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CANADIAN JEWISH POPULATION 2020

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The Jewish Community
Foundation of Montreal

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Canadian Jewish Population, 2020

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The American Jewish Year Book 2020
The Annual Record of the North American Jewish Communities Since 1899

This Report derives from Chapter 6 of the *American Jewish Year Book, 2020*.

Since 1899, the *American Jewish Year Book* has documented the current status of North American Jewry: its demography, its institutions, and its accomplishments. It is the premier place for leading academics to publish in-depth review chapters on topics of interest to the North American Jewish communities. Cyrus Adler, Milton Himmelfarb, Henrietta Szold, and other prominent American Jews are among its former editors. In 2008, the *Year Book*, which had been published by the American Jewish Committee, ceased publication, a casualty of the 2008 economic recession.

From 2012 to the present, the *Year Book* has been published by Springer, a major worldwide scientific publisher. The editors of the *Year Book* are Arnold Dashefsky of the University of Connecticut and Ira Sheskin of the University of Miami, both accomplished social scientists of American Jewry. The *Year Book* is published in cooperation with the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry and the Berman Jewish Data Bank. Current funding comes from the University of Miami and the University of Connecticut.

The *Year Book* consists of lengthy review chapters on topics of general interest, chapters reviewing important events in the North American Jewish communities, chapters on the US, Canadian, and world Jewish population, lists of Jewish organizations (both local and national), Jewish scholarly resources, major events in the Jewish community, Jewish honorees, and obituaries of notable Jewish individuals. This volume has been a significant and prestigious annual resource for academic researchers, practitioners at Jewish institutions and organizations, the media, and others for basic, up-to-date information about the North American Jewish communities.

Almost all books on the history of North American Jewry cite the *Year Book*. The *Year Book* helps to preserve the current record for future generations.

Obtaining *The American Jewish Year Book, 2020*

Hard bound and Kindle copies are available at www.amazon.com. Persons with access to University libraries that offer Springer's eBook Collection can obtain a soft cover copy or an electronic copy.

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Canadian Jewish Population, 2020

Charles Shahar

For many decades, the census of the Canadian population has provided an important opportunity to obtain a demographic "snapshot" of the Canadian Jewish community. A major census is distributed in the second year of each decade and contains a wealth of information related to the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of Canadian Jews. The two questions used to identify Jews, namely religion and ethnicity, are located on the census "long-form."

A census is also distributed in the seventh year of each decade, but it does not contain a religion question and, therefore, is much less useful for identifying Jews. However, the most recent mid-decade census (2016) has alarmed those who rely on census data for gaining important information about Jewish populations in Canada.

Unlike past years, "Jewish" was not included as a sample response choice among the 28 ethnic categories listed as examples in the 2016 Census. Examples were based mostly on the most frequent single ethnic origins reported in the 2011 National Household Survey. Unfortunately, the number of ethnic Jews fell below the threshold in 2011.

The omission of the "Jewish" ethnicity sample choice, and the fact that the actual choices represented only national or aboriginal groups, rather than cultural groups, resulted in a severe response bias among Jews. The numbers of Canadians who indicated a Jewish ethnicity diminished by 54% between 2011 and 2016, from 309,650 to only 143,660 individuals.

Statistics Canada has recognized that if the ethnicity question of the 2021 census uses the same format as the 2016 census, the results will significantly underestimate the number of ethnic Jews. This is not an issue for those who say they are Jewish by religion. The concern is that those who say they have "no religion," but who may still identify as Jews on a cultural (ethnic) level, may not do so if they do not have a prompt upon which to base their response.

After running pilot tests on several versions of the ethnicity question, Statistics Canada decided not to include any sample choices with the question itself, but rather, provide a long list of ethnic labels accessible through a separate link. This is not ideal from the point of view of identifying ethnic Jews. However, results from Statistics Canada testing suggest individuals are slightly more inclined to identify themselves as ethnically Jewish than when "Jewish" is not included as a sample choice at all (as in 2016).

The current report is based on the 2011 National Household Survey (NHS). Citing privacy issues, the Federal government decided to make the census long form voluntary in 2011, and a survey methodology was employed.¹ The 2011 NHS was distributed to one-third of Canadian households, compared to the 20% who received the long-form in the case of the 2001 or 2016 censuses. Whereas the response rate for the census was

¹ Statistics Canada reverted to using a census methodology with a change in national governments in 2015.

nearly universal, it was 73.9% for the NHS. Moreover, because the sample was voluntary, it was difficult to know whether certain populations were less inclined to respond, such as economically disadvantaged individuals, the less educated, and recent immigrants.²

Statistics Canada applied rigorous statistical treatments to deal with possible gaps in the data and assured users that it would only release information if it had confidence in its reliability. An examination of the final data sets related to Jewish communities, along with such key variables as poverty and intermarriage, seemed to indicate that the data did "make sense" considering statistical trends extrapolated from previous censuses.

