Canadians and Their Pasts

Short Form Questionnaire

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This is an abbreviated version of the questionnaire. While it includes the main text of all questions and response categories, most of the interviewer instructions and skip patterns have been dropped for readability. When no precoded answers are indicated, the interviewer enters a textual answer. A complete version of the questionnaire is available from the Institute for Social Research, York University, TEL Building, 4700 Keele Street, Toronto, ON, M3J 1P3.

>gend<
Interviewer: Enter respondent's gender.

1 male 5 female d don't know

>tape_1<
For some questions, we would like you to answer in your own words. And to make sure we correctly record your answers, we would like to tape what you say. Is this okay with you?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>tape_2< [*if tape_1 not answered "yes"*]
That's okay, not everyone agrees to be taped. But we would still like to interview you, but of course we will NOT tape anything.

Section A: General Interest in the Past

>intro_a<
We'd like to start by asking you some questions about the past. By past we mean everything from the very recent past to the very distant past, from your personal and family history to the history of Canada and other countries.

Note: In questions a1, a2 and a3, one-third of respondents are asked about 'history', one-third about 'the past' and one-third about 'history and the past'.

>a1<
In general, how interested are you in [*history*], would you say:

1 very interested
3 somewhat interested
5 not very interested
7 not at all interested

d don't know r refused

>a2<
How interested are you in your family's [*history*]:

1 very interested
3 somewhat interested
5 not very interested
7 not at all interested

d don't know r refused

>a3<
How interested are you in Canada's [*history*]?

1 very interested
3 somewhat interested
5 not very interested
7 not at all interested

d don't know r refused

Section B: Activities Related to the Past

>intro_b<
Now some questions about activities related to the past that you may have done.

>b1<
During the last 12 months, have you looked at old photographs of buildings, places, family members, friends, and so on?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>b2< [*if "yes" at b1*]
Can you please tell us about the last time you looked at these old photographs. For example, did you do this by yourself or with other people? What was the occasion?

>b3<
Is there something important or meaningful that you are keeping to pass on to your children, other family members or close friends as a reminder of the past?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>b4<
Are you preparing a family scrapbook, cookbook, keeping a diary, writing a family history, making home movies or are you involved in other activities to preserve the past?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>b5a< [*refers to b3 or b4, not asked if both answered "no"]*
Can you please tell us about what your [*keeping/preparing*]?

>b5b<
And why is this meaningful for you?

>b6<
Now a question about watching movies, videos, DVDs or TV programs ABOUT THE PAST. This could include movies about a past event or a person, documentaries, biographies, dramas and so on. Have you watched any of these in the last 12 months?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>b7< [*if "yes" at b6*]
About how many movies, videos, DVDs and TV shows ABOUT THE PAST have you watched in the last 12 months?

1 one
2 two or three
3 four or five
4 more than five
d don't know r refused

>b8<
In the last 12 months, have you used the internet to look up or post information ABOUT THE PAST?

Interviewer: if required, this includes looking up your family history, searching for information about an historical person, event or place, or posting information about these topics on the web.

1 yes 5 no

6 R does not have a computer
7 R does not have internet
d don't know r refused

>b9< [*if "yes" at b8*]
About how many times have you used the internet to explore the past in the last 12 months?

1 once
2 two or three
3 four or five
4 more than five times

d don't know r refused

>b10<
What about playing video or computer HISTORY GAMES, have you played any of these in the last 12 months?

Interviewer: if required, video history games can be played on Xbox, PlayStation, etc. Examples include Age of Empire, Civilization 1, 2, 3 and 4, games about WWII and Vietnam, and so on. This includes online computer history games.

1 yes 5 no

6 R does not have a computer
7 R does not have internet access
d don't know r refused

>b11<
Now we want to ask about reading books ABOUT THE PAST. This includes books about historical events or persons, biographies and memoirs, historical novels and so on. In the last 12 months have you read any books like this?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>b12< [*if "yes" at b11*]
About how many of these kinds of books have you read in the last 12 months?

1 one
2 two or three
3 four or five
4 more than five

d don't know r refused

>b13<
During the last 12 months, have you visited any museums in Canada or elsewhere?

