

## Average age increasing

In the past, Statistics Canada used median age as an indicator in their census data tables. For 2016, it was decided to use average age. One of the main reasons for the change is that the median age does not account for shifts in the age structure at older ages; it only divides the population in two groups of the same size. Using average age will better reflect changes in the distribution at older ages, especially as the baby boomers move into these older ages.

- New Brunswick's average age has been steadily rising since 1966 when it was 28.8 years. In 2016, it reached 43.6 years, an increase of 1.5 years from 2011.
- Only Newfoundland and Labrador was older with an average age of 43.7 years in 2016. Alberta had the youngest average age among the provinces at 37.8 years, while Nunavut had the youngest among the territories at 27.7 years.
- For many decades throughout the 20th century, New Brunswick's average age was younger than Canada's. For the last 20 years, however, Canada's average age has been younger than New Brunswick's, and in 2016 reached 41.0 years.
- Prior to 1951, the average age of men in New Brunswick was generally higher than the average age of women. Since 1961, though, the average age of New Brunswick women has consistently been higher than that of men. In 2016, the average age of women was 44.5 years compared to 42.7 years for men.