Respondents were identified as Jews according to the "Jewish Standard Definition," formulated by Jim Torczyner of McGill University in 1971, which used a combination of religious and ethnic identification. However, because the ethnicity variable has been slowly eroding in terms of its usefulness in identifying Jews, the Jewish Standard Definition was revised in 2011 and expanded to include a further set of variables, such as having an Israeli ethnicity and having knowledge of Hebrew or Yiddish.³ All in all, this "Revised Jewish Standard Definition" did not result in a substantial increase to the final count of Canadian Jews as it only added about 6,300 persons.

Despite the limitations of the 2011 NHS, this instrument nonetheless represents an important opportunity for academic researchers as well as community leaders and planners to better understand the demographic situation of the Canadian Jewish population. We are fortunate to have a national survey that includes questions related to ethnicity and religion (the American census does not).⁴ Also, the NHS has a much larger scope than the Canadian Jewish community can undertake on its own.⁵

Section 1 Basic Demographics

According to the NHS, the Jewish population of Canada numbered 391,665 persons in 2011.⁶ This represented an increase from 2001, when there were 374,060 Jews. Between 2001 and 2011, the Canadian Jewish population thus increased by 17,605 persons, or 4.7% (**Table 1** and **Figure 1**).

² In the case of Jewish communities, it is possible that the ultra-Orthodox were also under-represented in the final count.

³ For a more comprehensive description of the erosion of the utility of and the problems associated with using both the ethnicity and religion variables in identifying Canadian Jews, see Weinfeld and Schnoor (2015).

⁴ Specifically, the US Census asks only one ethnicity-related question identifying respondents of Hispanic or Latino descent. The American Community Survey, an annual demographic study of the US population, does ask questions on "ancestry" and language spoken at home.

⁵ The 2011 NHS did not ask specific questions such as denominational affiliation, levels of religious observance, attitudes toward Israel, etc. However, the 2021 census will include a question on religious denomination for the first time.

⁶ All 2011 NHS data cited in this report were derived from Statistics Canada, special order tabulations for Jewish Federations of Canada - UIA, CO-1421. Most of the descriptions related to the data were adapted from Shahar (2014a, b; 2015).

Table 1 Jewish Population of Canada: a historical summary

	Jewish Population	Change from Previous Census	% Change from Previous Census
2011	391,665	17,605	4.7%
2001	374,060	14,950	4.2%
1991	359,110	45,245	14.4%
1981	313,865	27,315	9.5%
1971	286,550	32,182	12.7%
1961	254,368	49,532	24.2%
1951	204,836	36,251	21.5%
1941	168,585	12,819	8.2%
1931	155,766	30,321	24.2%
1921	125,445	50,685	67.8%
1911	74,760	58,267	353.3%
1901	16,493	--	--