Interviewer: includes visiting museums anywhere in the world, and includes all kinds of museums like shoe museums, quilt museums, wax museums, etc.

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>b14< [*if "yes" at b13*]
How many times have you gone to museums in the last 12 months?

1 once
2 two or three
3 four or five
4 more than five times

d don't know r refused

>b15<
Now a question about visiting historic sites. Historic sites include pioneer villages, forts, cultural and archeological sites, monuments, aboriginal heritage sites, and so on. Have you visited any of these places in the last 12 months?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>b16< [*if "yes" at b15*]
How many times have you visited these places in the last 12 months?

1 once
2 two or three
3 four or five
4 more than five times

d don't know r refused

>b17<
What about places from your family's past that may have special meaning to you, such as an old house or neighbourhood, a family farm, a cemetery or burial ground, schools, old fishing or hunting places, and so on.

Have you been to any of these places in the last 12 months?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>b18<
During the last 12 months, have you worked on your family tree or completed any other genealogical research.

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>b19<
Have you written to or visited a public archive, or looked up information on an archive's web site, over the past 12 months?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>b20<
Over the last 12 months, have you done any OTHER activities related to the past, such as crafts, hobbies or collections, or taken part in groups which study or preserve the past, and so on?

Interviewer: CRAFTS includes such things as collecting stamps, electric trains, old quilts and cookbooks, etc. GROUPS includes such things as historical re-enactments and theatre, music and dance performances designed to preserve traditional culture.

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>b21< [*if "yes" at b20*]
Can you tell us about these activities or events.

Interviewer: Probes: What is the activity or event about? Does it relate to you or your family? (If yes, how?)

Section C: Understanding the Past

To be asked questions c1 to c3, respondents had to answer 'yes' to one or more of questions b1 (old photographs), b8 (internet), b11 (books), b13 (museums) and b15 (historic sites). If respondent answered 'yes' to more than one of these questions, they are then asked about one of the activities, based upon a random selection.

>intro_c<
We would now like to ask how the activities you do that are related to the past help you to understand the past, understand yourself, and help you to feel connected to the past. And again, by the past we mean everything from the very recent past to the very distant past, from your personal and family history to the history of Canada and other countries.

>c1<
When you [*refers to activity from Section B*], how much does this help you to understand the past:

1 a great deal
2 a lot
3 some
4 a little
5 not at all

d don't know r refused

>c2<
When you [*refers to activity from Section B*], how much does this help you to understand who you are:

1 a great deal
2 a lot
3 some
4 a little
5 not at all

d don't know r refused

>c3<
When you [*refers to activity from Section B*], does this make you feel:

1 very connected to the past
3 somewhat connected to the past
5 makes no difference

7 R volunteers "depends"
d don't know r refused

>c4<
Now we would like you to think about a time IN YOUR LIFE when a person, event, or something else about the past might have been very important or very meaningful to you. Is there a time like this that you can tell us about?

Interviewer: If required, this may have been something dramatic, memorable, something that changed your life, etc. It may be a positive or negative experience.

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>c5< [*if "yes" at c4*]
Please tell us about this time, person or event.

Interviewer: If needed: "What is it about this time, person or event that is especially meaningful for you?"

>c6<
When you studied history at school, was there a teacher, class or event that you found particularly interesting?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>c7< [*if "yes" at c6*]
Could you please tell us who or what that was:

1 a teacher
2 class
3 event

4 a teacher and something else
0 other or multiple answers, specify
d don't know r refused

>c8< [*if answered 1 or 4 at c7*]
Was this a teacher at an elementary school, high school, college or university?

1 elementary (grades 1 to 6) also include junior/middle school here (grades 7 and 8)
2 high school
3 college
4 university

0 other or multiple answers, specify
d don't know r refused

Section D Trustworthiness of Sources of Information About the Past

>intro_d<
Now, I'm going to ask how trustworthy, in general, different sources of information ABOUT THE PAST are for you. For each, please tell us if you think it is very trustworthy, somewhat trustworthy, not very trustworthy, or not at all trustworthy.

