

Personal background questionnaire

Name:

Date:

With this questionnaire I would like to get an impression of the personal background and language use of Dutch emigrants in Canada. It consists of 79 items. It is important to note that not all items may apply to you personally. Should you think that a certain item does not apply to you (for example when you are asked about the language use of your children and you don't have any children), you may cross out the number in front of that particular question and move on to the next. It is important that you answer these questions on your own, because I am interested in *your* language use. If you don't understand a certain question, please do not hesitate to ask me. There are no right or wrong answers!

- 1) What is your date of birth?19.....
- 2) Are you: male female
- 3) Where were you born: Village/Town:.....
County:.....Country:.....
- 4) What nationality do you have? CA CA & NL NL
- 5) Would you say that you spoke a variety of Dutch while you lived in the Netherlands or a dialect?
 standard Dutch a dialect, namely:
- 6) What is the highest level of education you have completed?
 primary school secondary school, level:
 higher education, namely:
 university, degree:
- 7) When did you come to Canada (year)?19.....
- 8) Why did you emigrate and why to Canada in particular?
 job partner's job partner other, namely:
.....
.....
- 9) Apart from Canada, have you ever lived in a country other than the Netherlands for a longer period of time (that is, more than 6 months)?
 no
 less than 1 year, in: (town).....(country).....
 1 year or more, in: (town).....(country).....
- 10) What language(s) did you acquire before starting school?
 Dutch Dutch & other other
- 11) Did you attend any English classes before coming to Canada? (this has to be in an educational environment, like a school or some similar institution):
 no
 yes, less than 1 month
 yes, less than 3 months
 yes, less than 6 months
 yes, less than 1 year
 yes, more than 1 year
- 12) Have you pursued further education while living in Canada (this does not have to be language-related) ?
 yes, for (number of years):.....
 no

13) What language or languages did you learn professionally or at school?
.....
.....

14) What language or languages did you learn outside of an educational environment (so outside of school or work)?
.....
.....

15) What is your current profession? If you are retired, could you please indicate your last profession before retirement?
.....

16) If you have had several professions, could you indicate each one of them in chronological order?
1.....from.....until.....
2.....from.....until.....
3.....from.....until.....
4.....from.....until.....

17) Have you ever attended Dutch heritage classes while living in Canada?
 yes, in (year): 19.....for the period of:months,.....hours a week
 no

18) Have you ever been back to the Netherlands since leaving for Canada?
 never
 seldom
 regularly, 1-2 times a year
 regularly, 3-5 times a year
 regularly, over 5 times a year

19) If you have indicated that you have been back to the Netherlands, could you please indicate what the reason or reasons for such a visit were (you may tick more than one box here)?
 because of urgent family matters (such as a wedding or a funeral)
 to visit without a particular reason
 for another reason

20) Do you ever go to church in Canada?
 no, never
 yes, sometimes
 yes, regularly

21) If you have indicated you go to church, could you please indicate in which language the services are held?
 EN NL EN & NL other

- 22) In general, how would you rate your English language proficiency before you moved to Canada?
 none very bad bad sufficient good very good
- 23) In general, how would you rate your English language proficiency at present?
 none very bad bad sufficient good very good
- 24) In general, how would you rate your Dutch language proficiency before you moved to Canada?
 none very bad bad sufficient good very good
- 25) In general, how would you rate your Dutch language proficiency at present?
 none very bad bad sufficient good very good
- 26) How often do you speak Dutch?
 rarely few times a year monthly weekly daily
- 27) Do you consider it important to maintain your Dutch?
 unimportant
 relatively unimportant
 not very important
 important
 very important
- 28) Do you consider it important that your children can speak and understand Dutch?
 unimportant
 relatively unimportant
 not very important
 important
 very important
- 29) In general, do you have more Dutch- or English-speaking friends in Canada?
 only English-speaking friends
 both, but more English-speaking friends
 as many Dutch- as English-speaking friends
 both, but more Dutch-speaking friends
 only Dutch-speaking friends
- 30) Do you feel more at home with Dutch or with Canadian culture?
 with Canadian culture
 with both, but more with Canadian culture
 with both cultures, equally
 with both, but more with Dutch culture
 with Dutch culture
- 31) Do you feel more comfortable speaking Dutch or English?
 English Dutch no preference

32) Could you elaborate on your answer: why do you feel more comfortable speaking either Dutch or English or why don't you have any preference?
.....
.....