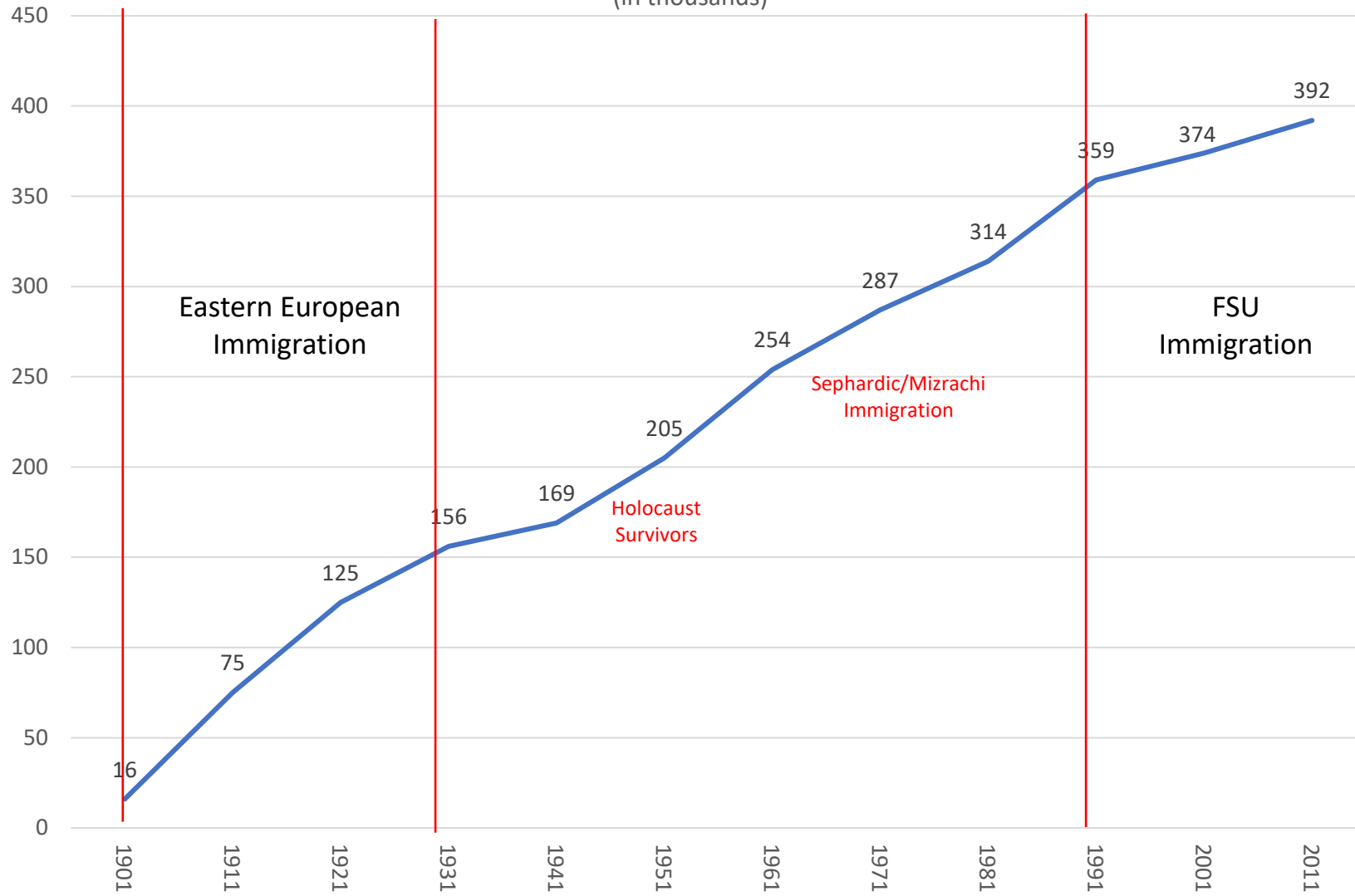
Note: 1991 to 2011 are based on the Revised Standard Jewish Definition described in the methodological discussion above. The rest of the figures are based on the Jewish Standard Definition (1971 and 1981) or were derived from either the religion or ethnicity variables individually (1901 to 1961). For information on the Jewish population of Canada from 1851 to 1941, see Rosenberg (1946).

The gain between 2001 and 2011 was slightly larger than that between 1991 and 2001. In the latter decade, the community increased by 14,950 persons, or 4.2%. In short, at least for the past twenty years, the growth rate of the Canadian Jewish population has not been remarkable but compares well with growth rates in European countries and with the United States.

A more pronounced increase for the Canadian Jewish community was evident between 1981 and 1991 when it increased by 45,245 persons, or 14.4%. This is likely related to the beginning of significant immigration to Canada by Jews from the former Soviet Union (FSU), and to a lesser extent from South Africa. In fact, this gain was the largest increase experienced by the national Jewish population since the large influx of immigrants in the 1950s.

Canadian Jewish Population 1901-2011

(in thousands)



All in all, the number of Canadian Jews has been rising steadily since the turn of the past century. In the 1930s, restricted Jewish immigration to Canada slowed some of the growth experienced in previous decades. Significant levels of immigration then resumed immediately after World War II.

Jews constituted 1.2% of the total Canadian population of 32.9 million in 2011, compared to 2.1% for the US (see the United States Jewish population report at www.jewishdatabank.org). The total Canadian population has been increasing at a faster pace than the Jewish population. For instance, between 1991 and 2011, the Jewish population grew by 9.1%, compared to 21.7% for Canada's total population.

According to the 2011 NHS, the Jewish community, including single and multiple origin responses, ranked seventeenth among ethnic groups in Canada. The ten largest ethnic affiliations were British (6.5 million), Canadian (6.0 million), French (3.7 million), German (2.4 million), Aboriginal (1.8 million), Chinese (1.5 million), Italian (1.4 million), East Indian (1.1 million), Ukrainian (1 million), and Polish (644,700). It is noteworthy that the Jewish population ranked twelfth among ethnic groups in 2001, five rankings above its current status.

