Canadian Census Facts
The census is taken by the federal government every 10 years to count Canada’s population.

Census records are useful because they provide your ancestor’s location at a specific time and list information such as name, age, occupation, place of birth, and religion.
Where to Find the Canadian Census

You can search the Canadian census on:

1. Ancestry

2. Library and Archives Canada

3. FamilySearch
Check each website to determine:

1. Which years are available on each one.

2. For search tips.

3. To understand any abbreviations used.

Note: Ancestry may be accessible using your Brantford Public Library card at brantfordlibrary.ca. Contact info@brantfordlibrary.ca for more information or assistance.
Things to Remember When Searching...

- Check for spelling variations of names – handwriting may be hard to read or name may be spelled incorrectly.

- Questions asked by the enumerator varied on different censuses. For example, in some censuses he asked how old the person would be on their next birthday while in others the person was asked how old they were on their last birthday.

- Parts of the census didn’t survive.

- Depending on who provided the information, it may not be accurate.
The 1851 Census was the first one to list everybody in the household. It was actually January 12, 1852 before enumeration started in Canada East and West.
There are agricultural returns for the 1851, 1861 and 1871 censuses. Lists lot & concession number, acreage, livestock and agricultural products.
Ancestry and FamilySearch both have a database for the 1871 mortality schedule. This schedule was only microfilmed for the 1851, 1861, and 1871 censuses.
The 1891 census was the first one to list the person’s relationship to the head of the household.
1901 Census

The 1901 census asked for the birth date of each person in the household.

Note: This information may not be correct depending on who provided the information.
1906 Census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta

The federal government took a census of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta in 1906 because:

1. These provinces didn’t exist in 1901 when the previous census was taken
2. They wanted to keep track of the increasing population in these regions

Did you know: Prairie censuses were also taken in 1916 and 1926
**1921 Census**

The 1921 census is the most recent Canadian census released to the public.

Did you know: You have to wait 92 years after the taking of a census in Canada before it can be made public.
For More Information About the Canadian Census

Download our How to Find Census Information pathfinder on the Brantford Public Library’s website:
