

Data Sources:

Yukon UFO
UFO Updates
National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC)
Filer's Files
UFOINFO
UFO*BC
UFOS North West
Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)
Ufology Research
Transport Canada
National Defence and the Canadian Forces
YouTube
NOUFORS
PSICan
Sightings.com (Brian Vike)
GARPAN
Association Québécoise d'Ufologie (AQU)

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2015 Canadian UFO Survey

The 2015 Canadian UFO Survey

Overview

Since 1989, Ufology Research (formerly Ufology Research of Manitoba) has solicited UFO case data from known and active investigators and researchers in Canada. The goal has been to provide data for use by researchers trying to understand this controversial phenomenon. 2015 marked the 27th year of collecting and analysing Canadian UFO report data by Ufology Research.

With some gaps in data, tables of most Canadian UFO reports included in the annual surveys from 1989 to the present are available online at: <http://survey.canadianuforeport.com>

Foreword

Heavily influenced by many cultures, Canada is a nation rich in storytelling. The Ojibway and Cree people, their Anishinaabe cousins, the Inuit, and the many other indigenous groups that populate Manitoba and the rest of Canada, honour the tradition of storytelling. For many Indigenous peoples, storytelling is a way of accessing a shared history, a shared consciousness, and a shared culture- objective truth and story coexist, they live in a symbiotic relationship that creates a complex and legitimate world view.

For English speakers, we often refer to the above idea as “mythology.” While the word mythology is a sloppy translation in regards to the cultural practice of Indigenous storytelling (a literal loss in translation), it is the best we have. Investigating and studying the UFO phenomenon in Canada, we have a strange blend of seeking the objective truth, but also dealing with storytelling. All people from all backgrounds and cultures are story tellers, but they are also story-dwellers. We all live within stories, mythologies and ideologies that govern our experiences and existence.

Our shared ideologies, our collective mythologies, are, according to Slavoj Žižek, a Slovenian philosopher, “our spontaneous relationship to our social world,” they are how “we perceive meaning” in our reality. Ideology “is not simply imposed on ourselves,” rather, our ideology is our reality. Our identity, our truths, exist within ideology, within mythology and within the stories we tell and dwell in. Many Anishinaabe and Indigenous Canadians understand this concept, as their objective realities and mythological stories coexist in almost perfect union.

The UFO phenomenon is another aspect of this mythological reality we live in. During the investigation of these cases, many stories were told. Ufology, as a field of study, is fuelled by stories. However, there is also a search for an objective truth; what is the cause of these often amazing stories? The Canadian UFO Survey attempts to bridge that gap, to link the story and the truth in a concrete way. It shows us what people are seeing in the skies, when they are seeing them, and where they are seeing them. As for why, we can only speculate. Herein lies the question that all who study UFOs seek an answer for; is this phenomenon psychological, sociological, cultural, and/or physical? Is it our contemporary culture’s storytelling? Is it our collective psychological and social mythology generating what myths have generated since ancient times, answers to our desires, visions of our nightmares, and insights into what our future may hold? Or is the phenomenon something else? Physical objects created by our species or another form of life we cannot begin to understand?

Whatever the case, we can begin by taking a lesson from our Indigenous brothers and sisters. The answer to why the phenomenon is happening will present itself when the time is right. For now, we can only honour the storytelling and those who tell the stories; perhaps now is the time to listen.

Michael Banias
Winnipeg, Canada
April, 2016

The 2015 Canadian UFO Survey: Summary of Results

- **There were 1,267 UFO sightings reported in Canada in 2015, or about three or four each day.**
- **2015 saw the second-highest number of UFO sightings recorded in Canada during the last 30 years, second only to 1,981 reports in 2012, when media attention and pop culture brought attention to the so-called “end of the world” in 2012 according to the Mayan Calendar. There were 1,180 reports in 2013 and 1,021 reports in 2014.**
- **Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland had more reported UFOs in 2015 compared with 2014.**
- **In 2015, Quebec had about 35 per cent of all Canadian UFO reports, much more than in previous years, when the percentage was between 5 and 15 per cent.**
- **In 2015, slightly less than 12 per cent of all UFO reports were classified as unexplained.**
- **The typical UFO sighting lasted approximately 16 minutes in 2015.**

The study found that more than half of all UFO sightings were of simple lights in the sky. Witnesses also reported point sources of light, spheres and boomerangs.

