



# Couples and the Law

---

## Student's Guide

## For the Teacher

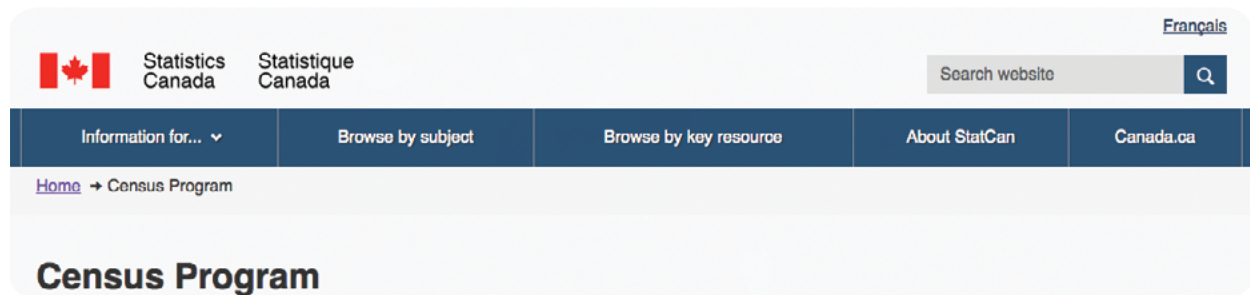
The pages in this Student's Guide follow the Teacher's Guide.

You can modify, add to, or delete pages in this guide according to how you want to proceed. Some texts are grouped together. You can ungroup them to modify the content.

This guide does not include pages for vocabulary, grammar and language chunks you might want to introduce or review with your students. You can add pages for this purpose.

Considering the level and course code for this learning situation, it could be a good idea to print most of the pages for students, unless they are provided with their own computers or other devices.

# Introduction



1. Did you complete the 2016 Canadian census?
2. Have you ever completed a census?
3. What kind of information is collected in a census?
4. Does the information collected change over time? Why or why not?
5. Is the information collected important? Why or why not?

**FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

- Look at the form on page two of this guide, which is part of the Canadian Census. Then try to answer the questions below.
  1. What is this part of the census about?
  2. In Question 4, which situation describes someone whose partner has died?
  3. If someone answers Yes to Question 5, which situations of Question 4 can apply to him or her?  
For example: Can someone be widowed and currently be in a common-law relationship?
    - Describe the situation.
  4. Do you think all the options in Question 6 were in the 1911 census? The 1986 census? The 2011 census?
    - Why or why not?

## Complete a Survey to Test Your Knowledge

Did you know that “common-law” refers to people who live together but are not married?

Is there a legal difference between married and common-law couples?

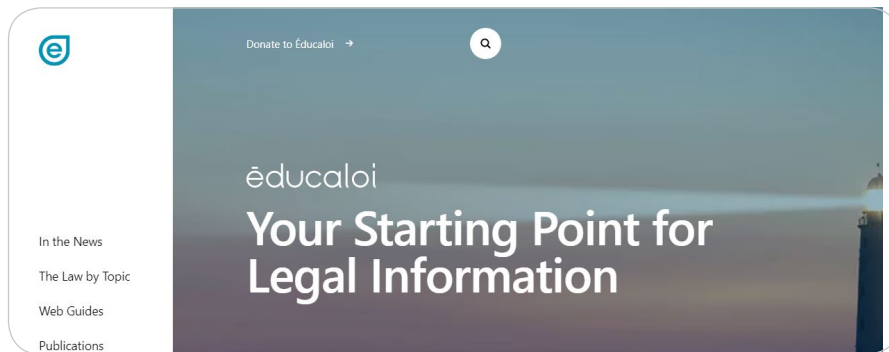
Can you be married to more than one person at once?

In this activity, you’ll learn about the law regarding couples in Quebec.

- Step I is to answer the survey on the next page of this guide.
- In Step II, your teacher will ask you to get into groups and compare your answers.
- In Step III, you will read a website to see if your answers are correct.