In 2011, the Jewish community ranked seventh with respect to religious identity. The five largest religious groups in Canada were Catholics (12.8 million), Protestants (8.7 million), Muslims (1.0 million), Christian Orthodox (550,690), and Hindus (497,965).

Almost one-quarter (23.9%) of the total Canadian population, or about 7.9 million persons, indicated that they had no religious identity. This category included persons who defined themselves as agnostics, atheists, or humanists or who did not identify with any religion at all. It is not clear to what extent highly secular Jews said they had no religious identity. It is thus possible that these individuals were under-represented in the final count of Jews (unless they indicated a Jewish ethnicity).

Finally, the Canadian Jewish community was the fourth largest Jewish community in the world in 2012 (using the year closest to the Canadian census but see the world Jewish population report at www.jewishdatabank.org for current figures). Israel had the largest Jewish population followed by the US, France (480,000), and Canada (391,665). The Jewish populations of the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation numbered 291,000 and 194,000, respectively.

The Canadian Jewish community constituted 2.8% of the total 13,746,100 Jews in the world in 2012 and 5.0% of the 7,845,000 Jews living in the Diaspora in 2012. The Jewish population of Canada comprised 6.8% of the Jews residing in North America.

Section 2 Provincial and Metropolitan Population Distributions

Table 2 and **Map 1** show the distribution of Jewish populations across provinces and territories. More than half (57.9%, or 226,610 persons) of Jews in Canada reside in Ontario.

Quebec has 93,625 Jewish residents and about a quarter (23.9%) of the total Jewish population of Canada. British Columbia has 35,005 Jews, or 8.9% of the total Jewish population of Canada.

All other provinces have less than 5% of the national Jewish population. Alberta has 15,795 Jewish residents, or 4% of the country's Jewish population. Manitoba has 14,345

Jews, or 3.7% of the total. The Atlantic Provinces have 4,175 Jews, or 1.1% of the country's total Jewish population. Saskatchewan has 1,905 Jews, or 0.5% of the country's total.

There are 145 Jews in the Yukon, 40 in the Northwest Territories, and 20 in Nunavut. Although these last numbers are small, it is nonetheless instructive that Jews populate every region of the country, including the northern territories.

Table 2 Jewish population distribution: provinces and territories

Province / Territory	Jewish Population	% of Canadian Jewish Population
Nova Scotia	2,910	0.8%
New Brunswick	860	0.2%
Newfoundland/Labrador	220	0.1%
Prince Edward Island	185	0.0%
(Total Atlantic Canada)	(4,175)	(1.1%)
Quebec	93,625	23.9%
Ontario	226,610	57.9%
Manitoba	14,345	3.7%
Saskatchewan	1,905	0.5%
Alberta	15,795	4.0%
British Columbia	35,005	8.9%
Yukon	145	0.0%
Northwest Territories	40	0.0%
Nunavut	20	0.0%
Total Canada	391,665	100.0%

Table 3 and **Map 1** present the 20 largest Jewish communities in Canada, which account for 95% of Canada's Jewish population. The Toronto metropolitan area is home to 188,710 Jews and includes about half (48.2%) of Canada's Jewish population. The Montreal community numbers 90,780 Jews and constitutes about a quarter (23.2%) of the Jewish population of Canada. Vancouver has a Jewish population of 26,255, representing 6.7% of the national Jewish population.

