



Chalk Talk

Greetings | Feature | News | History Online!

PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!

Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators:

"If you learn how to look at data in the right way, you can explain riddles that otherwise might have seemed impossible. Because there is nothing like the sheer power of numbers to scrub away layers of confusion and contradiction." Steven Levitt, co-author, *Freakonomics*

The economists who authored the best-selling book, [Freakonomics](#), looked for answers to socio-economic questions surrounding crime rates, parenting, test scores, etc., by analyzing historical data with a critical eye. They came up with surprising answers which challenged conventional wisdom. Numbers matter. This week we witnessed just how important they are and the critical role they play in how our parliamentary democracy works.

Finding statistical information that comes from a trustworthy, objective source can be a challenge. Helping students to understand how statistics are gathered, analyzed and reported and how these numbers help us to understand ourselves as Canadians is the theme of this week's issue of **Chalk Talk** which features educational material from Statistics Canada.

CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit www.4edu.ca to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[As always, we'd love to hear your thoughts.](#)

Mary Kovack

**"I think I understand why so many people think that economics is a boring subject, but they are wrong. On the contrary, there is hardly anything I know that is as exciting as finding that the great events that move history, the forces that determine the destiny of empires and the fate of kings, can sometimes be explained, predicted, or even controlled by a few symbols on a printed page. We all want power, we all want success, but the ultimate reward is the simple joy of understanding."
—Nobel Prize Winning Economist, Paul Krugman, "Incidents from My Career," 1995**

A Window to the Past — 1867 to 1967



Statistics Canada (StatCan) invites educators to check out the **Canada Year Book Historical Collection** which provides a wealth of historical data in digitized format compiled from 100 years of the Agency's annual *Canada Year Book* (CYB).

This new module, available **free of charge** on the StatCan website, covers the first century of Canadian history following Confederation in 1867, through to 1967, with historical text, tables, charts and maps. **It is supplemented by interconnected learning resources for students and teachers.**



First published in 1867, The Canada Year Book has provided a reliable, detailed portrait of Canada and its people, year after year. The historical collection includes 159 books, 87 in English and 72 in French. Each is now accessible in PDF format.

The original edition of each **Canada Year Book** appears exactly as published, in PDF format, and the whole collection is fully searchable by keyword. More than 1,000 data tables are converted to HTML for easier viewing and you can browse through original charts, photos and maps. Some photos will be valuable in elementary social studies class to show how people lived and worked and their communications technology in the past. Also available are multimedia extras such as newspaper clippings, video clips and posters.

For more information, see **Website of the Week**, below.

Canada Year Book Historical Collection (1867 to 1967) — A Window to the Past



What forces have influenced immigration to and emigration from Canada?

How has Canada become one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world?

How has industrialization affected the way Canadians live and work?

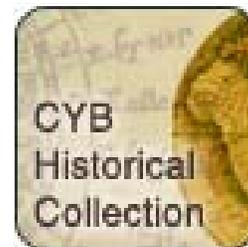
What impact did industrialization have in the different regions of Canada?

How and why have traditional roles of men and women changed?

These are just some of the questions that are explored by Statistics Canada's research and record keeping since the beginning of Confederation. Discover Canada's social and economic past through the people, events and facts that have shaped this vast country. Now the wealth of historical data in Statistics Canada's annual Canada Year Book is available **free** on the Internet in the [Canada Year Book \(CYB\) Historical Collection \(1867-1967\)](#).

The [Teachers' toolbox](#) which accompanies the CYB Historical Collection offers theme-based lesson plans that support curriculum in history and social studies. Specially designed lessons for intermediate and secondary grade levels will help students to develop critical thinking skills and interpret original source documents. Lessons cover:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| • Changing families and households | Intermediate Secondary |
| • Lives of men and women | Intermediate Secondary |
| • Occupations | Intermediate Secondary |
| • Economic gains | Intermediate Secondary |
| • The Great Depression | Intermediate Secondary |
| • Communications | Intermediate Secondary |
| • Ethno-cultural diversity | Intermediate Secondary |
| • Provinces and manufacturing | Intermediate Secondary |
| • Immigration and emigration | Intermediate Secondary |
| • Canada at war | Intermediate Secondary |



