

### **Family Size**

The average family size is 3.1 (1986 census). The average number of children per family is 1.3.

### **Urban/Rural**

Canada's population is 76.7 per cent urban, 23.3 per cent rural. About 30 per cent of Canada's population (7.7 million Canadians) lives in the three largest cities of Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver (June 1986 census).

### **Life Expectancy**

(at birth, based on 1984-86 data)

Canadian women can expect to live for almost 80 years. Men's life expectancy is 73.

### **Standard of Living**

(based on 1987 data)

Canadians have one of the world's highest standards of living. For example, in 62.3 per cent of all Canadian households the occupant owns the dwelling. Some 78.3 per cent of Canadian households own one automobile; 24.6 have two. About 94.4 per cent of households own a colour television and 43.2 per cent have a microwave oven.

### **Health Care and Social Security Benefits**

All Canadians have free access to health care, except for dental services. As well, welfare recipients and seniors (those over the age of 65) receive most prescription drugs free of charge. Canada also has an extensive network of social security benefits such as the Old Age Security pension, the Family Allowances program, unemployment insurance and welfare benefits.

### **Aboriginal Peoples**

(based on the 1986 census)

A total of 711 725 individuals identify themselves as aboriginal peoples. Those who claim single origins include 286 230 North American Indians, 59 745 Métis (people of mixed aboriginal and non-aboriginal stock) and 27 290 Inuit (formerly called Eskimos). In addition, 338 460 people of multiple origins are counted as aboriginal peoples. The highest concentration (167 375) of aboriginal peoples lives in Ontario. Proportionally, however, the Northwest Territories (N.W.T.) has the highest number, with more than 60 per cent of the population (30 530 of a total N.W.T. population of 52 238) claiming aboriginal ancestry. Only 160 115 Canadian native people live

on Indian reserves or settlements.

Languages spoken by Canadian aboriginal peoples include Cree (57 654), Ojibway (16 380) and Inuktitut (21 050).

### **Religion**

Christianity is the major religion. Roman Catholics form the largest group (11 402 605), followed by Protestant adherents (9 914 580). Non-Christian religions include Judaism (296 425), Islam (98 160), Hinduism (69 500), Sikhism (67 710) and Buddhism (51 955).

### **Official Languages**

(based on 1986 census)

English, spoken as a mother tongue by 15.3 million Canadians and French, spoken by 6.12 million as a mother tongue, are Canada's two official languages. Other mother tongues, in descending order, are Italian, German, Chinese, Ukrainian, Portuguese, Dutch, Polish and Greek.

### **Ethnic Origin**

(based on 1986 census)

The percentage of Canadians — including aboriginal peoples — who claim origins other than British or French (but sometimes in addition to British or French) is 37.5 per cent (9.38 million). Among the larger groups are German, Italian, Ukrainian, Dutch, Scandinavian, Polish, North American Indian, Chinese, Jewish, Indo-Pakistani, African/Caribbean, Hungarian, Greek, Yugoslav, Spanish, Filipino and Russian.

### **Culture**

Aboriginal peoples are the only Canadians with an indigenous culture. All others have immigrated to Canada, beginning around 1600, bringing with them particular clothing styles, food preferences and customs. In the twentieth century, Canada opened its doors to people from all over the world. In 1988, the country's multicultural nature was officially acknowledged with the passage of the Canadian Multiculturalism Act, which enshrines and upholds the values of a multicultural state in federal law.

### **Education**

The school system consists of eight years of primary school, four or five years of secondary school and three to four years of higher education. Based on a 1986 census of Canadians 15 years and older, 19.6 million Canadians have had primary school education; 5.3 million have had

secondary school without receiving a diploma or certificate; 2.5 million have earned a secondary school diploma or certificate; 4.9 million have a trades certificate or other non-university diploma; and 1.9 million hold a university degree.

### **Sports**

Swimming, ice skating, tennis, golf, ice hockey, skiing and curling are the most common participatory sports. The most common spectator sports are ice hockey, Canadian football and baseball.

### **Major Natural Resources**

Natural gas, crude oil, coal, gold, iron ore, silver, molybdenum, uranium, zinc, forests and water.

### **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**

GDP in 1988 was worth C\$601.5 billion.

### **Principal Industries**

Motor vehicle production, pulp and paper manufacture, iron and steel milling, machinery and equipment manufacturing, mining, extraction of mineral fuels, fishing, forestry and agriculture.

### **Major Exports**

Motor vehicles and parts, machinery and equipment, high-technology products, petroleum, natural gas, metal ore and fabricated metals, forestry and agricultural products.

### **Major Imports**

Industrial machinery and equipment (including communications and electronic equipment), motor vehicles and parts, industrial materials (including metals in ores, iron and steel, precious metals, chemicals and plastics, cotton, wool and textiles), manufactured and consumer goods, and foodstuffs.