(*The order in which questions d1 to d6 are asked is randomized.)*

>d1<
What about school history teachers, in general, would you say they are:

1 very trustworthy
3 somewhat trustworthy
5 not very trustworthy
7 not at all trustworthy

0 depends (on which teachers you mean, etc.)
d don't know r refused

>d2<
What about family stories, in general, would you say they are:

1 very trustworthy
3 somewhat trustworthy
5 not very trustworthy
7 not at all trustworthy

0 depends on who is telling the story, giving the oral history, the topic, etc
d don't know r refused

>d3<
What about internet web sites, in general, would you say they are:

1 very trustworthy
3 somewhat trustworthy
5 not very trustworthy
7 not at all trustworthy

0 depends on the web site, topics covered, etc.
d don't know/no internet access r refused

>d4<
What about information provided in fact-based historical books, would you say it is:

1 very trustworthy
3 somewhat trustworthy
5 not very trustworthy
7 not at all trustworthy

0 depends on the book, author, subject, etc.
d don't know r refused

>d5<
What about museums, would you say they are:

1 very trustworthy
3 somewhat trustworthy
5 not very trustworthy
7 not at all trustworthy

0 depends on museum, material presented, etc.
d don't know r refused

>d6<
What about information provided at historical sites, in general, such as the information on plaques, written materials, and so on, would you say it is:

1 very trustworthy
3 somewhat trustworthy
5 not very trustworthy
7 not at all trustworthy

0 depends on the historical site, who prepared the materials, etc.
d don't know r refused

>d7a< [*if more than one source rated as very trustworthy*]
[*Of those sources listed as very trustworthy*] Which is most trustworthy?

>d7b< [*skipped if no source rated as very trustworthy*]
Can you please tell us why you think [most *trustworthy source*] is a very trustworthy source of information about the past?

>d8<
People do not always agree about what happened in the past. When people disagree about something that happened in the past, how do you think they can find out what is most likely to have really happened?

Section E. The Importance of Various Pasts

>intro_e<
Next, we'd like to ask you about some areas of history and the past that might be important to you. For each, please tell us if it is very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important to you.

(The order in which questions e1 to e5 are asked is randomized.)

>e1<
How important is the past of your family to you?

1 very important
3 somewhat important
5 not very important
7 not at all important

d don't know r refused

>e2<
How important is the past of your religion or spiritual tradition to you?

1 very important
3 somewhat important
5 not very important
7 not at all important

0 No religion/spiritual tradition
d don't know r refused

>e3<
How important is the past of your ethnic or cultural group to you?

1 very important
3 somewhat important
5 not very important
7 not at all important

0 No ethnic/cultural group, does not identify with one, etc.
d don't know r refused

>e4<
How important is the past of [*province in which respondent currently lives*] to you?

1 very important
3 somewhat important
5 not very important
7 not at all important

d don't know r refused

>e5<
How important is the past of CANADA to you?

1 very important
3 somewhat important
5 not very important
7 not at all important

d don't know r refused

>e6a<
Is there a particular region of Canada that you identify with or feel a part of?

1 yes 5 no

d don't know/dk what "region" is r refused

>e6b< [*if "yes" at e6a*]
What is that region of Canada?

List of regions provided and other text answers allowed

>e6c< [*if "yes" at e6a & did not identify their own province at e6b*]
How important is the past of [*region from previous question*] to you?

1 very important
3 somewhat important
5 not very important
7 not at all important

d don't know r refused

>e7a<[*only asked of respondents in Newfoundland and Labrador*]
Were you born in Newfoundland and Labrador, another province in Canada, or another country?

1 Newfoundland and Labrador
3 other Canadian province
5 another country

d don't know r refused

>e7b< [*asked unless Newfoundland or Quebec respondent]*
Were you born in Canada?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>e7c< [*only asked of respondents in Quebec*]
Were you born in Quebec?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>e7d< [*only asked if e7c answered "no"*]
Were you born in Canada?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>e8<[*only asked if not born in Canada*]
How important is the past of the country where you were born?

1 very important
3 somewhat important
5 not very important
7 not at all important

d don't know r refused

>e9<
Are there any OTHER places, or groups of people, related to the past that are very important to you that we have not talked about?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>e10< [*if "yes" at e9*]
Please tell us about this past.