Discover Contemporary Canada

Written in accessible, plain language, students will want to check out StatCan's current [Canada Year Book](#), [new edition yearly] for their research projects. Each of its 31 chapters summarizes these and many other aspects of our country's society and economy:



- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Aboriginal peoples | • Health |
| • Children and youth | • Incomes |
| • Ethnic diversity & immigration | • International trade |
| • Environment | • Population and demography |
| • Families and housing | • Prices |

Order the 2008 print version at a 30% educator's discount (\$17.47) by calling 1-800-267-6677. The electronic version will be posted in the New Year.

Educators — Need help using StatCan resources?

Ask one of the five StatCan education full-time regional representatives across the country, who offer these free services:

- one-on-one telephone/e-mail support
- workshops on StatCan resources at professional development days and conferences, or made-to-measure for your school or district
- consultation with curriculum advisors and textbook publishers
- articles for teacher newsletters and websites

To find your nearest representative, go to the Teacher's page of Learning Resources, under "Regional support" at <http://www.statcan.ca/english/edu/rep-tea.htm>.

"According to Statistics Canada...": we read or hear these familiar words almost everyday in the media. **Statistics Canada**, our national statistical organization, is a mirror of who we are as Canadians, producing the numbers and analysis that help us better understand our country—its population, resources, economy, society and culture. In addition to conducting the national census every five years, Statistics Canada runs about 350 active surveys on virtually all aspects of Canadian life.

Statistics Canada is mandated by the federal government to produce objective statistical information that is vital to an open and democratic society. This information is used by elected representatives, businesses, unions and non-profit organizations, as well as individual Canadians, to make informed decisions. For teachers and students too, Statistics Canada is the ultimate reference source about Canada.

Learning Resources at www.statcan.ca/english/edu, is a special area of the Statistics Canada website for teachers and students. It links to the information and teaching tools that are most relevant to K-12 curricula and to postsecondary learning.

Choose from three entry pages:

- **Teachers:** support for elementary and secondary school teaching
- **Students:** homework help and [Kids' Zone](#) fun activities
- **Postsecondary:** more detailed data for in-depth research

Or link to our main resources for the education community:

[E-STAT](#) — an interactive data tool for schools about Canada's society and economy

[Census at School](#) — **Lessons on the Environment:** Two new lessons on the environment are available to use with the Census at School online survey (Grades 4 to 12) – www.censusatschool.ca – which is available until June 19, 2009. See grades 4 to 8 lesson "[Canada recycles, do you?](#)" and grades 9 to 12 lesson "[Recycling in Canada](#)". Students first answer the online survey that includes questions on recycling behaviour, then use these lessons to analyse their class results and compare them to Canadian data. To sign up your class, [click here](#).

Or under "Quick links", choose popular resources such as:

[Canadian Social Trends](#) — featuring today's social issues

[Population pyramids](#) — animations showing the baby boom moving through history

[Resources by school subject](#) — lesson plans, key resources and data tables relevant to your courses.



Support for teaching and learning in schools

Teachers
Connect to data, reference material, lesson plans and teaching tools for school teachers and teacher librarians.

Students
Make the grade with this data and information you need to get your assignments done, as well as ideas for your projects.

Kids' Zone Try our fun activities!

Postsecondary
Find data and programs to support in-depth research, class work and learning, including the Education Inflation and Research Data Centre.



Census at School

Statistics Canada — Census of Canada - Critical Thinking Lessons



The **2006 Census Results Teacher's Kit**, written by **The Critical Thinking Consortium**, is now available. Each of its eight innovative lessons will engage your students with critical tasks where they must apply reasoned judgment to locate, interpret and assess the latest census data about Canada's population and society. Evaluation rubrics are included to help you assess the quality of your students' reasoning.

These lessons are for intermediate and secondary (Grades 7 to 12) and are relevant to Social Studies, Geography, History, English, Mathematics, Family Studies and Technology. For more information on these lesson plans, [click here](#)



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