Statement	True	False	Not Sure
1. There is no standard definition of a common-law couple in Quebec.			
2. If you live with someone as a couple for more than three years, you have the same status and the same rights as someone who got married.			
3. If you don't get married but just live together in a common-law relationship, you will not automatically inherit property from your partner when he or she dies.			
4. Legally, you can't be married to one person and be in a common-law relationship with someone else.			
5. Common-law couples are immediately recognized under the law as soon as they tell their friends and families that they are living together.			
6. Same-sex marriage has been legal for more than a decade.			
7. All married couples, of whatever gender, share the same rights.			
8. It is illegal to be married to more than one person at the same time.			
<b>Total:</b>			

## Read Information and Rate Yourself



- Look at the Éducaloi website. The small symbols represent different topics.
  1. Where might you find information relevant to questions in the survey?
- Scan the titles of sections and articles.
- Look for key words.
- Rate yourself according to the information you find in the articles.
  1. Were your assumptions correct?
  2. Did you discover anything new?

### Rating System

- 2 points for every answer you got correct
- 1 point for every “not sure” answer
- 0 points for every incorrect answer



## Learning Situation

Expressing concern and providing information about couples in Quebec

You recently read information about the laws regarding couples in Quebec. You were surprised at some of the things you discovered.

You know some couples who might not be aware of these laws.

Read the situations of some of your friends and write appropriate emails to them (if necessary) expressing your concern and providing information.

## Read Situations

- Read the situations of your friends.
  1. Do you need to write an email to all of your friends expressing concern?

## Your Friends' Situations

### Clara & Manuel

Clara and Manuel have been married for several years and have four children. Manuel has a great opportunity to take a job for a year in Toronto. They want their children to continue their education in Quebec, so Clara would stay with the children. They are scared they might be considered separated.

### Lawrence & Sabrina

Lawrence and Sabrina are a gay middle-aged couple who have been living together for over five years. They recently moved to Canada. They heard that they can get married here and that their marriage will be recognized all over the world.

### Pat & Chris

Pat and Chris got divorced four years ago. They have joint custody of their child, who is now away at university. You recently heard that Pat and Chris are back together and are going on a "second honeymoon" to Niagara Falls.

### Terrance

Terrance has four children. Her second daughter, Sylvia (who just turned 17) wants to get married next month.

## Vinh

Vinh is still legally married, but separated from his wife and is now living with someone else. You've had many conversations about whether this is legal or not in Quebec.

## Sam and Luiza

Sam and Luiza have been living together for 35 years but never got married. They have two children. In one of your recent conversations, you talked about the importance of having a will. Neither Sam nor Luiza have a will but assume they will automatically inherit from each other if one of them dies.

### Activity 5

## Write an Email

- What should your emails include?



This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines running across the width of the page, typical of notebook or composition paper. The background is white, and there are no margins, text, or other markings present.



[illegible]

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The legal information in this guide should not be taken as advice. If you need advice on a specific situation, go to the Get More Help section of Éducaloi's website.

The law changes over time. The legal information in this guide is up to date to July 11, 2016. For the most recent information, go to Éducaloi's website.

Teachers in Quebec schools may make copies of this guide, but for educational purposes only. The legal content in this guide must not be altered.

Copyright Éducaloi 2016 ©

Visit [educaloi.qc.ca](http://educaloi.qc.ca) to discover more legal information for your courses. Articles, videos, infographics, print pamphlets and much more!

- Work
- Families and Couples
- Consumer Rights
- Housing
- Criminal Law
- The Court System
- Health
- Human Rights
- Etc.

To find more guides for adult education teachers, go to <https://www.educationjuridique.ca/fr/outils/guides-pour-adultes/>.

Éducaloi's adult education materials were created thanks to financial support from this partner:



Department of Justice  
Canada

Ministère de la Justice  
Canada



TO REACH US:  
[scolaire@educaloi.qc.ca](mailto:scolaire@educaloi.qc.ca)