Interviewer, Probes: "Why is this past important to you? Does this past relate to you or your family?" (If yes, how?)

>e11< [*only asked if 2 or more pasts rated as "very important"*]
Which of the following pasts is MOST important to you?

Interviewer reads pasts rated as "very important" from above.

>e12< [*not asked if no past rated as "very important"*]
Could you please tell us why the past of [*most important past*] is most important to you?

Section F: The Sense of the Past

Note: From f1 to f4, one-third of respondents are asked about 'history', one-third about 'the past' and one-third about 'history and the past'.

>f1<
Now a few questions on your views about history and the past. First, please tell us which of the following two statements comes CLOSEST to describing you.

one: you think about [*history*] as part of your everyday life; OR
two: you mostly think about [*history*] when you go to museums or see a documentary and so on?

5 R insists both statements reflect what they think
7 R insists neither statement is close to what they think
d don't know r refused

>f2<
People believe different things about [*history*] and the way the world has changed over time.

Some people believe things have improved over time, others think things have become worse, or that there has not really been that much change. What about you, do you think things have improved, become worse, or that things have not changed much?

1 improved
3 become worse
5 not changed much
7 R volunteers some things gotten better/some worse
d don't know r refused

>f3a< [*if "improved" at f2*]
Could you please tell us what kinds of things you think have improved?

>f3b< [*if "worse" at f2*]
Could you please tell us what kinds of things you think have become worse?

>f3c< [*if "some things better/some worse" at f2*]
Could you please tell us what kinds of things have improved, and what has become worse?

>f4<
Some people think it is important for the next generation to know about [*history*]. What is it about [*history*] that you think should be handed down to the next generation?

Interviewer: if needed, "It could be anything, from your personal past to the past of your community or even the world. Just anything that you think, in any aspect of life, that should be handed down to the next generation."

Section G: Biographical Data

>g1<
These last questions will help us understand how good a job we have done in talking to a cross section of people in Canada. First, in what year were you born?

1900-1988 enter year

d don't know r refused

>g2a<
In what province of Canada were you born?

>g2b< [*if born in Canada and province of birth does not equal province of interview*]

How old were you when you moved to [fill PROVINCE]?

0-97 enter year

d don't know r refused

>g3<[*if born in Canada*]
Were both, one or neither of your parents born in Canada?

1 both
3 one
5 neither

d don't know r refused

>g4< [*if not born in Canada*]
In what year did you move to Canada?

1900-2007 enter year

d don't know r refused

>g5<
What is your ethnic or cultural group?

Interviewer, if required: Are you Italian, Polish, Chinese . . .?

List provided and text answers allowed, interviewers enter up to four mentions in questions eth2 to eth5

>g6<
Could you please tell us your religion or spiritual tradition, if you have one?

>g7<
What is the language that you speak most often at home?

>g9a<
Do you have any children?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>g9b<
How many of your children are under 16 years of age?

Interviewer: includes stepchildren and adopted children, whether or not they live at home.

0 none
1-6 enter number
7 seven or more

d don't know r refused

>g10<
What is the highest grade of school or level of education you have obtained?

>g11<
Since you completed high school have you completed any courses in history?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>g12
Do you have a computer with Internet access in your home?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused

>g13<
What is your main occupation or job?

>inc1<
How much was your total household income before taxes for the year ending December 31, 2006. Please include income from all members of the household and from all sources, such as savings, pensions, rent, as well as wages.

>inc4< [*if "refused" or "don't know" at inc1]*
We don't need the exact amount; could you tell me which of these broad categories it falls into...

1...less than $20,000
2...between $20,000 and $40,000 ($39,999.99)
3...between $40,000 and $60,000
4...between $60,000 and $80,000
5...between $80,000 and $100,000
6...between $100,000 and $120,000, or
7...more than $120,000?

d don't know r refused

>POSTAL<
Can you tell me your postal code please?

>g18<
We hope to talk to some people about the topics covered in this interview a second time. Would you be interested in talking with us again?

1 yes 5 no
d don't know r refused