Common-Law-Couple Families Growing Faster Than Married-Couple Families

A **census family** is composed of a married couple (with or without children of either or both spouses), a couple living common-law (with or without children of either or both partners) or a lone parent living with at least one child in the same dwelling. A couple can be of the opposite sex or of the same sex.

NOTE: Distributions may not add to 100% due to rounding.

- Most people live with other people, often as part of a census family. In 2006, more than eight in 10 New Brunswickers (85.0%) belonged to a census family – either as a spouse, partner, parent, or child. An additional 5.0% lived with others on Census Day, including relatives and non-relatives, while 10.0% lived alone.

- The 2006 Census counted 217,795 census families in New Brunswick. Married-couple families constituted the largest group (151,210 or 69.4%), followed by lone-parent families (35,585 or 16.3%) and common-law-couple families (30,995 or 14.2%).

- New Brunswick had the second highest proportion of common-law-couple families of all provinces after Quebec in 2006. Their proportion (14.2%) was about half the proportion in Quebec (28.8%) and well above Ontario (10.3%), the province with the lowest proportion.

- Between 2001 and 2006, common-law-couple families grew faster than either married-couple families or lone-parent families. Reflecting greater social acceptance of this family structure, the number of common-law-couple families in the province increased 11.8%, significantly faster than the 1.0% decline exhibited for married-couple families or the 2.8% rise registered for lone-parent families.

Distribution of Census Families in N.B.

Sources: Statistics Canada, 2001 and 2006 Censuses.