Results of this study show that many people continue to report unusual objects in the sky, and some of these objects do not have obvious explanations. Many witnesses are pilots, police and other individuals with reasonably good observing capabilities and good judgement.

Numbers of reported UFO sightings remain high. Several theories for this can be suggested: more UFOs are present and physically observable by witnesses; more secret or classified military exercises and overflights are occurring over populated areas; more people are unaware of the nature of conventional or natural objects in the sky; more people are taking the time to observe their surroundings; more people are able to report their sightings with easier access to the Internet and portable technology; or even that the downturn in the economy is leading to an increased desire by some people to look skyward for assistance.

Although the largest percentage of reported UFOs is simply lights in the night sky, a small number are objects with definite shapes observed within the witnesses' frame of reference.

Popular opinion to the contrary, there is no incontrovertible evidence that some UFO cases involve extraterrestrial contact. The continued reporting of UFOs by the public and the yearly increase in numbers of UFO reports suggests a need for further examination of the phenomenon by social, medical and/or physical scientists.

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UFO Reports in Canada

The following table shows the number of reported UFOs per year since 1989, collected by Ufology Research.

Year	Number	Average
1989	141	141.0
1990	194	167.5
1991	165	166.7
1992	223	180.8
1993	489	242.4
1994	189	233.5
1995	183	226.3
1996	258	230.3
1997	284	236.2
1998	194	232.0
1999	259	234.5
2000	263	236.8
2001	374	247.4
2002	483	264.2
2003	673	291.5
2004	882	328.4
2005	769	354.3
2006	738	375.8
2007	794	399.8
2008	1004	430.0
2009	831	433.3
2010	968	438.2
2011	986	461.9
2012	1981	525.3
2013	1180	551.4
2014	1021	601.5
2015	1267	626.1
Total	16905	

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The number of UFO reports per year has varied, although there has been a general trend towards a steady increase in yearly UFO report numbers since 1989, with spikes in some years such as 1993, 2008 and 2012 (when there were almost 2,000 reports in one year). Although there may be a perceived notion that UFOs are not being reported with as much frequency as in the past, this is not true. UFOs have not “gone away.” This data clearly contradicts comments by those who would assert that UFOs are a ‘passing fad’ or that UFO sightings are decreasing.

Method

Data for each case was obtained by Ufology Research from participating researchers across Canada or through data mining of known websites devoted to UFO reports. The information then was coded by members of Ufology Research and entered into a database and statistically analysed.

An example of the coding key is as follows:

Example: 2015 01 09 1530 Vernon BC DD 900 silver 2 ps 6 5 UFOBC p 4 objs. seen

Field: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Field 1 is a default YEAR for the report.

Field 2 is the MONTH of the incident.

Field 3 is the DATE of the sighting.

Field 4 is the local TIME, on the 24-hour clock.

Field 5 is the geographical LOCATION of the incident.

Field 6 is the PROVINCE where the sighting occurred.

Field 7 is the TYPE of report, using the Modified Hynek Classification System.

Field 8 is the DURATION of the sighting, in seconds (a value of 600 thus represents 10 minutes).

Field 9 is the primary COLOUR of the object(s) seen

Field 10 is the number of WITNESSES

Field 11 is the SHAPE of the object(s) seen

Field 12 is the STRANGENESS of the report.

Field 13 is the RELIABILITY of the report.

Field 14 is the SOURCE of the report.

Field 15 is the EVALUATION of the case.

Field 16 includes any COMMENTS noted about the case.

Analyses of the Data

Distribution of UFO Reports Across Canada

In 2013, Ontario had about 41 per cent of the total number of UFO sightings reported in Canada, the most reports of any province, and exactly the same percentage as in both 2011 and 2012. British Columbia was second, with about 25 per cent of the total. If UFO reporting was simply a factor of population, one would expect percentages of 37 per cent for Ontario and 13 per cent for BC.

