

Canadian Hyphens: Next Census Will Reveal that majority of Canadians possess something other than Canadian, British or French as part of their background

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Part 1 Canadian Canadians and Part 2 Canadian's Origins: A Mixed Future

Summary

By 2006 it is clear that a majority of Canadians will have something other than Canadian, British and French as part of their ethnic identification. Already as seen below this was the case in 2001 for a majority of the population below the age of 35. This scenario is a function of the combined number of persons reporting only 'other' ethnic origin and those reporting other in combination with another origin.

Those reporting either British or French origin only are the oldest groups with a significant percentage of 65 and over respondents. Those reporting more multiple or hyphenated identities tend to be younger and have low shares of persons under 65 thus suggesting a trend for the future.

The group that was most inclined to add Canadian to the response to questions about their backgrounds were persons of American descent. In effect the most hyphenated Canadians were those with some ancestors that hailed from the melting pot. Thereafter Métis and Dutch origin respondents were most likely to include Canadian in their response. Asian groups were amongst the least likely to have included the Canadian response in their census declaration. Asian groups were amongst the least likely to have included the Canadian response in their census declaration.

There is a substantial gap between those under the age of 15 and those over the age of 65 in the degree to which they gave multiple responses to census questions on ethnic descent. It is very likely that in the next ten years a majority of our youth will give multiple responses to census questions on ethnic origin.

Some one out six Canadians gave at least three responses when asked about their ethnic background in 2001 (9.6% gave three responses and 6.7% gave four answers). Persons that included American, Swedish and Norwegian origin responses were most likely to give four or more responses. Of the European ancestry groups it is Portuguese and Greek that reported the least ethnic mixing.

Single origin declarations were most common amongst persons of Korean descent followed by respondents of Haitian and Chinese origins.

Growing multiple identification can have serious policy ramifications as it may render singular ethnic communal ties less relevant and related issues of community belonging will become more diffuse causing government to stress communal and civic organizations that identify with visible minority or religious groups and make ethnocultural ties less a

function of ascribed status and more focused on the manner in which one chooses to define themselves independent of their background and origins

Part 1 Canadian Canadians

A recent series of projections by Statistics Canada looking at the Canada of 2017 predicted considerable change to the country's landscape with the heightened degree of cultural diversity. But one of the areas that the projections did not address was the rise in multiple identifications amongst the population. By 2006 it is clear that a majority of Canadians will have something other than Canadian, British and French as part of their ethnic identification. Already this was the case in 2001 for a majority of the population below the age of 35. The phenomenon is more common amongst longer established-mostly European descendant- Canadians than more recently arrived immigrants and it is an important dimension of changing patterns in Canadian identity.

Some describe the condition of dual individual and/or multiple identities as hyphenated identity. The notion of a hyphenated identity is usually thought of as combined national with ethnocultural identity (i.e. Canadian and other) and its increased presence in the census is a result of people being encouraged in the late 1980's to respond that they were Canadian on the question of ethnic origins. Of those Canadians who have increasingly chosen to do so many combined their answers with another ethnic response.

Hyphenated Canadian identities have become an important part of the way our origins are reported. It is a significant by product of the campaign designed to get the population to respond Canadian to the census as a way to affirm their attachment to the country. The authors of this idea may have better succeeded in getting those of European origin to hyphenate their Canadian identification than in getting people to dismiss backgrounds other than Canadian.

By 2006 it is clear that a majority of Canadians will have something other than Canadian, British and French as part of their ethnic identification. Already as seen below this was the case in 2001 for a majority of the population below the age of 35. This scenario is a function of the combined number of persons reporting only 'other' ethnic origin and those reporting other in combination with another origin.

Declarations of Ethnic Origins and declaration of ethnic origins of persons other than Canadian, French and British (single and multiple) by age cohort, Canada, 2001

Canada	Total - Age and sex	0-14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and older
Total - Ethnic origin	29639030	5737675	3988200	3973085	5074090	4393180	2847955	3624850
Other with/without Canadian, British or French	13892970	3101550	2036630	2040310	2362310	1843625	1133460	1375075
% Other with/without Canadian, British or French	46.9	54.3	51.0	51.3	46.5	41.9	39.8	37.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001

Having a majority of 'other ethnicities' does not imply a rise in hyphenated identities as much of the new immigration has yet to encounter significant mixing, something which is far more common amongst the more established largely European descent segment of the population. Hyphenated identities are particularly common amongst the younger multigenerational groups though less so amongst Quebec francophones. Moreover a number of younger Canadians have identified rolled themselves into the Canadian only category. Still one observes an important generation gap in the reporting on origins with those below the age of 14, approximately 26% might be described as hyphenated (3 104 235) while in the 65 and over category only 6.1% are hyphens. Overall in the 2001 census some 16.5% or one of six Canadians reported hyphenated identities. Furthermore those reporting either British or French origin only are the oldest groups with significant 65 and over respondents. Those reporting more multiple or hyphenated identities tend to be younger and have low shares of persons under 65 thus suggesting a trend for the future.

