



Métis Nation of Ontario Housing Census:

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a Housing Census?

Instead of counting people, a housing census counts households and documents the “housing stock” or the type, number, costs, and condition of the dwellings people live in and how many people live in them. A Housing Census provides basic statistics that can be used to demonstrate and actively address housing needs and standards, including requirements for repairs and renovations and to increase affordability.

Why do a Housing Census?

A Housing Census can establish what the housing situation of all Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) citizen Households is and how many MNO Households there are. Completing the Housing Census will help determine what kinds of programs and services are required to improve MNO citizens’ housing situation. It is also a tool for building self-government as we are not relying solely on other governments for housing data.

How is the Housing Census being conducted?

The MNO has engaged Léger, the largest Canadian-owned survey and analytics company, with over 600 employees. The survey will be conducted electronically, by telephone with Léger interviewers, or on paper (by request). As necessary, interviewers may even try knocking on your door in person! Léger was selected through a competitive bidding process. Léger was rated higher than nine other qualified survey firms, both because it has experience conducting very large surveys, was ready to use

multiple methods of contacting MNO citizens, and capable of moving quickly in doing so. And of course, its bid was in the financial range set by the MNO team.

More details of the competitive bidding process: Detailed profiles of 10 well-qualified survey firms with experience in Canada were developed. Six firms without extensive experience in doing large surveys were then dropped from the list based on their profiles. Expressions of interest were invited from the remaining four firms. Of those, two decided not to participate in the bid. Principals of the remaining two were then interviewed by MNO staff and consultants and compared. Note that it is the Ontario unit of Léger that is leading the survey work.

What are calling hours for the Housing Census?

Léger interviewers will be calling MNO citizens Monday to Friday from 3:00 to 8:30 PM Eastern Time; and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 AM to 5 PM Eastern Time. So, please don't be surprised if a Léger interviewer contacts you by telephone in the evening or on weekends. For the telephone survey, you may also be called from different areas of Canada (e.g., outside Ontario).

How were the census questions developed?

An advisory group, including MNO Citizens, MNO Senators, technicians and experts in survey methodology were asked to help develop the Census questionnaire. Dozens of suggestions and comments were made. These had a real impact on the resulting questions asked.

How was I selected?

All MNO Citizens aged 16 years and older with contact information on file with the MNO Registry are receiving an invitation to complete the Housing Census. We only need ONE Housing Census questionnaire completed per household. Every Citizen, regardless of their household arrangement, is being sent the invitation in order to have the highest chance of reaching ALL Métis Citizen households.

What are the benefits of participating in the Housing Census?

If you participate in the Housing Census, you will add your voice to the story of our community's housing situation and help decide program resource allocation priorities for all Citizens and regions of Ontario. You will also have a chance to win the prize draw of a gift card of your choice ranging in value from \$100 to \$450. There are TEN (10) Early bird \$250 gift cards (July 29th deadline) (One entry per household) and THREE (3) Grand Prizes draws (September 30th deadline) 1 draw for \$450, 1 draw for \$350 and one draw for \$250.

What are the risks of participating in the Housing Census?

There are no known risks to you for participating in this survey.

Do I have to participate?

Participation in the Housing Census is voluntary. To ensure the most complete results and clearest picture of all regions and households in Ontario, it is very important that as many Métis Citizens as possible answer the survey questions. Without your participation, the Métis Nation will not be able to produce reliable, essential data for designing programs and services and allocating resources to them.

Information gathered by our Housing Census survey will have direct impact on the housing situation of ALL MNO Citizens. And ALL of your responses are equally important. For example, to produce objective, accurate information about housing for MNO Citizens, we need both housed and MNO Citizens experiencing homelessness to respond.

How can I prepare to answer the Census questions?

A Census asks only about facts. So you may want to collect and have ready some key facts about your household and your home before starting to reply to the questions. A handy list of key types of facts asked for can be found on this page below.

How is my privacy and personal information protected?

The Housing Census team takes your confidentiality very seriously. All individual household information provided as part of the Census will be kept strictly confidential and used only as a part of a whole group of households in multiple locations. In the rare case that an MNO respondent is uneasy about giving their information to a specific person, they can be interviewed by another Léger employee upon request and will be called back by a different interviewer.

- ***Your answers are confidential***
The MNO will not release any information that could identify individuals or individual households. Data experts will carefully screen final results to prevent published results from giving personal information. All personal identifiers shared as part of the Housing Census (e.g., your name, contact information and Citizenship Registration Number) are being removed from the data prior to analyses.
- ***Access to data is strictly controlled***
All Léger employees are responsible for ensuring the security of confidential information during collection. A network of physical security systems and procedures protects confidential information against unauthorized access. Confidential data are stored and processed on secure data servers.

How can I obtain published results from the Housing Census?

You will find published results at: www.metisnation.org. In addition, if you have your email on file you will receive e-bulletins with various results from the Housing Census. And you may see stories on Métis citizens' housing on the MNO's social media channels (Facebook, Twitter etc.), in the *Voyageur* or hear about them at events the MNO hosts like the Annual General Assembly, All-Citizen Town Halls and Rendezvous. We will also work with local Community Councils to share back results for their individual communities as requested.

Who owns the data collected in the Housing Census?

The Métis Nation of Ontario owns and controls the data collected. After personal information is stripped and the data has been de-identified, it will be stored on the MNO's secure servers and used only upon approval by the MNO.

Who will use Housing Census results?

The data collected by the Métis Nation of Ontario will be used by the Secretariat to inform program planning, evaluation, and research. In addition, it will be used provincially, regionally and at the community level to advocate for additional resources for MNO Citizens.

Why does the MNO ask about Citizens experiencing barriers to obtaining housing by age, language, gender, physical characteristics etc.?

The MNO's housing programs and services can be more effective if they respond to and reflect the full diversity of Citizens that we hope to serve and whose homes we can help to improve. By collecting this information, the MNO can measure and take action on housing problems MNO Citizens and their households are experiencing.

What if I have questions?

Please contact our Housing Census team at: HousingCensus@metisnation.org