

Citizenship

4.9.4

Citizenship statistics. In 1976, citizenship certificates were granted to 117,276 new Canadian citizens and certificates of proof of citizenship were issued to 148,539 who were already Canadians.

The Citizenship Act (SC 1974-75-76, c. 108) came into effect on February 15, 1977. It replaced the Canadian Citizenship Act, passed in 1947, which was the first independent naturalization law to be enacted in the Commonwealth. By it the concept of a Canadian citizen distinct from a British subject came into being.

The Citizenship Act, administered by the secretary of state department, defines who is a citizen and covers loss and resumption of citizenship, requirements for acquiring citizenship, offences against the act and the taking of an oath of citizenship. It shortens the required length of residence in Canada prior to application from five to three years. The age of majority for citizenship purposes is reduced from 21 to 18. It removes various provisions of previous statutes and states that all persons are treated equally regardless of age, marital status, sex or country of origin.

Some of the requirements for an adult to become a Canadian citizen are: legal admission to Canada and three years residence in Canada; basic knowledge of the Canadian political system and of one of Canada's official languages; and compliance with the national security and criminal record provisions of the Citizenship Act.

Sources

- 4.1 Population Estimates and Projections Division, Content and Analysis Branch, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada.
- 4.2 - 4.3.3 Census Characteristics Division, Content and Analysis Branch, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada; Population Estimates and Projections Division, Content and Analysis Branch, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada.
- 4.3.4 Statistics Section, Finance and Management Branch, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.
- 4.4 Census Characteristics Division, Content and Analysis Branch, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada.
- 4.5 - 4.8 Health Division, Institutional and Public Finance Statistics Branch, Institutions and Agriculture Statistics Field, Statistics Canada.
- 4.9 - 4.9.1 Canada Employment and Immigration Commission.
- 4.9.2 Population Estimates and Projections Division, Content and Analysis Branch, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada.
- 4.9.3 Census Characteristics Division, Census and Household Surveys Field, Statistics Canada.
- 4.9.4 Communications Branch, Department of the Secretary of State of Canada.