individual under penalty of fine or imprisonment or both. (The Bureau itself is also forbidden by the Statistics Act of 1952 to issue any statement that would lay bare any personal matter. Though the name of every person is taken down by the enumerator, this is not for the purpose of associating the individual with any of the facts recorded but merely to serve as a check on the accuracy and completeness of the enumeration. The census is first and last for statistical purposes only. It should also be noted that enumerators are required to use courtesy and tact in collecting the information.)

Organization for Taking the Census

The Statistics Act of 1918 provided for the establishment of the Bureau of Statistics as a means of "organizing a scheme of co-ordinated social and economic statistics pertaining to the whole of Canada and to each of the provinces there".

The centralization of a major part of the statistical work of the Canadian Government under the Dominion Bureau of Statistics permits unified planning and integration of a comprehensive body of statistical information. The census data, produced by the Census Division, relate to the periodical statistical data produced by the Bureau in a vital and complementary way. Indices of economic activity became more meaningful when related to the characteristics of those persons who are engaged in the activity.

Considered as an administrative task and apart from the importance of its results, the census is one of the largest activities of the Government, both as to the extent of organization required for collecting the data and the magnitude of the operations involved in compiling, analysing and adapting these data to the many public and private uses for which they are designed.

The carrying out of this far-flung investigation and the reduction of its results to comprehensible and usable form necessarily require a large organization. Its nucleus exists in a small permanent staff constituting one of the divisions of the Bureau of Statistics. This division maintains connection between censuses, so that experience is continuous and cumulative. This organization was expanded for the planning of the census by the creation of a Census Executive Committee, into which were drawn other senior officers of the Bureau with appropriate administrative or technical skills that served to complement the resources of the Bureau's Demography (Census) Division. The Executive Committee acted as the authority for establishing policy in all census matters. Nine separate committees with specific terms of reference presented reports recommending procedures for all technical, administrative and subject material matters. As decisions were made by the Executive Committee, the implementation of these decisions was undertaken by the staffs of Census Demography and other divisions of the Bureau.

Field Organization

Since one object of the census is to determine Parliamentary representation, the Act directs that census districts and subdistricts shall correspond respectively, "as nearly as may be, with the electoral divisions and subdivisions for the time being", i.e., with the federal constituencies and polling subdivisions.

In planning the field work, the electoral districts were grouped for administrative convenience into eight areas. Eight regional offices across Canada were responsible for census activities in their assigned areas.