

For Immediate Release

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## **CENSUS 2006 DATA SHOWS CANADIAN FAMILY STRENGTHS— AND WEAKNESSES**

**OTTAWA:** The release of the Statistics Canada 2006 Census update “Family Portrait: Continuity and Change in Canadian Families and Households in 2006” shows some interesting trend lines. “Decision makers at all levels need to look closely at the fiscal and social policy decisions they are making and how they will affect the family,” stated Dave Quist, Executive Director.

The higher rates of cohabitation, particularly in Quebec raise a number of questions. Statistically, married couples have better health, a longer life and higher family income. These are all positive attributes associated with marriage, but not cohabitation.

Canadians are having fewer children—something that reflects past social policy decisions and will have ramifications on future generations, but the provinces with growing economies have more children. “When Alberta and Ontario reflect the highest levels of family growth, simultaneously as their economies have grown, governments must take note,” continued Quist.

While the number of married parents with children has dropped, over two-thirds of couple families are married today. In spite of a small percentage decrease in the number of married couples the Canadian family looks today more or less as it always has—and is still strong.

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For additional information or comment, please contact: Dave Quist, Executive Director at 613-565-3832.

The Institute of Marriage and Family Canada acknowledges the vital role of marriage and family life in our society and is devoted to effectively promoting the best thinking on how society can support and strengthen the institutions of marriage and family. The IMFC is an Ottawa-based initiative of Focus on the Family (Canada).