33) What is your current marital status?
 married separated/divorced widow/widower
 with partner single

34) With what language(s) was your (ex)partner brought up?
 Dutch English other, namely:

35) If your (ex)partner was not born in Canada, what were the reasons that he or she came to Canada?
 job partner's job partner other, namely:
.....
.....

36) When did your (ex)partner come to Canada (year)? ...19.....

37) Where did you meet?
 NL CA other, namely:
.....

38) What language or languages do you mostly use when talking to your (ex)partner?
 only English
 both Dutch and English, but mostly English
 both Dutch and English, without preference
 both Dutch and English, but mostly Dutch
 only Dutch
 other or no answer

39) What language or languages does your (ex)partner mostly use when talking to you?
 only English
 both Dutch and English, but mostly English
 both Dutch and English, without preference
 both Dutch and English, but mostly Dutch
 only Dutch
 other or no answer

40) What is the current profession of your (ex)partner? If your (ex)partner is retired, could you please indicate what his or her last profession before retirement was?
.....

41) Do you have children?
 no yes, number:
Their names are:.....
.....and they are.....years old

- 42) What language or languages do you mostly use when talking to your children?
- only English
 - both Dutch and English, but mostly English
 - both Dutch and English, without preference
 - both Dutch and English, but mostly Dutch
 - only Dutch
 - other or no answer
- 43) What language or languages do your children mostly use when talking to you?
- only English
 - both Dutch and English, but mostly English
 - both Dutch and English, without preference
 - both Dutch and English, but mostly Dutch
 - only Dutch
 - other or no answer
- 44) Do you have grandchildren?
- no yes, number:
- Their names are:.....
-and they are.....years old
- 45) What language or languages do you mostly use when talking to your grandchildren?
- only English
 - both Dutch and English, but mostly English
 - both Dutch and English, without preference
 - both Dutch and English, but mostly Dutch
 - only Dutch
 - other or no answer
- 46) What language or languages do your grandchildren mostly use when talking to you?
- only English
 - both Dutch and English, but mostly English
 - both Dutch and English, without preference
 - both Dutch and English, but mostly Dutch
 - only Dutch
 - other or no answer
- 47) Do you encourage your children to speak Dutch?
- no, never yes, occasionally yes, often
- 48) Did your children ever follow Dutch heritage classes (Saturday classes for example)?
- yes no
- 49) Did /do you ever correct your children's Dutch?
- never very rarely sometimes regularly very often
- 50) If your children do not speak or understand Dutch, do you regret that?
- not at all not much no opinion a bit very much no answer

- 51) Are you in frequent contact with relatives and friends in the Netherlands?
 very rarely rarely sometimes frequently all the time
- 52) How do you keep in touch with those relatives and friends in the Netherlands?
 telephone letters e-mail another way, namely:

- 53) What language or languages do you mostly use to keep in touch with relatives and friends in the Netherlands?
 only English
 both Dutch and English, but mostly English
 both Dutch and English, without preference
 both Dutch and English, but mostly Dutch
 only Dutch
 other or no answer
- 54) Do you think Dutch plays an important role in the relationship between your direct family members?
 not at all not much probably a bit very much no answer
- 55) Have you made many new friends in Canada?
 yes no
- 56) What is the mother tongue of the majority of these people?
 English Dutch equal another language
- 57) How did you meet most of these people?
 through a Dutch club or organisation
 through mutual friends
 through work or the children's school
 through another way, namely:
- 58) Could you please fill in those people that you are most frequently in touch with in the following table? These people can live in the Netherlands or in Canada. I wish to see through this table which language you most frequently use in your daily life: Dutch or English. You don't have to fill in the name of the person if you do not wish to. I would like to ask you, however, to provide the rest of the information asked for.

Name (optional)	Does this person live in Canada or the Netherlands?	What language(s) do you use when communicating with each other?	How did you meet this person?	How long have you known this person?	What is your relationship with this person?

59) Could you, in the following tables, please indicate to what extent you use Dutch (table 1) and English (table 2) in the domains provided? You may simply tick the box. If a certain domain is not applicable to you (for example, if you don't have any pets), you may leave the box empty.

I speak Dutch	all the time	frequently	sometimes	rarely	very rarely
With relatives					
With friends					
To pets					
At work					
In church					
In shops					
At clubs or organisations					

I speak English	all the time	frequently	sometimes	rarely	very rarely
With relatives					
With friends					
To pets					
At work					
In church					
In shops					
At clubs or organisations					

- 60) Have you ever been a member of a Dutch club or organisation in Canada?
 yes, namely (name of the organisation and period of membership):

 no
- 61) Are you now a member of a Dutch club or organisation in Canada?
 yes, namely (name of the organisation):.....

 no
- 62) Do you ever get homesick in the sense of missing the Netherlands?
 yes, what I then miss most is/are:

 no
- 63) Do you ever listen to Dutch songs?
 yes no
- 64) Do you ever watch Dutch television programmes?
 yes no I would love to, but I can't get them
- 65) Do you ever listen to Dutch radio programmes?
 yes no I would love to, but I can't get them
- 66) Do you ever read Dutch newspapers, books or magazines?
 yes no
- 66b) If you have indicated that you never listen to Dutch songs or radio programmes, nor read Dutch newspapers, books or magazines and that you don't watch Dutch television programmes, could you indicate why you think that is?

- 67) Do you think your Dutch language proficiency has changed since you moved to Canada?
 yes, I think it has become worse
 no
 yes, I think it has become better
- 68) Do you think you use more or less Dutch since you moved to Canada?
 yes, I think I use less Dutch
 no, I don't think I use more or less Dutch now
 yes, I think I use more Dutch
- 69) Do you ever feel uncomfortable when speaking Dutch with a Dutch person who has never spent a considerable amount of time in an English-speaking country?
 yes, sometimes no, never

70) If you ever do feel uncomfortable in such a situation, could you indicate whether this is also the case when you speak Dutch with someone who, like you, has lived in Canada for a long time?

- yes no

71) Do you see yourself as bilingual? In other words, do you think you are as proficient in Dutch as in English?

- no, I'm more proficient in English
- yes
- no, I'm more proficient in Dutch
- I don't know, because:.....

72) Are you better at guessing a person's social position/status when they speak Dutch or English?

- English
- equal
- Dutch
- I don't know, because:

73) How do you feel about Dutch people (tourists for example) who speak English with a heavy Dutch accent?

- that annoys me (no) I don't have any problems with that (yes)

74) Do you ever intend to move back to the Netherlands?

- yes, I would eventually like to move back to the Netherlands
- no, I don't intend to ever return to the Netherlands
- I have never really given it much thought

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.....
.....

75) If you have indicated that you do not intend to ever move back to the Netherlands, can you explain why you feel that way?

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.....
.....

76) Looking back, do you think you have made the right decision in moving to Canada?

- yes no, I wouldn't do it again if I had to make the choice again, because:

.....
 I don't know, because:.....
.....

76b) Would you mind if I were to contact your relatives in the Netherlands (preferably siblings) to interview them about life with a family member abroad? Naturally, all of this information will be treated confidentially. If you do not mind, could you please indicate the name(s) of your siblings as well as their addresses and phone numbers?

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77) You have come to the end of this questionnaire. Is there anything you would like to add? This can be anything from language-related comments to remarks about the questionnaire or research itself.

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