

The *Canadian Century Research Infrastructure* is a five-year pan-Canadian initiative to develop databases from manuscript census records for the period 1911-1951. These data will then be linked to other Census sources that cover the periods from 1871 to 1901 and from 1961 to 2001. The result will be a new foundation for the study of social, economic, cultural, and political change.

It is important to note that **strict confidentiality of data from individual census records** from 1911 onwards will be maintained in accordance with Statistics Canada's protocols.

The census databases offer unprecedented evidence about Canada's changing society bringing individuals, families, and households to the forefront of historical investigation, and opening up a myriad of groundbreaking research opportunities. In so doing, the *Canadian Century Research Infrastructure* will contribute to a better-informed discussion of issues in key areas such as:

- education
- ethnicity
- family
- fertility
- First Nations
- gender
- literacy
- immigration
- unemployment

The evidence derived from the project will facilitate more extensive studies of the changing characteristics of Canada's immigrant population, the country's economic evolution, and such issues as labor, housing, population aging and religion.

Almost all funding so far received is for the creation of a major social and historical database that will be of use to demographers, economists, historians, sociologists and other students of Canadian society. Microdata files will be made available through the Statistics Canada Research Data Centre (RDC) programme. The 1911 data should be available in the RDCs by the end of 2004 and will be comparable with existing 1871, 1881 and 1901 Census microdata files as well as with US data. Since the CCRI project is funded for the creation of a national data resource rather than for research using it, we encourage potential users to apply for research funding via the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada or other agencies and for RDC access via the SSHRC Web site.

The CCRI project maintains a Web page in English and French. The address for the English language version is as follows:

<http://www.canada.uottawa.ca/ccri/index-eng.htm>

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The Principal Investigator of the CCRI project is Professor Chad Gaffield at the University of Ottawa. The research team comprises members from universities across Canada, including: Memorial University of Newfoundland, Université Laval, L'Université du Québec à Trois Rivières, the University of Ottawa, the University of Toronto, the University of Victoria and York University.