

December 4, 2007

## Language and Immigration

— 2006 Census —

Statistics Canada today released information on language, immigration and citizenship, and migration and mobility from the 2006 census. The national census is conducted every five years, primarily to count all persons and dwellings in Canada. In the Northwest Territories, the census was undertaken in March and May of 2006. This report presents the fourth in a series of releases based on the 2006 census results.

A few of the highlights for the Northwest Territories from the release include:

- In 2006, 2,815 persons (6.9% of the population) residing in the NWT were foreign-born, a slight increase from the 6.6% enumerated in 1996
  - 76% of the foreign-born population lived in Yellowknife.
  - Of the foreign-born population, 32.5% are from the Philippines, 16.7% from Ghana, 9.2% from the US, and 7.5% from Vietnam.
- During the past five years (2001-2006), 7,045 people reported moving from the NWT to other places in Canada, while 6,360 people reported moving to the NWT, resulting in a net loss of 685 people for the territory
  - Alberta was the primary destination for people leaving the NWT, accounting for 44.1% of leavers, while BC accounted for 16.5%.
- Results for mother tongue show that in 2006 English was represented in 76.8% of the population, and French 2.4%, while those with a mother tongue that was neither English nor French made up 19.9% of the population
  - Of the 19.9% of the population who indicated their mother tongue was neither English nor French, almost a quarter (24.5%) identified Dogrib as their mother tongue.

Table 1 presents mother tongue responses for the NWT by language prevalence - mother tongue refers to the first language learned in childhood and still understood by an individual.

**Table 1** Mother Tongue, 2006  
Northwest Territories,

	Number of Persons	% of all Mother Tongues	% of Neither English or French
English	31,545	76.8	..
French	970	2.4	..
Neither English nor French	8,160	19.9	100.0
Dogrib	2,040	5.0	24.5
South Slave	1,310	3.2	15.7
North Slave (Hare)	860	2.1	10.3
Inuktitut	740	1.8	8.9
Tagalog (Pilipino)	530	1.3	6.4
Chipewyan	410	1.0	4.9
Vietnamese	310	0.8	3.7
Chinese	255	0.6	3.1
Cree	205	0.5	2.5
Gwich'in	200	0.5	2.4

In 2006, almost 20% of the population indicated that their mother tongue was neither English nor French, with the majority of these people identifying an aboriginal language as their mother tongue.

Table 2 presents mother tongue, by single and multiple responses, by community. English is the most prevalent mother tongue in the NWT, with Enterprise (94.7%) and Inuvik (89.1%) having the highest reported incidence, and Gameti (23.2%) the lowest. Persons identifying French as their mother tongue (2.4%) were primarily concentrated in larger NWT communities, with Yellowknife accounting for close to 72% of the population.

In terms of persons indicating that their mother tongue was neither English nor French, Gameti had the highest single-response incidence at 78.6%, with Deline (70.5%) and Wekweeti (66.7%) following closely behind. Conversely, Norman Wells and Inuvik, at 9.2% and 9.3% respectively, had the lowest prevalence of mother tongue being other than English or French.

The upcoming (January, 15 2008) census release on Aboriginal Peoples will provide more focused information on aboriginal language ability in the NWT.

**Table 2 Population by Mother Tongue, 2006**  
Northwest Territories, Communities

	Total	English	French	Neither English nor French	English and French	English and Other	French and Other	English, French & Other
Northwest Territories	41,055	31,545	970	8,160	40	320	10	-
Aklavik	590	510	10	75	-	10	-	-
Behchoko (Rae-Edzo)	1,885	765	10	1,065	-	50	-	-
Colville Lake	130	80	-	45	-	-	-	-
Déline	525	140	-	370	-	15	-	-
Detah	245	120	-	120	-	10	-	-
Enterprise	95	90	-	10	-	-	-	-
Fort Good Hope	550	395	-	150	-	-	-	-
Fort Liard	585	340	-	235	-	10	-	-
Fort McPherson	775	655	-	120	-	-	-	-
Fort Providence	720	420	15	270	-	15	-	-
Fort Resolution	485	375	-	100	-	10	-	-
Fort Simpson	1,195	890	20	275	-	10	-	-
Fort Smith	2,315	1,970	60	265	-	15	-	-
Gameti (Rae Lakes)	280	65	-	220	-	-	-	-
Hay River	3,605	3,160	75	350	10	10	-	-
Hay River Dene 1	305	205	-	95	-	-	-	-
Inuvik	3,430	3,055	40	320	-	15	-	-
Jean Marie River	80	50	-	30	-	-	-	-
Kakisa	50	20	-	30	-	-	-	-
Lutselk'e	320	130	-	180	-	-	-	-
Nahanni Butte	115	70	-	50	-	-	-	-
Norman Wells	765	660	20	70	10	-	-	-
Paulatuk	295	260	-	35	-	-	-	-
Sachs Harbour	120	100	-	20	-	-	-	-
Trout Lake	85	30	-	50	-	-	-	-
Tsiigehtchic	175	135	-	35	-	10	-	-
Tuktoyaktuk	870	715	-	140	-	10	-	-
Tulita	505	350	-	150	-	-	-	-
Ulukhaktok (Holman)	400	275	-	120	-	-	-	-
Wekweeti	135	45	-	90	-	-	-	-
Whati	460	175	-	280	-	-	-	-
Wrigley	125	60	-	65	-	-	-	-
Yellowknife	18,510	14,965	695	2,670	20	140	10	-

