Our family shapes who we are and contributes to our unique life story. We want to hear from you whether you are part of a small or a big family, have a family of your own or no family at all.

Your participation is important because Statistics Canada can paint a more accurate picture of the diversity of Canadian families. Your answers will help guide decisions about social programs and policies to ensure that they meet the needs of all Canadians.

SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCE

The General Social Survey on Family collects information on the family life of Canadians, whether beginning, well established, or undergoing changes. We are interested in information about childhood, family living arrangements, current or previous relationships, education, and fertility. The survey results will help answer questions such as these:

- Are young adults still delaying moving out from their parents’ home?
- Are many Canadians experiencing the separation or divorce of parents?
- What are the intentions of young Canadians in terms of marriage or having children?
- Are there new patterns in the division of household work between men and women?
- Are more couples living apart?
- Are parents satisfied with the child care services they are receiving?
- How many parents are taking leave for the birth of their child?

WHY YOUR PARTICIPATION IS IMPORTANT

The data we collect from you and from other respondents like you will:

- Guide the decisions made by provincial governments when planning health and social service programs
- Observe and study the new realities families are facing in light of changes in Canadian society since the 1960s
- Compare Canadian families to families in other countries
- Inform researchers studying marriage, divorce, fertility and family life
- Examine the role grandparents play in Canadian families.

HOW IT WORKS

A Statistics Canada interviewer will contact you to arrange a telephone interview at a convenient time for you. Our interviewers work flexible hours and can accommodate your schedule during the day, the evening and weekends. During the interview, you will be asked for some key information on your family situation. We know how busy you are, and we appreciate you taking the time to assist us with this survey.

WHAT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR THE INTERVIEW?

Please gather a few of the dates associated with these important life events:

- The completion of your schooling
- Move(s) from the parental home
- The birth of your parents and your spouse or partner
- Marriage and past relationships
- The birth of your children.

Having these dates on hand will make it easier for you to answer some of the questions and will shorten the interview.

YOUR PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT TO US

All the information Statistics Canada collects is strictly confidential and is protected by the Statistics Act. Statistics Canada cannot release any information that would identify you or any member of your household without your consent. Furthermore, this information cannot be released under any other law, not even the Access to Information Act.