TABLE 1
Distribution of UFO Reports by Province

	NT	NU	YT	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PI	NF
1989	1	0	0	15	16	18	22	34	28	1	3	0	3
1990	2	0	1	76	9	10	20	21	36	7	5	3	4
1991	0	0	1	59	22	7	6	30	16	9	7	1	4
1992	1	0	3	90	8	9	23	56	10	9	3	0	4
1993	5	0	0	157	56	93	74	51	32	3	3	1	7
1994	3	0	3	14	39	8	10	51	34	6	9	0	6
1995	4	0	0	45	10	11	48	41	20	0	1	0	1
1996	35	0	0	43	10	11	39	63	45	1	9	0	1
1997	22	0	8	99	11	5	32	72	24	1	6	1	3
1998	2	0	22	58	6	14	15	59	15	1	0	1	0
1999	0	0	20	118	19	1	6	79	8	1	0	1	6
2000	0	0	26	102	17	8	19	53	22	0	15	0	0
2001	1	5	18	123	40	12	20	87	34	5	21	2	6
2002	0	2	20	176	51	6	36	128	34	4	23	0	3
2003	2	1	16	304	76	19	25	150	49	4	21	2	4
2004	3	1	2	247	99	45	112	254	64	21	23	2	9
2005	1	0	3	209	90	77	43	214	77	15	16	4	12
2006	2	8	1	209	55	98	54	188	76	12	25	1	5
2007	6	0	7	192	66	36	44	329	93	24	31	2	6
2008	0	1	6	272	157	41	52	334	62	28	34	2	10
2009*													
2010	0	0	3	204	85	30	88	405	71	25	42	5	9

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2011	2	1	3	216	101	31	81	406	77	27	31	2	5
2012	0	0	6	399	323	55	124	822	124	41	61	2	23
2013	4	0	2	298	129	33	65	480	86	32	31	2	8
2014	0	0	1	238	95	24	44	377	177	23	24	3	4
2015	1	2	2	224	101	37	66	314	450	18	36	2	9
	NT	NU	YT	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	PQ	NB	NS	PI	NF
Total	96	21	174	4232	1692	724	1185	5119	1778	319	480	39	153

In addition, geographical names of UFO sighting locations were examined for trends. Many cities were found to have multiple reports, and these are noted in the following table. Large metropolitan areas include their suburbs.

Canadian Cities with Most UFO Reports in 2015

Rank	City	Province	Number of Reports
1	Montreal	PQ	97
2	Toronto	ON	78
3	Vancouver	BC	69
4	Edmonton	AB	36
5	Quebec City	PQ	32
6	Winnipeg	MB	30
7	Hamilton	ON	29
8	Ottawa	ON	27
9	Calgary	AB	17
10	London	ON	13

Monthly Trends in UFO Reports

Monthly breakdowns of reports during each year tend to show slightly different patterns. UFO reports are generally thought to peak in summer and are at minimum in winter, presumably due to the more pleasant observing conditions during the summer months, when more witnesses are outside. However, there has been a trend in recent years to see an unusually large number of UFOs reported in the fall, and this was strongly seen in 2015. The reasons for this are not immediately obvious.

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
1989	13	9	6	9	5	9	5	5	12	32	27	9
1990	17	7	6	47	10	10	9	47	15	16	10	0
1991	13	7	17	12	7	12	16	25	16	12	11	17
1992	15	16	27	16	22	16	23	19	11	16	21	21
1993	59	15	20	22	14	38	27	49	41	152	24	21
1994	16	12	15	21	15	37	19	8	15	10	7	13
1995	14	12	13	9	9	10	28	33	28	11	11	5
1996	37	18	20	16	8	20	30	32	10	22	30	11
1997	19	11	31	29	17	13	29	29	22	16	26	37
1998	3	4	8	5	9	13	16	40	45	35	7	4
1999	8	20	22	7	31	10	27	36	30	29	30	7
2000	21	17	15	21	12	11	19	46	20	44	15	19
2001	36	19	33	25	17	26	51	81	25	17	27	16
2002	31	54	41	28	36	44	73	74	42	26	19	14
2003	41	46	46	46	31	30	131	102	46	64	43	47
2004	59	53	72	68	82	97	96	113	83	46	56	53
2005	36	59	81	59	45	50	96	123	70	56	47	45
2006	33	43	41	66	65	108	113	113	61	36	20	29
2007	45	35	95	76	56	90	80	105	94	64	50	41
2008	64	65	66	58	81	71	148	128	114	82	94	33
2009												
2010	40	30	34	38	64	78	196	115	94	106	82	86
2011	94	64	67	63	76	69	102	142	97	91	48	72
2012	109	136	150	180	166	140	272	283	194	151	81	116
2013	117	43	69	53	122	153	156	146	83	98	63	68