Home language is the language most often spoken at home. The most noticeable difference between mother tongue and home language in the NWT is that English is even more prevalent – over 90% of the population cited English as their home language, 1.1% indicated French, and almost 6% indicated that an aboriginal language was their home language.

**Table 3 Home Language, by Immigrant Status and Age Category, 2006**  
Northwest Territories

	Total Population			Non-Immigrant Population			Immigrant Population
	Total	0 - 16	17+	Total	0 - 16	17+	Total
Total	41,055	11,425	29,630	37,985	11,125	26,855	2,815
Single responses	40,810	11,370	29,435	37,810	11,080	26,725	2,740
English	36,795	10,615	26,180	34,820	10,460	24,360	1,780
French	440	100	345	380	75	310	40
Neither English nor French (Other)	3,570	655	2,915	2,600	545	2,060	915
Aboriginal languages	2,415	395	2,020	2,410	400	2,015	-
Vietnamese	295	70	230	60	45	15	225
Tagalog (Pilipino)	275	60	210	15	15	-	265
Chinese languages	145	20	125	25	20	-	110
Creoles	95	25	70	-	-	-	90
Arabic	80	30	50	30	30	-	50
Urdu	35	-	30	10	10	-	30
Italian	25	-	25	-	-	-	25
Armenian	25	10	20	-	-	-	-
Spanish	20	-	15	-	10	-	15
Multiple responses	250	55	195	180	45	135	70
English and French	30	10	20	25	10	20	-
English and Other	215	45	165	145	35	110	65
French and Other	10	-	10	-	-	-	-
English, French and Other	-	-	10	-	-	-	-

Table 4 presents information on the immigration status of NWT residents. In 2006, 6.9% of the NWT population was foreign-born, with most foreign-born residents (76%) living in Yellowknife. Over half (52.2%) of foreign-born residents have lived in the NWT since 1991, 26.5% arrived in the NWT between 1991 and 2000, and 21.3% having arrived in the last five years.

**Table 4 Population by Immigrant Status and Period of Immigration, 2006**  
Northwest Territories, Communities

	Population			Period of Immigration			
	Total	Non-Immigrant	Immigrant	Before 1991	Between 1991-1995	Between 1996-2000	Between 2001-2006
No. of persons							
Northwest Territories	41,055	37,985	2,815	1,470	400	345	600
Yellowknife	18,510	16,155	2,140	1,015	335	280	505
Outside Yellowknife	22,545	21,830	675	455	65	65	95
As a % of total population							
Northwest Territories	100.0	92.5	6.9	52.2	14.2	12.3	21.3
Yellowknife	100.0	87.3	11.6	47.4	15.7	13.1	23.6
Outside Yellowknife	100.0	96.8	3.0	67.4	9.6	9.6	14.1

## Planned Release Dates for 2006 Census Information

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March 13, 2007	Population and Dwelling Counts
July 17, 2007	Age and Sex
September 12, 2007	Marital and Common-Law Status, Families, Households, Housing and Dwelling Characteristics
December 4, 2007	Language, Immigration, Citizenship, and Mobility and Migration
January 15, 2008	Aboriginal Peoples
March 4, 2008	Labour Market Activity, Industry, Occupation, Education, Language of Work, Place of Work, and Mode of Transportation
April 2, 2008	Ethnic Origin, and Visible Minorities
May 1, 2008	Income, Earnings, and Shelter Costs

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