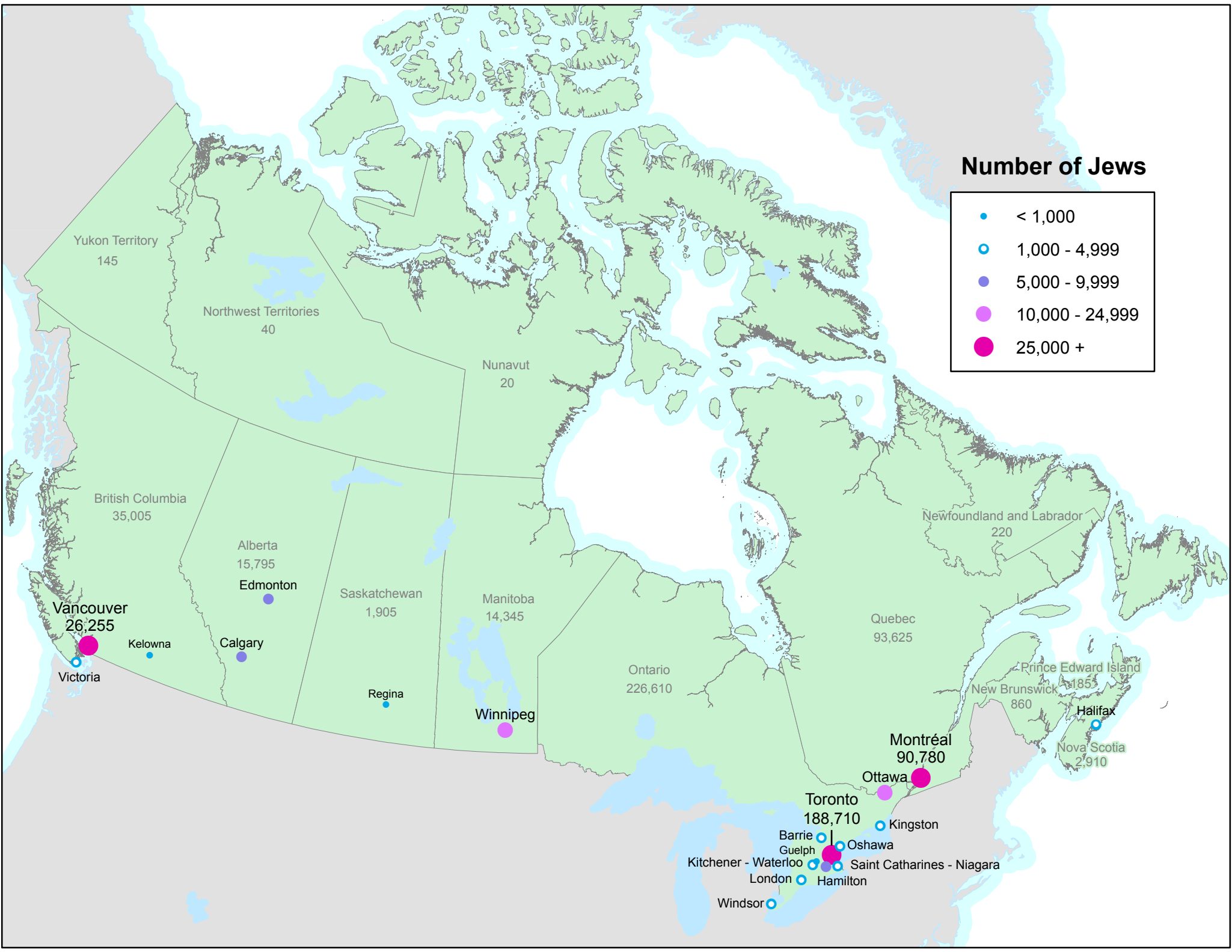


Table 3 Twenty largest Canadian Jewish communities

Metropolitan Area / Province	Jewish Population	% of Canadian Jewish Population
Toronto, ON	188,710	48.2%
Montreal, QC	90,780	23.2%
Vancouver, BC	26,255	6.7%
Ottawa, ON	14,010	3.6%
Winnipeg, MB	13,690	3.5%
Calgary, AB	8,335	2.1%
Edmonton, AB	5,550	1.4%
Hamilton, ON	5,110	1.3%
Victoria, BC	2,740	0.7%
London, ON	2,675	0.7%
Halifax, NS	2,120	0.5%
Kitchener / Waterloo, ON	2,015	0.5%
Oshawa, ON	1,670	0.4%
Windsor, ON	1,515	0.4%
Barrie, ON	1,445	0.4%
St. Catharines-Niagara, ON	1,375	0.4%
Kingston, ON	1,185	0.3%
Guelph, ON	925	0.2%
Regina, SK	900	0.2%
Kelowna, BC	900	0.2%
Total		94.9%

The rest of the Jewish communities in Canada each number less than 15,000 persons. For instance, Ottawa has 14,010 Jews, Winnipeg has 13,690, Calgary has 8,335, Edmonton has 5,550, and Hamilton has 5,110.

Section 3 Age Distribution of the Jewish Population

The Canadian Jewish population has a somewhat larger proportion of children (age 0-14) than the total population (18.2% and 17.0% respectively). The Jewish population has a similar percentage in the age 15-24 cohort compared with the total Canadian population (13.4% and 13.2% respectively).

In the economically productive age 25-44 cohort, the discrepancy between the two distributions is more marked. Less than a quarter (23.5%) of Jews fall into this age cohort, compared to 26.7% of Canada's total population. The Jewish community also has a somewhat smaller proportion in the age 45-64 cohort than the overall Canadian population (28.0% and 29.3% respectively).

Finally, a comparison of the two age distributions shows that the Jewish community has a significantly larger proportion of persons age 65 and over (16.9%) than the total Canadian population (13.9%).

