

Introduction to the 1901 and 1911 Edmonton Census Data

Disclaimer

It should be noted that this data is in worse shape and is less organized than the Winnipeg data. This is because after the databases were initially compiled, we decided to abandon the Edmonton portion of our project. Regardless, this data should serve as a useful starting point for anyone interested in examining the Aboriginal population of Edmonton and surrounding areas in the early 20th century.

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A) Introduction to the Data

This data was captured with the goal of enumerating Aboriginal population of Edmonton and Strathcona at the turn of the 20th century. The Excel sheets found here record information taken from the 1901 and 1911 manuscript censuses about any individual who lived in Edmonton/Strathcona who was considered Aboriginal. These documents also attempt to link individuals and follow them between both censuses.

B) What areas does the database cover?

This database attempts to capture data from the urban parts of the Edmonton and Strathcona enumeration districts.

1901: Edmonton= Alberta enumeration districts M1 and N1

Strathcona= Alberta enumeration districts O4 and P4

1911: Edmonton= Edmonton enumeration districts 48-74

Strathcona= Strathcona enumeration districts 48 and 49

C) Reading the Documents

The rules for reading these documents are largely the same as those used for reading the Winnipeg documents. If you have any questions about how to use the Edmonton documents, I would recommend looking for answers in the Word documents that accompany the Winnipeg database.

D) Differences Between The Edmonton and Winnipeg Documents

There are several notable differences between the Edmonton and Winnipeg documents:

1. In the Edmonton documents there is no separate linking document. Instead if a person is linked between censuses, information about how to find them can be found in the far right columns of the Excel sheets.
2. The Edmonton documents use a different set of rules and codes for linking and for confirming Aboriginal identity. These are discussed below.
3. Some of the headings in the Excel document have slightly different names, but these should be self explanatory.
4. As with the Winnipeg documents, it is possible to put the data in its default order by sorting the document by the Order column. But, unlike the Winnipeg data the 1911 Edmonton documents don't have their own separate/distinct Order columns that counts 1,2,3,4 etc. Instead, 1-27 and 414-490 are in the Outside of Edmonton and Strathcona document and 28-403 are in the Edmonton and Strathcona document (there is no 404-413). The order is done this way because the two documents were previously combined.

E) Rules and Codes for Linking

Since the Edmonton documents were not updated with the Winnipeg documents, it uses an older linking system which is not as strong as the one used in the Winnipeg data.

Rules for Linking Between Censuses

Main Factors

1. Same age
 - Month and year of birth
2. same name
 - First and last
3. same family members

Secondary Factors

1. Speak same language
2. Same employment
3. Same place of birth
4. Same middle initial

Codes for Linking Between Censuses

Strong Match

1.1= A medium or low match who shares family members.

1.2= A medium or low match who shares an address.

1.3= Medium match with matching secondary factors.

Medium Match

2.1= Similar/Same name. Birth year matches and birth month matches. Does not share family members. Does not share address.

2.2= Low match with matching secondary factors.

Low Match

3.1= Similar/Same name. Birth year matches but birth month does not. Does not share family members. Does not share address.

3.2= Similar/Same name. Birth month matches. Birth year is +/- 3 years Does not share family members. Does not share address.

F) Rules and Codes for Confirming Aboriginal Identity

Since the Edmonton documents were not updated with the Winnipeg documents, it uses an older system for confirming Aboriginal identity which is not as strong as the one used in the Winnipeg data.

F.1) Rules for Confirming Aboriginal Identity 1901

Color Category

-Match if: R (Red), HB (Half Breed), EB (English Breed), SB (Scotch Breed), IB (Irish Breed), FB (French Breed), CB (Cree Breed), OB (other breed), B* (Breed/Black), I (Indian).

-*Note: Color denoted as simply B can mean either Breed or Black. In cases where color is B, use Language and tribal origin even when confirming a medium match.

Tribal Origin

- Match if: HB/Half Breed, EB/English Breed, SB/Scotch Breed, IB/Irish Breed, FB/French Breed, CB/Cree Breed, OB/other breed, Aboriginal or name of specific First Nation (ie. Cree).

Language

-Match if: Aboriginal language is recorded in the mother tongue category.

F.2) Codes for Confirming Aboriginal Identity 1901

1. Strong Match

1.1= Color and Tribal Origin are a match but Language is not.

1.2= Color and Native Language are a match but Tribal Origin is not.

1.3=Tribal Origin and Language are a match but Color is not.

1.4= Color, Native Language and Tribal Origin are all matches.

1.5= A medium or strong match who is a link to a medium or strong match in the 1911 census.

1.6= No identifying features in the 1901 census but a strong link to a strong match in 1911.

2. Medium Match

2.1= Color and Native Language are not a match but Tribal Origin is a match.

2.2= Native Language and Tribal Origin are not a match but Color is a match.

2.3= Color and Native Language are not a match but Native Language is a match.

2.4= No identifying features in the 1901 census but a strong or medium link to a medium match in the 1911 census.

2.5= Children: Father is a strong or medium match and shares a last name. Or the mother is a strong or medium match and the child is specified as hers (ie. Wife's Son).

3. Weak Match

3.1= Is a strong or medium match but another factor contradicts this (ie. A red person who emigrated from South America).

3.2= Children: Child who is not a match, whose father is a weak match and shares a last name. Or whose father is not a match and whose mother or siblings are a medium, strong or weak match.

or

Mother/Father: Mother/Father are not a match, children are a strong, medium or weak match.

3.3= Individuals who appear to be a match but the census is messy or difficult to read.

3.4= No identifying features in 1901 census but a strong or medium link to a weak match in the 1911 census.

or

No identifying features in 1901 census and a low link to a strong medium or low match in the 1911 census.

4. Non-Aboriginal Individuals

- Should be recorded when:

- They are a member of a household which contains at least one Aboriginal person.
- They share the same address with at least one Aboriginal person.

F.3) Rules for Confirming Aboriginal Identity 1911

Tribal Origin

- Match if: HB/Half Breed, EB/English Breed, SB/Scotch Breed, IB/Irish Breed, FB/French Breed, CB/Cree Breed, OB/other breed, Indian or name of specific Indian nation (ie. Cree).

Language

-Match if: Aboriginal language is recorded in the mother tongue category.

F.4 Codes for Confirming Aboriginal Identity 1911

1. Strong Match

1.1= Tribal Origin is a match.

1.2= Language is a match.

1.3= Tribal Origin and Language are both a match.

1.4= A medium or strong match who is a link to a medium or strong match in the 1901 census.

1.5= No identifying features in the 1901 census but a strong link to a strong match in 1911.

2. Medium Match

2.1= No identifying features in the 1911 census but a strong or medium link to a medium match in the 1901 census.

2.2= Children: Father is a strong or medium match and shares a last name.

3. Weak Match

3.1= Is a strong or medium match but another factor contradicts this (ie. Indian tribal origin who emigrated from South America).

3.2= Children: Child who is not a match, whose father is a weak match and shares a last name.
Or whose father is not a match and whose mother or siblings are a medium, strong or weak match.

or

Mother/Father: Mother/Father are not a match, children are a strong, medium or weak match.

3.3= Individuals who appear to be a match but the census is messy or difficult to read

3.4= No identifying features in 1901 census but a strong or medium link to a weak match in the 1911 census.

or

No identifying features in 1901 census and a low link to a strong medium or low match in the 1911 census.

4. Non-Aboriginal Individuals

- Should be recorded when:

- They are a member of a household which contains at least one Aboriginal person.
- They share the same address with at least one Aboriginal person.