Background

The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants to Canada (LSIC) is designed to study how recent immigrants adjust to living in Canada. Statistics Canada will collect this information to assist Citizenship and Immigration Canada as well as other federal and provincial government departments and many other organisations in determining how to better help immigrants settle in this country.

As they adapt to life in Canada, many immigrants face challenges, such as:

- finding suitable accommodation;
- learning or becoming more fluent in one or both of Canada’s official languages;
- participating in the labour market;
- accessing education and training opportunities; and
- exercising the rights and undertaking the responsibilities of Canadian citizenship.

The results of this survey will provide an indication as to how immigrants are meeting these challenges and what resources are most helpful to their settling in Canada.

The survey is ‘longitudinal’—that is, the same respondents will be interviewed six months, two years and four years after arriving in Canada, to provide an update on their experiences in this country. By interviewing the same people over a period of time, the LSIC information will compile a dynamic picture of the experiences of these newly arrived people, rather than offering a static ‘snapshot’ of immigrant life. Similar longitudinal immigration surveys have been initiated in Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Quebec with positive results.

About 21,000 people aged 15 and over are being selected out of approximately 240,000 immigrants who settled in Canada between October 2000 and September 2001. The first cycle of interviews has started in April 2001 for those landed in October 2000. This first wave of interviews will last about one year.

Most interviews are conducted face-to-face and are expected to last 90 minutes. They are conducted in one of the 15 languages most frequently spoken by new immigrants, including English and French.

Coverage for the survey will include all Census Metropolitan Areas and non-remote Census Agglomerations. Estimates will be produced for the survey at the national level. Given the volume of immigrants that arrive in Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia, it is expected that
reliable estimates can be produced for these provinces.

**Questionnaire Content**

(1) The *Entry Module* is designed to inform the respondent about the survey and collect the following information:
- the respondent’s date of arrival, immigration class, address and phone number;
- basic demographic information on each member of the respondent’s household; and,
- relationship between each member of the household and each other member.

(2) *Background* is the first module in the main questionnaire. It is designed to gather information on the following:
- the respondent’s previous visits to Canada (if any);
- any previous countries of residence;
- the respondent’s reason for choosing to come to Canada and reason for choosing the city/region in Canada in which he/she lives;
- any other countries to which the respondent applied to immigrate;
- the respondent’s ethnic origin and religion; and
- whether the respondent is a visible minority.

(3) *Social Network and Group Organizations* is the second module in the main questionnaire. It collects information on the following:
- the respondent’s relatives and friends already living in Canada at the time of the respondent’s landing;
- information on the respondent’s spouse;
- new friends made in Canada;
- participation in religious, ethnic, and other groups;
- experiences with sponsorship or host (if applicable); and
- interest in and plans for helping others to come to Canada.

The Group Organization module is a sub-module to the Social Network module. It collects information on every social group or organization in which the respondent participates.

(4) *Language Skills and Other Languages* is the third module in the main questionnaire. It collects information on the following:
- mother tongue and home language of respondent;
- where and how respondent learned English and French;
- self-assessment of the respondent’s abilities to understand English and French;
- perceived importance of learning / improving English and French, and plans to do so; and
- ability of spouse and other household members to speak English and French.
The Other Language module is a sub-module to the Language Skills module. It collects information on the official languages spoken by other household members.

(5) **Housing and Where Lived** is the fourth module in the main questionnaire. It collects the following information:

- location, tenure (rented or owned) and moving dates for each residence since landing in Canada;
- housing costs associated with current residence;
- plans to purchase house or apartment; and,
- problems in finding housing in Canada and sources and types of help obtained.

The Where Lived module is a sub-module to the Housing module. It collects detailed information on each location the respondent has lived in since arriving in Canada.

(6) **Education, Education Credentials, Education Roster, Education Detail** is the fifth module in the main questionnaire. It collects the following information:

- education obtained by the respondent outside of Canada, or obtained in Canada prior to landing;
- detailed information on the credentials received outside of Canada;*
- assessment/plans for assessment of credentials;
- plans for studying in Canada;
- detailed information on each education or training course taken since landing;
- for respondents attending high school, additional questions on experiences at school;
- importance of getting further training or education, and plans for further education;
- problems obtaining education or training, and sources and types of help obtained;
- education level of spouse; and,
- for children of the respondent, detailed information on the children's experiences at school and the respondent’s contacts with the school.

Education Credential, Education Roster and Education Detail are all sub-modules to the Education module. They collect detailed information on the credentials and types of education the respondent has or is currently taking.

(7) **Employment, Employment Roster, Employment Detail** is the sixth module in the main questionnaire. It collects information on the following:

- respondent’s work experience before coming to Canada;
- plans for work in Canada;
- recognition of work experience from outside Canada;
- volunteer work in Canada, and whether or not it led to finding paid employment;
• detailed information on each job or self-employed position since landing in Canada;
• job search methods;
• for last / current job, language spoken to and ethnic or cultural background of employees (for self-employed persons) or co-workers and supervisors (for paid workers), clients and suppliers;
• general information on every period of not working since landing, including job search;
• methods and means of financial support;
• satisfaction with current job;
• problems finding a job, and sources and types of help obtained; and,
• for respondents with a spouse in the household, detailed information on current job.

Employment Roster and Employment Detail are sub-modules to the Employment module. They collect detailed information on the respondent’s past and current jobs.

(8) **Health** is the seventh module in the main questionnaire. It collects information on the following:

• general health status;
• whether or not respondent has a provincial health card;
• for both the respondent and children of the respondent, health problems and contact with health professionals since landing in Canada;
• problems obtaining health care, and sources and types of help obtained; and,
• importance of having health care providers who speak respondent’s language, are of respondent’s ethnic or cultural background, or are the same sex as the respondent.

(9) **Values and Attitudes** is the eighth module in the main questionnaire. It collects information on the following:

• respondent’s country(ies) of citizenship;
• intention of becoming a Canadian citizen;
• importance of maintaining ties with own ethnic or cultural background, values and traditions; and of establishing ties with Canadians of other backgrounds;
• importance of Canadian values and traditions; and,
• importance that children know and carry on traditions and language of ethnic or cultural group or homeland, and that they learn and practise the values and traditions of Canada.

(10) **Income** is the ninth module in the main questionnaire. It collects information on the following:

• sources of family income since landing in Canada;
• sources of respondent income since landing in Canada;
• money sent outside Canada to relatives/friends or for investment;
• money brought into Canada in savings;
• money withdrawn from savings; and,
• general assessment of family’s financial situation.

(11) *Perceptions of Settlement* is the last module in the main questionnaire. It collects information on the following:

• satisfaction with experiences in Canada;
• would respondent make the decision to come to Canada again; and,
• suggestion of most useful thing(s) that could have been done to help respondent settle in Canada.

(12) The *Exit Module* is designed to collect address information if the respondent plans on moving as well as 2 contacts names should we not be able to locate them for Wave 2.