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2014	59	54	48	53	91	92	97	145	171	79	68	62
2015	65	58	70	94	111	114	119	195	167	120	95	59
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Totals	1076	914	1113	1126	1203	1372	1990	2255	1612	1425	1017	913

UFO Report Types

An analysis by report type shows a similar breakdown to that found in previous years. The percentage of cases of a particular type remains roughly constant from year to year, with some variations. As in previous years, less than two per cent of all reported UFO cases in 2015 were Close Encounters, emphasizing the reality that *very* few UFO cases involve anything other than distant objects seen in the sky. This is an important statistic, because the current popular interest in abductions and sensational UFO encounters is based not on the vast majority of UFO cases but on the very tiny fraction of cases which fall into the category of close encounters. Speculation on what aliens may or may not be doing in our airspace seems almost completely unconnected to what are actually being reported as UFOs.

TABLE 3
Report Types (Modified Hynek Classifications)

	NL	ND	DD	C1	C2	C3	C4	EV	RD	PH
1989	84	20	16	10	7	0	2	2	0	0
1990	141	24	15	2	1	0	4	3	0	0
1991	110	26	13	7	4	1	2	0	1	1
1992	136	44	20	15	5	2	3	0	0	1
1993	372	77	26	8	2	1	1	1	0	0
1994/95	234	78	28	21	1	1	5	1	0	0
1996	170	40	27	8	3	4	1	2	0	0
1997	145	62	52	4	2	5	8	4	0	1
1998	115	23	25	6	1	0	0	19	0	3
1999	163	44	37	3	7	1	0	0	0	0
2000	179	31	26	4	2	2	0	0	0	3
2001	218	80	55	8	1	3	3	0	0	0
2002	293	94	76	8	5	0	1	0	0	2
2003	431	152	74	5	5	3	2	0	0	0
2004	520	203	136	7	6	2	3	0	0	3
2005	424	169	149	9	5	3	2	0	0	1
2006	508	65	85	12	1	4	1	0	0	21
2007	413	244	153	12	7	4	1	0	0	*
2008	442	353	175	10	7	2	0	0	0	8
2009*										
2010	467	324	132	14	9	0	4	5	0	13
2011	559	313	92	15	4	1	0	0	0	1
2012	1070	673	155	32	8	1	2	0	0	29
2013	631	333	145	9	4	3	3	5	0	4
2014	483	344	126	5	0	11	0	2	0	0
2015	641	387	158	3	2	7	11	9	0	17
	NL	ND	DD	C1	C2	C3	C4	EV/UX	RD	PH
Totals	8953	3602	1869	206	88	65	56	82	1	81

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For those unfamiliar with the classifications, a summary follows:

NL (Nocturnal Light) - light source in night sky

ND (Nocturnal Disc) - light source in night sky that appears to have a definite shape

DD (Daylight Disc) - unknown object observed during daytime hours

C1 (Close Encounter of the First Kind) - ND or DD occurring within 200 metres of a witness

C2 (Close Encounter of the Second Kind) - C1 where physical effects left or noted

C3 (Close Encounter of the Third Kind) - C1 where figures/entities are encountered

C4 (Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind) - an alleged "abduction" or "contact" experience

Note: The category of **Nocturnal Disc** was created in the 1980s by UFOROM originally for differentiation of cases within its own report files, and has been adopted by many other groups worldwide.

