

## **WHAT IS A CENSUS?**

In Canada, a census is taken every five years. The next census is in May 2011.

The census provides information about the people who live in Canada. If you are a Canadian citizen, a landed immigrant, a refugee claimant, or if you hold a work or study permit, you are required to answer the questions asked by the census.

## **HOW IS THE CENSUS TAKEN?**

Each household will receive instructions about the census in early May. At that time, you will decide if your household will answer the census questions by computer or on a paper questionnaire. You will mail the paper questionnaire in the green envelope provided by the census.

## **ARE MY ANSWERS SECRET?**

YES! Your answers are kept secret. This is the law in Canada. Only Statistics Canada employees will see your answers.

## **WHO MUST ANSWER?**

Everyone who lives in your household must answer the 10 questions asked by the census. If you have questions about who in your household should answer the census, call the Census Help Line at 1-877-777-2011 starting May 2. Don't call before May 2 because the help line will not be open.

## **HOW ARE MY ANSWERS USED?**

Your answers are added to the answers of everyone who lives in Canada to make statistics that help your community plan for services such as schools, seniors' housing, health care, language classes, daycare, police services and fire protection.

## **WHY SHOULD I PARTICIPATE IN THE CENSUS?**

You, your family and your community benefit from the census. When you participate in the census it means better information for your community.

There is also a law in Canada that says you must answer the questions in the census. This is the same law that keeps your answers secret.

## **WHAT IF I NEED HELP?**

You can call the 2011 Census Help Line at 1-877-777-2011 from May 2 to 31, between 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. if you:

- do not receive a census questionnaire
- need more than one questionnaire
- would like the census questions in another language
- need help answering the questions
- want more information about the census
- would like to complete an individual questionnaire

The Census Help Line is a free service and is available in many languages.