The median age of the national Jewish population is 40.5 years, slightly higher than that of Canada's overall population (40.1 years) but a bit lower than the median age of 42 for US Jews, based on the 2000-01 National Jewish Population Survey. Ethnic groups with the oldest median ages include the British (48.7 years), Americans (45.9 years), French (44.8 years), Germans (40.7 years), Jews (40.5 years), Greeks (40.4 years), and Poles (40.3 years). These ethnic groups are generally older, more established communities whose peak periods of immigration to Canada have long passed. Since there has not been a large influx of recent immigrants among these groups, their median ages remain at fairly high levels.

The youngest median ages were reported by the Pakistani (26.0 years), African (27.9 years), Aboriginal (28.4 years), Arab (29.3 years), Latin American (30.1 years), Caribbean (31.2 years), and Korean (33.7 years) communities. Most of the latter populations have many more recent immigrants, many of whom settled in Canada in the past two decades. This infusion of people, often involving younger families, has revitalized these communities and has kept their median ages lower than that of the rest of the population.

Section 4 "Core" FSU Jews⁷

The most significant recent wave of Jewish immigration to Canada was from the Former Soviet Union (FSU), starting in the late 1980s and continuing for the two decades prior to the 2011 NHS. Soviet Jews left their home country for several reasons, including rising

⁷ Previous foci have appeared in the *American Jewish year book 2019* (Shahar 2020) on "Sephardim", in the *American Jewish year book 2018* (Shahar 2019) on "Seniors", in the *American Jewish year book 2017* (Shahar 2018) on "Poverty", in the *American Jewish year book 2016* (Shahar 2017) on "Holocaust Survivors", and the *American Jewish year book 2015* (Shahar 2016) on "Intermarriage." For an analysis of FSU Jews in the United States, see Gold (2015).

antisemitism, an unstable political and economic situation, employment limitations, a bleak outlook for the next generation, and a lack of social security.

Jews from the FSU have been settling in communities across the country. In part because of FSU immigration, the Jewish population of Canada increased from 313,865 in 1981 to 391,665 in 2011.

This section examines the characteristics of Jews of "Core" FSU extraction. These are individuals who identified themselves as Jewish either by religion, ethnicity, or both. To be considered a Jew of "Core" FSU extraction, they also had to meet at least one of the following criteria:

- The respondent was born in the FSU.
- The respondent was born after 1956 and their father and/or mother was born in the FSU.
- The individual was a child living in a household where a parent met either of the above criteria.

The term "Core" was used to distinguish FSU Jews whose affiliation was prominent enough to be identified as Jews (using the NHS criteria) from those who did not identify themselves as Jews. Some of the reasons these latter individuals declined to identify as Jews might have included that (1) they had only a tenuous affiliation with Judaism in terms of their ancestry; (2) they had a tenuous affiliation with Judaism in a cultural or religious sense; and/or (3) given their experience in the FSU with state antisemitism, they had a general attitude of suspicion toward government agencies, which prevented them from divulging their religious or ethnic identity.

Using the definition above, the total number of Core FSU Jews in Canada is 56,825. Individuals of Core FSU extraction comprise 14.5% of the total Canadian Jewish population of 391,665. In short, about one in seven members of the Jewish population in Canada is a Core FSU Jew.

Compared to "Other Jews" in Canada, Core FSU Jews have greater percentages for every age cohort less than age 45, whereas "Other Jews" have larger proportions for every 45 and over age group. In fact, only 36.6% of Core FSU Jews are age 45 and over compared to 46.3% of "Other Jews."

The median age of Core FSU Jews (35.8 years) is younger than that of "Other Jews" living in Canada (41.5 years).

By far, the largest Core FSU Jewish population is in Toronto (36,000). Montreal has 7,770 Core FSU Jews, whereas Vancouver has 3,270. The next largest Core FSU Jewish population is in Winnipeg (2,055), followed by Ottawa (1,610), Calgary (1,355), and Edmonton (1,290). All other communities have Core FSU populations fewer than 1,000 individuals.

About two-thirds (61.7%) of Core FSU Jews were born in the FSU, about a quarter (25.3%) were born in Canada, and about one in ten (10.6%) were born in Israel. A very small percentage (2.4%) were born in other countries.

The largest wave (17,810) of Jews of FSU extraction arrived between 2000-2011. There was also a significant influx between 1990 and 1999 (15,070).

There was a greater level of immigration between 2000-2005 (9,250) than between 2006-2011 (8,560), indicating that the number of arrivals of Core FSU Jews had been declining in the five years before the 2011 NHS.

Information regarding the economic profile and intermarriage level of Core FSU Jews was not available; however, these topics were profiled for Jews born in the FSU.

Individuals born in the FSU have the highest poverty rates among all the Jewish? immigrant groups examined (by place of birth). This is not surprising since they represent the most recent wave of major Jewish immigration: 21.8% of Jews originating from the FSU live below the poverty line, well above the Canadian Jewish poverty level of 14.6%.⁸

Jews born in the FSU also have the lowest median annual income (\$26,998) compared to individuals born in Israel (\$33,045), North Africa (\$35,337), Western Europe (\$39,004), and the US (\$41,389). It is likely that the economic figures for FSU-born Jews will improve significantly with the results from the 2021 census, as they integrate more fully into the economic life of Canada.

The level of intermarriage of FSU-born Jews (21.6%) is lower than the Canadian average of 25.0%, and much lower than for Jews born in Western Europe (31.1%) or the US (32.8%); but significantly higher than those born in North Africa (11.9%) or Israel (12.5%). However, it is likely that intermarried FSU-born Jews were under-represented in the 2011 NHS, because they were less likely to be Jewish affiliated, and therefore less likely to identify themselves as Jews.

Section 5 Focus on a Community: Calgary⁹

In 2011, the Jewish population of Calgary was 8,340. Jews comprised 0.7% of Calgary's total population of 1,199,125. Calgary has the sixth largest Jewish community in Canada, comprising 2.1% of the country's Jewish population. In 1971, it was ranked seventh, but it surpassed the Jewish population of Hamilton in the 1981 Census.

The Jewish population for 2011 represented a gain from 2001, when there were 8,080 Jews in this metropolitan area. Between 2001 and 2011 the Jewish population increased by 260, or 3.2%. The population increase between 2001 and 2011 was less pronounced than between 1991 and 2001. In the latter decade, the community increased by 705 (9.6%). In short, at least for the decade before 2011, the rate of growth of the Calgary Jewish population slowed significantly. In absolute numbers, the Jewish community increased 2.7 times more between 1991 and 2001 than between 2001 and 2011.

⁸ The "poverty line" in this report refers to the low-income cutoff (LICO), which is defined by Statistics Canada as "an income threshold at which families are expected to spend 20 percentage points more than the average family on food, shelter and clothing." The LICO is a more generous standard than the US poverty line. In 2019, for example, the Canadian LICO for a family of four was 9 percent higher in US dollars than the US poverty line for a family of four. It is also significant that the Canadian family of four enjoyed free medical care, government-controlled prices on prescription drugs, and relatively inexpensive college tuition; the American family lacked such benefits.

⁹ The corresponding report in the previous *American Jewish year book 2019* (Shahar 2020) focused on Winnipeg, on Ottawa in the *American Jewish year book 2018* (Shahar 2019), on Greater Vancouver in the *American Jewish year book 2017* (Shahar 2018), on Toronto in the *American Jewish year book 2016* (Shahar 2017) and on Montreal in the *American Jewish year book 2015* (Shahar 2016).

The finding that the Jewish population of Calgary rose by only 3.2% between 2001 and 2011 is perhaps a surprising result. As mentioned in the introduction to this report, a survey (not a census) methodology was used in 2011 so, comparisons with census data must be made with caution. The erosion of the ethnicity variable in identifying Jews may have also led to an underestimation of the total Jewish population in Calgary.

The gains between 1981 and 1991 were even more pronounced than those evident between 1991 and 2001. Between 1981 and 1991, the community experienced an increase of 1,290 people or 21.2%. The peak period of population growth for the Calgary Jewish community occurred between 1971 and 1981, when the community gained 2,615, or 75.4%. This coincided with the Alberta oil boom in the 1970s — when world oil prices soared, and the Albertan economy, which benefitted greatly from oil revenues, attracted Jews from other parts of the country looking for employment opportunities.

Comparing the age distributions of the Calgary and Canadian Jewish populations, there is a somewhat lower proportion in the age 0-14 cohort for Calgary's community compared to Canadian Jews (16.3% and 18.2%, respectively). There is also a lower percentage of persons age 15-24 in the Calgary community compared to the national Jewish population (12.8% and 13.4%, respectively).

On the other hand, there is a higher percentage in the 25-44 age group for the Calgary community compared to Canadian Jews (27.1% and 23.5%, respectively). There is also a larger proportion of persons age 45-64 in the Calgary community compared to the Canadian Jewish population (30.5% and 28%, respectively). Finally, the Calgary Jewish community has a significantly lower proportion of elderly (age 65 and over) than the Canadian Jewish population (13.3% and 16.9%, respectively).

The median age of the Jewish population in this metropolitan area has been steadily increasing. It was 29.2 years in 1971, 29.5 years in 1981, 33.8 years in 1991, 37.2 years in 2001, and 39.2 years in 2011. The median age of the Calgary Jewish community is somewhat younger than that of the Canadian Jewish population (39.2 and 40.5 years, respectively).

The Jewish community ranks twentieth among ethnic groups in the greater Calgary population. Almost a quarter (22.3%) of Calgary residents say their ethnic affiliation is British, or 267,375 persons. People of German descent comprise 10.9% of the population (130,455 persons) and rank second among ethnic groups. A significant number of persons report they are Canadian by ethnic origin. They comprise 108,415 individuals or 9.1% of Calgary's population. There is also a prominent Chinese population in this metropolitan area (85,815 individuals).

There are 905 Jews living below the poverty line in the Calgary metropolitan area. The poor comprise 10.9% of a total population of 8,335 Jews in the local community. The percentage of poor in the community has remained quite level at 10.8% in 2001 and 10.9% in 2011. The Jewish community in the Calgary CMA has a lower level of poverty than the national Jewish population (10.9% and 14.6%, respectively). It also has a lower poverty level than the overall population in the country (10.9% and 14.8%, respectively).

The level of intermarriage in the Calgary Jewish community is 38.3%. This is a significantly higher level than major communities, such as Montreal (15.0%), Toronto (17.3%), and Winnipeg (24.9%). However, intermarriage is at a lower level here compared to Ottawa (39.8%), Vancouver (43.5%), and Halifax (53%). The overall

intermarriage rate for the Canadian Jewish population is 25.0%, significantly lower than that of the Calgary Jewish population (38.3%).

The Calgary community has faced several recent challenges. A significant challenge has been a difficulty in providing a full range of Jewish institutions for a relatively small community. Also, an influx of Jews in the past two decades from other Canadian regions, and from around the world, has created a need for integration of newcomers through established institutions.

Only a minority of Jews in Calgary have large, extended families, including seniors in the local area. Many of Calgary's Jews are raising families without close relatives and have come to depend upon each other rather than on parents for religious celebrations and rituals.

Section 6 Summary

The Canadian Jewish population has seen only modest growth in the past twenty years, following a more significant increase between 1981 and 1991. The latter decade coincided with the beginning of significant immigration by Jews from the FSU. Jews reside in every region of Canada, including the Northern Territories, although they are concentrated heavily in the major urban centers. The metropolitan area of Toronto is home to 188,710 Jews and includes about half (48.2%) of Canada's Jewish population. The Montreal community numbers 90,780 Jews. The median age (40.5 years) of Canadian Jews is slightly older than the national average but much older than ethnic groups with large numbers of more recent immigrants.

Starting in the late 1980s, the most significant recent wave of Jewish immigration to Canada was from the Former Soviet Union (FSU).¹⁰ In 2011, the total number of Core FSU Jews in Canada was 56,825. Individuals of Core FSU extraction comprise 14.5% of the total Canadian Jewish population of 391,665. The median age of Core FSU Jews (35.8 years) is younger than that of "Other Jews" in Canada (41.5 years). By far the largest Core FSU Jewish population is in Toronto (36,000). Montreal has 7,770 Jews of Core FSU extraction, whereas Vancouver has 3,270.

Calgary has the sixth largest Jewish community in Canada, comprising 2.1% of the country's Jewish population. The Jewish population of Calgary has increased at a much slower rate between 2001 and 2011 than in previous decades. The median age of the Calgary Jewish community is somewhat younger than that of the Canadian Jewish population (39.2 and 40.5 years respectively). The Jewish community in the Calgary CMA has a lower level of poverty than the national Jewish population (10.9% and 14.6% respectively). The level of intermarriage in the Calgary Jewish community is 38.3%. This is a significantly higher level than major communities such as Montreal (15.0%), Toronto (17.3%) and Winnipeg (24.9%).

The next census will be implemented in May 2021. Preliminary results should be available by the fall of 2023. A major addition of relevance to Jewish communities will relate to a sub-question asking about religious denomination. This will make information available that was previously only gleaned from community surveys. It is not clear to what

¹⁰ The term "Core" is used to distinguish FSU Jews whose affiliation was prominent enough to be identified as Jews (using the NHS criteria) from those who did not identify as Jews.

extent the current COVID-19 crisis will impact on the responses of people, particularly related to questions about their economic status.

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