

# 2006 Census of Canada

## Population & Dwelling Release

March 13, 2007

### First 2006 Census Release

The first release of the 2006 Census data, taken on May 16, 2006 is now available. Highlights of population counts of provinces and selected municipalities are provided in the briefing below.

The 2006 Census of Population, Canada's largest and most comprehensive survey, is meant to capture the entire population of Canadian residents. However, sometimes persons and dwellings are missed or double-counted, or mistakenly enumerated (i.e. visitors). In the previous census of 2001, approximately 70,000 people were added to the Alberta total population due to census undercoverage. Net undercoverage counts will be released in **September 2008**. Thus, population figures for provinces in Table 1 will be adjusted next year.

### Population

Alberta's population on May 16, 2006 was 3,290,350. This is an increase of 10.6 % or 315,543 people since the previous federal census taken on May 15, 2001. As shown in Table 1, Alberta had the highest percentage growth among all provinces in Canada, and nearly doubled the national rate of 5.4%.

During the five-year period (2001-06), the two largest Alberta cities both enjoyed substantial population growth. Calgary's population grew to 988,193 (12.4%) and Edmonton rose to 730,372 (9.6%).

Between 2001 and 2006, population growth was extremely high in the outlying areas of the Calgary region, with a jump by 41.8% in Airdrie and 46.7% in Okotoks. The surrounding areas of the Edmonton region also saw a rapid increase in its population, from 12.9% in Leduc to 14.6% in Strathcona County and 22% in Spruce Grove.

The following table presents the population counts for selected municipalities in Alberta.

**TABLE 2: CENSUS POPULATION & GROWTH  
SELECTED MUNICIPALITIES**

| Municipality           | Population | Growth since 2001 Census |
|------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Airdrie                | 28,927     | 41.8%                    |
| Calgary                | 988,193    | 12.4%                    |
| Camrose                | 15,620     | 5.0%                     |
| Edmonton               | 730,372    | 9.6%                     |
| Grande Prairie         | 47,076     | 27.3%                    |
| Leduc                  | 16,967     | 12.9%                    |
| Lethbridge             | 74,637     | 10.8%                    |
| Lloydminster (Alberta) | 15,910     | 21.0%                    |
| Medicine Hat           | 56,997     | 11.2%                    |
| Red Deer               | 82,772     | 22.0%                    |
| Spruce Grove           | 19,496     | 22.0%                    |
| St. Albert             | 57,719     | 8.7%                     |
| Wood Buffalo           | 51,496     | 24.3%                    |

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada

### Dwellings

For information on the number of dwellings, please contact Alberta Finance, Statistics.

Additional census data and briefings will be provided over the next 14 months for each subsequent census release.

**TABLE 1: 2006 AND 2001 POPULATION BY PROVINCE & GROWTH RATES BETWEEN CENSUSES**

| Population         | NFLD.   | P.E.I.  | N.S.    | N.B.    | QUE.      | ONT.       | MAN.      | SASK.   | ALTA.     | B.C.      | Canada     |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|-----------|---------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| <b>2006</b>        | 505,469 | 135,851 | 913,462 | 729,997 | 7,546,131 | 12,160,282 | 1,148,401 | 968,157 | 3,290,350 | 4,113,487 | 31,612,897 |
| <b>2001</b>        | 512,930 | 135,294 | 908,007 | 729,498 | 7,237,479 | 11,410,046 | 1,119,583 | 978,933 | 2,974,807 | 3,907,738 | 30,007,094 |
| <b>Growth Rate</b> | -1.5%   | 0.4%    | 0.6%    | 0.1%    | 4.3%      | 6.6%       | 2.6%      | -1.1%   | 10.6%     | 5.3%      | 5.4%       |

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada