

# Preface

This book provides students with new perceptions about the connections between the individual and his or her social world and makes sense of social life. It is designed to provide a basic understanding of theories, themes, and concepts in sociology. This approach allows instructors and students to apply their own contemporary issues to these basics. We begin by examining the foundations of the discipline and proceed to the social base of society, how the individual fits into society, the social institutions that give it structure, and the process of continual changes to society.

Many of the statistics in the text come from Canada's 2001 census. The Canada Census is a survey carried out by the Canadian government every five years. This census is not just a bunch of numbers. It is vital for planning communities of the future to ensure that government programs are changing along with the changing needs of society. All the planning that deals with Canadians, from immigration policies to transportation needs, housing, hospitals, schools, and other social agencies, depends on the data from the census. The 2001 census revealed the growing influence of immigration in overall population patterns; as Canada's population growth is slowing, immigration is responsible for the majority of new growth. In addition, Canadians are becoming more urban.

## **ABOUT THE AUTHORS**

Kathryn Bauer and Geoffrey Johnstone are professors at Conestoga College in Kitchener, Ontario. Kathryn teaches courses in sociology and psychology. She has a BA in psychology and sociology, an MSc in health behaviour from the University of Waterloo, and an Ontario Teacher's Certificate. Geoff teaches sociology and multiculturalism. He has a BSc in sociology and statistics from University College Swansea, University of Wales, and an MA in sociology from McMaster University.