Declarations of ethnic origins Canadian, British, French and Other (single and multiple) for age cohort, 0-14 and 65 and over, Canada, 2001

Ethnic Origin: Total - Ethnic origin Canada	Total - Age and sex	0-14 years	65 years and older	65 and over %
Total - Ethnic origin group	29639030	5737675	3624850	12.2
British only	4120470	382715	910135	22.1
French only	1060755	114525	180530	18.0
Canadian or British or French only	15746065	2636120	2249770	14.3
Other only	8961175	1579150	1151460	12.8
Canadian and British only	1322175	212330	156735	11.8
Canadian only	7435990	1571255	839245	11.3
Canadian and French only	868300	145315	92820	10.7
Other with/without Canadian, British or French	13892970	3101550	1375075	9.9
British	591290	119185	50905	8.6

and French only				
Canadian and British and French only	347085	90805	19405	5.6
British and other only	2247410	631530	118305	5.2
French and other only	373840	92635	19050	5.1
Canadian and other only	797505	253425	39105	4.9
British and Canadian and other only	732505	247720	25760	3.5
British and French and other only	458320	179830	12995	2.8
French and Canadian and other only	169800	54175	4840	2.8
British and French and Canadian and other only	152410	63080	3550	2.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001

Only 2.7% of persons with origins other than Canadian, French or British combined Canadian with their response in dual declarations. However when multiple declarations where Canadian is present with 'other' identification are included the percentage rises to 6.3. Not surprisingly considerably more mixing of the 'other ethnics' occurred with persons of British as opposed to French descent. As observed below the group that was most inclined to add Canadian to the response to questions about their backgrounds were persons of American descent. In effect the most hyphenated Canadians were those with some ancestors that hailed from the melting pot. Thereafter Métis and Dutch origin respondents were most likely to include Canadian in their response. Asian groups were amongst the least likely to have included the Canadian response in their census declaration.

Declarations of Ethnic Origins in Combination with Canadian response for selected groups, 2001

Canada	Total - Ethnic origin group	Canadian and other only	British and Canadian and other only	French and Canadian and other only	British and French and Canadian and other only	Total Other with Canadian
Total - Ethnic origin	29639030	797505 (2.7)	732505	169800	152410	6.3
American origin	250025	44005 (17.6)	52860	6125	6750	43.8
Métis origin	307860	27315 (9.1)	19230	25640	16480	28.7
Dutch origins	924345	68645 (7.4)	77860	10325	11185	28.1
Belgian origins	140255	14350 (10.2)	10185	6480	2685	23.9
Swiss origin	110795	8800 (8.0)	8060	2705	1375	18.9
North American Indian origin	1000915	66245 (6.6)	54355	35580	27780	18.2
Finnish origin	114690	7650 (6.7)	9745	1615	1350	18.2
Scandinavian origins	857165	48280 (5.6)	87620	8915	9630	17.9
German origins	2742855	178020 (6.4)	265375	43405	43175	17.3
Austrian origin	147605	10915 (7.4)	10565	1775	1140	16.2
Ukrainian origin	1071070	72105 (7.2)	66805	13650	8850	15.9
Canadian origins	11825770	797505 (6.7)	732500	169800	152415	15.5
Russian origin	336920	29470 (8.7)	18025	2720	1790	15.4
Polish origin	817 110	60 695 (7.4)	43 675	9730	6450	14.8
Italian origins	1272120	85315 (6.7)	54085	17855	11975	13.2
Jewish origin	348615	31670 (9.0)	11585	1600	1565	13.1
Japanese origin	85225	5465 (6.4)	2700	415	240	10.3
Spanish origin	213105	8160 (3.8)	7200	3595	2450	10.0
Caribbean and Bermudan origins	502885	31780(6.3)	11720	2495	1495	9.5
Guyanese origin	51570	3225 (6.3)	1160	250	60	9.2
Middle Eastern origins	235685	13520 (5.7)	4560	1855	1020	9.1
British origins	9971665	0	732500	0	152410	8.7
Danish origin	170780	10965 (6.4)	16985	1615	1490	8.7
Greek origin	215105	10420 (4.8)	5515	1465	770	8.5
African origins	384120	21835 (5.7)	7115	2350	1310	7.9
Latin American origins	245395	13855 (5.7)	3160	1455	490	7.7
Portuguese origin	357690	16785 (4.6)	6055	1930	1065	7.3
Chinese origins	1108860	31140 (2.8)	6925	1580	1285	3.7
Vietnamese origin	151410	4115 (2.7)	295	310	55	3.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001

