

answers for school attendance, level of schooling, labour force activity and migration (place of residence five years ago).

The population of Canada at June 1, 1976 was 22,992,604, an increase of 6.6% or 1,424,693 from the previous census in 1971. The provinces of Alberta and British Columbia recorded the largest growth rates at 12.9% each. Ontario's growth was next in line at 7.3%. (Table 4.4)

The Calgary census metropolitan area (CMA) showed the greatest increase at 16.5% with Kitchener census metropolitan area following at 14.1%. The Toronto CMA became the largest in Canada, with a population of 2,803,101, some 7.7% more than in 1971, while Montreal CMA was very close behind at 2,802,485, showing a growth of 2.7% since 1971. (Table 4.9)

#### 4.2.1 Provincial and sub-provincial areas

The basic legal reason for decennial censuses is to enable a redistribution of seats in the House of Commons. Under the terms of the Electoral Boundaries Readjustment Act, the census must provide population counts by electoral districts. Those from the 1971 Census are shown in Chapter 3, Table 3.4, according to the electoral district boundaries established by the 1966 Representation Order (i.e. the redistribution following the 1961 Census).

**Provincial trends, 1951-71.** Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and the Northwest Territories had growth rates higher than national figures in all five-year periods between 1951 and 1971 (see Table 4.4). However, a decline in the rate of growth occurred in all provinces as birth rates began to fall in the mid-1950s. The most spectacular change took place in Quebec where the rate of growth declined by about 70% between 1951-56 and 1966-71 (i.e. from 14.1% to 4.3%). The growth rate in Quebec in 1966-71 was less than half of the rate during the preceding five-year period.

The lowest rates for 1966-71 were in the Atlantic provinces, Quebec, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Saskatchewan registered a decline while British Columbia had the highest growth rate (16.6%) followed by Alberta and Ontario. The uneven rates of increase imply that net migration reinforced the natural growth of population in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia and depressed it in all others (see Table 4.5).

**Provincial estimates, 1975.** In addition to the five-year census, estimates are constructed for the total population of Canada and for each province on both an annual and quarterly basis. The estimates of population begin with the preceding census counts, the births of each year are added and the deaths subtracted; immigrants are added and an estimate of emigrants subtracted. Family allowance statistics showing the number of migrant families by province are used in estimating interprovincial shifts in population. Finally, the next census serves as a basis for revision of all annual estimates of each intercensal period.

Table 4.6 shows the revised annual population estimates by province for the years 1967 to 1970, and the provisional estimates for 1973, 1974 and 1975. Included in the table are the actual enumerated counts for the two "benchmark" census years of 1966 and 1971. The estimate for Canada of 22,800,000 population at June 1, 1975 is the result of adding 344,000 births and 213,000 immigrants to the previous 1973 estimate of 22,095,000 and then subtracting 167,000 deaths and a residual of 36,000 representing mainly emigrants.

**Cities, towns and villages.** As at June 1, 1971, some 65.4% of Canada's population lived in 2,120 centres classified as incorporated cities, towns and villages. These are grouped into 13 broad size categories in Table 4.7. Only two cities within whose incorporated boundaries had a population over 500,000 (Montreal and Toronto), representing a combined 8.9% of the total population. At the other end of the scale, 1,093 or one half of all incorporated cities, towns and villages had less than 1,000 population, but together they accounted for only 2.1% of Canada's population.