Part 2
Canadian's Origins: A Mixed Future

Part 1 explored the extent to which Canadians added Canadian to their responses to questions on ethnic origins giving rise to an important degree of hyphenation. But multiple identity declarations can take many combinations of backgrounds and as we shall see such multiplicity of identification is much more common amongst the younger generation. As observed below there is a substantial gap between those under the age of 15 and those over the age of 65 in the degree to which they gave multiple responses to census questions on ethnic descent. It is very likely that in the next ten years a majority of our youth will give multiple responses to census questions on ethnic origin.

Number and percentage of persons giving multiple responses to ethnic origins by age cohort, Canada, 2001

Canada Ethnic origin group	Total - Age and sex	0-14 years	15-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65 years and older
Total - Ethnic origin	29639030	5737675	3988200	3973085	5074090	4393180	2847955	3624850
Multiple Responses	10772885	2548170	1653095	1498625	1799850	1544550	855585	873010
% Multiple Response	36.3	44.3	41.5	37.7	35.3	35.1	30.1	24.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001

Some one out six Canadians gave at least three responses when asked about their ethnic background in 2001 (9.6% gave three responses and 6.7% gave four answers). Persons that included American, Swedish and Norwegian origin responses were most likely to give four or more responses. Of the European ancestry groups it is Portuguese and Greek that reported the least ethnic mixing.

Number of responses given for ethnic origins, Canada, 2001

Canada Ethnic origin group	Total - EO number of responses	2 responses	3 responses	4 responses or more	Percentage of Canadians giving 4 responses or more
Total - Ethnic origin	29639030	5992990	2833415	1946470	6.7
American origin	250025	68850	64010	91960	36.7
Swedish origin	282770	79015	74210	99100	35.3
Norwegian origin	363775	101215	92260	123065	33.8
Austrian	147605	41955	34555	45780	32.6

origin					
Scandinavian origins	857165	241535	216155	270465	31.5
Métis origin	307860	69215	75190	91245	30.4
Russian origin	336920	95560	77805	93805	29.7
Danish origin	170780	47145	40300	49540	29.1
Swiss origin	110795	31875	25010	29315	26.6
Finnish origin	114690	30640	24135	27925	25.3
German origins	2742855	759205	621985	661950	24.1
Belgian origins	140255	43150	31265	33320	23.7
Dutch origins	924345	225830	179305	202320	21.8
Czech and Slovak origins	161290	42420	31740	35110	21.8
Polish origin	817110	222005	156715	177975	21.6
Ukrainian origin	1071070	308520	210595	225760	21.0
Romanian origin	131855	29650	21520	27370	20.8
Aboriginal origins	1319920	247305	237260	270315	20.6
Spanish origin	213105	61410	41665	43485	20.3
North American Indian origin	1000915	182265	170070	192785	19.2
Hungarian (Magyar) origin	267270	74095	50235	51140	19.1
Baltic origins	85020	22730	14735	16225	19.0
British origins	9971665	3249420	2287330	1764560	17.6
French origin	4021805	1487890	770755	702395	17.4
Jewish origin	348615	73130	44820	44180	12.6
Italian origins	1272120	252735	153125	139565	10.9
Black origin	53095	6350	3375	5020	9.4
Balkan origins	318500	66485	30105	28250	8.8
Japanese origin	85225	16765	7935	7350	8.6
Canadian origins	11825770	2236490	1236955	942580	8.5

Croatian origin	97050	21470	9350	8060	8.3
South American origins	105515	26095	10730	8365	8.3
West Indian origin	59720	15425	6110	4885	8.1
Greek origin	215105	37665	16965	16695	7.7
Guyanese origin	51570	16335	4990	3960	7.7
Jamaican origin	211725	40235	17395	15915	7.5
Lebanese origin	143630	27315	11955	10475	7.2
Middle Eastern origins	235685	46500	19440	16840	7.1
Caribbean and Bermudan origins	502885	103185	40460	35810	7.1
Latin American origins	245395	56450	21425	17290	7.0
Portuguese origin	357690	54845	25295	24715	6.9
Central American origins	88175	22075	7770	6130	6.9
Serbian origin	55540	9940	3570	2820	5.1
North African origins	90280	20600	6280	4280	4.7
West Asian origins	168695	21555	6915	4525	2.7
East Indian origin	696990	87090	23955	18325	2.6
East Asian origins	1293455	120815	40705	33300	2.6
Chinese origins	1108860	102285	32460	25630	2.5
South East Asian origins	537455	82885	21370	12065	2.2
Filipino origin	327550	40535	13735	7135	2.2
South Asian origins	963195	114975	27470	20550	2.1
Iranian origin	88225	10010	3015	1750	2.0
Haitian origin	82405	8205	2045	1405	1.7
East African origins	75525	8965	2325	1110	1.4

Pakistani origin	71730	14900	2485	965	1.3
Sri Lankan origins	64000	14015	1640	670	1.0
Vietnamese origin	151410	27460	3620	1210	0.9
African origins	384120	73945	32120	34230	0.9
Korean origin	101710	4800	990	720	0.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001

Single origin declarations were most common amongst persons of Korean descent followed by respondents of Haitian and Chinese origins.

Geography: Canada	Eth Org Grps: Total - Ethnic origin group	Age at Imm: Total - Age at immigration	Age and Sex : Total - Age and sex	
	Total - EO number of responses	Single response	Multiple responses	% of single origin
Total - Ethnic origin	29639030	18866150	10772885	63.7
Korean origin	101710	95200	6515	93.6
Haitian origin	82405	70755	11650	85.8
Chinese origins	1108860	948490	160375	85.5
East Asian origins	1293455	1098635	194820	84.9
East African origins	75525	63140	12390	83.5
Iranian origin	88225	73450	14775	83.3
South Asian origins	963195	800200	162995	83.1
East Indian origin	696990	567615	129375	81.5
Filipino origin	327550	266140	61405	81.3
West Asian origins	168695	135700	32995	80.5
Vietnamese origin	151410	119120	32290	78.7
South East Asian origins	537455	421140	116315	78.4
Sri Lankan origins	64000	47675	16320	74.5
Pakistani origin	71730	53375	18355	74.2
Black origin	53095	38345	14750	72.3
Portuguese origin	357690	252835	104855	70.7
Serbian origin	55540	39210	16335	70.6
Greek origin	215105	143785	71320	66.9
North African origins	90280	59120	31160	65.4
Lebanese origin	143630	93895	49740	65.3
Jamaican origin	211725	138180	73545	65.2
Middle Eastern origins	235685	152905	82780	64.9
Caribbean and Bermudan origins	502885	323435	179455	64.2
African origins	384120	243820	140300	63.5
Canadian origins	11825770	7409750	4416025	62.7
Japanese origin	85225	53175	32050	62.3
Latin American origins	245395	150235	95160	61.2
Balkan origins	318500	193655	124850	60.8

Croatian origin	97050	58170	38880	60.0
Central American origins	88175	52200	35970	59.2
Italian origins	1272120	726690	545425	57.1
South American origins	105515	60325	45185	57.0
West Indian origin	59720	33295	26425	55.3
Jewish origin	348615	186470	162140	53.5
Guyanese origin	51570	26290	25280	50.2
North American Indian origin	1000915	455800	545115	45.5
American origin	250025	25205	224820	43.1
Aboriginal origins	1319920	565040	754885	43.1
Romanian origin	131855	53320	78535	40.6
Baltic origins	85020	31340	53685	37.0
Hungarian (Magyar) origin	267270	91800	175470	34.5
Dutch origins	924345	316890	607450	34.3
Ukrainian origin	1071070	326200	744875	32.6
Czech and Slovak origins	161290	52015	109270	32.5
Polish origin	817110	260420	556695	32.1
Finnish origin	114690	31985	82700	29.0
British origins	9971665	2670360	7301310	26.9
French origin	4021805	1060755	2961050	26.5
German origins	2742855	699715	2043140	25.8
Métis origin	307860	72210	235650	24.0
Belgian origins	140255	32520	107735	23.2
Swiss origin	110795	24595	86200	22.2
Russian origin	336920	69745	267175	20.7
Danish origin	170780	33800	136990	19.8
Spanish origin	213105	66545	146555	19.5
Austrian origin	147605	25320	122290	17.2
Scandinavian origins	857165	129015	728155	15.1
Norwegian origin	363775	47230	316545	13.0
Swedish origin	282770	30440	252330	10.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada, 2001

Conclusion

Growing multiple identification can have serious policy ramifications as it may render singular ethnic communal ties less relevant and related issues of community belonging will become more diffuse causing government to stress communal and civic organizations that identify with visible minority or religious groups and make ethnocultural ties less a function of ascribed status and more focused on the manner in which one chooses to define themselves independent of their background and origins. Hence one may have minimal identification with Greek culture but choose to engage in communal activity by affinity and interest in the cultural heritage.