The category of PH indicates the sighting was entirely photographic, without any actual object seen visually. Many reports listed as NL or ND or DD may also have associated photos or video, so this should not be considered exclusive. EV indicates a case in which physical evidence was observed (not necessarily related to any observed object) and RD is a case in which an object was detected with radar but not necessarily observed. UX cases are those in which anomalous phenomena are reported and believed by witnesses to be UFO-related, but no UFO was actually seen. These include reports of "odd sounds" and dreams.

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Hourly Distribution

The hourly distribution of cases has usually followed a similar pattern every year, with a peak at 2200 hours local and a trough around 0900 hours local. Since most UFOs are nocturnal lights, most sightings will occur during the evening hours. Since the number of possible observers drops off sharply near midnight, we would expect the hourly rate of UFO reports would vary with two factors: potential observers and darkness.

Time	2012	2013	2014	2015
12:00-12:59	7	7	11	10
13:00-13:59	8	12	11	11
14:00-14:59	14	13	6	13
15:00-15:59	14	3	15	20
16:00-16:59	15	19	11	14
17:00-17:59	22	23	20	47
18:00-18:59	42	35	41	44
19:00-19:59	84	64	42	51
20:00-20:59	153	83	90	105
21:00-21:59	311	141	155	215
22:00-22:59	363	180	144	188
23:00-23:59	217	144	90	123
00:00-00:59	129	116	93	81
01:00-01:59	66	27	15	40
02:00-02:59	55	28	22	28
03:00-03:59	45	22	19	27
04:00-04:59	33	7	17	22
05:00-05:59	20	9	14	21
06:00-06:59	20	15	17	17
07:00-07:59	14	9	10	11
08:00-08:59	7	3	6	12
09:00-09:59	4	9	9	15
10:00-10:59	8	11	3	15
11:00-11:59	9	7	4	9

Duration

The category of **Duration** is interesting in that it represents the *subjective* length of time the UFO experience lasted. In other words, this is the length of time the sighting lasted *as estimated by the witness*. Naturally, these times are greatly suspect because it is known that most people tend to badly misjudge the flow of time. Although an estimate of "one hour" may be in error by several minutes, it is unlikely that the true duration would be, for example, one *minute*. Furthermore, there have been cases when a UFO was observed and clocked very accurately, so that we can be reasonably certain that UFO events can last considerable periods of time.

The average duration of UFO sightings in Canada in 2015 was 16 minutes, a bit longer than in previous years but within expected variation. These significant lengths of time suggest some simple explanations. Previous analyses have shown that long-duration sightings tend to occur in the early morning hours, from about midnight until 6:00 a.m.

The duration of a sighting is one of the biggest clues to its explanation. Experience in studying UFO reports has shown us that short duration events are usually fireballs or bolides, and long duration events of an hour or more are very probably astronomical objects moving slowly with Earth's rotation.

Colour

In cases where colours of an object were reported by witnesses, the most common colour of UFO in 2015 was orange, similar to previous years. Other common colours were red, white and "multi-coloured." Since most UFOs are nocturnal starlike objects, the abundance of white objects is not surprising. Colours such as red, orange, blue and green often are associated with bolides (fireballs). Orange is most often associated with the observation of a Chinese lanterns, the launching of which became popular during the past few years. The "multi-coloured" designation is problematic in that it literally covers a wide range of possibilities. This label has been used, for example, when witnesses described their UFOs as having white, red and green lights. Many of these are certainly stars or planets, which flash a variety of colours when seen low on the horizon. Aircraft also frequently are described as having more than one colour of light, such as flashing coloured wing lights. However, seen from a distance, aircraft will often be visible only as moving white lights.

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Colour	2012	2013	2014	2015
White	233	107	71	103
Multicoloured	162	57	72	141
Orange	546	284	185	236
Yellow	57	37	38	36
Red	209	119	110	103
Green	69	38	37	39
Silver	21	16	10	17
Black	39	28	10	23
Blue	47	40	31	29
Grey	20	8	12	26
Brown	4	5	1	3
Pink	2	2	1	7
Purple	5	0	1	2

Witnesses

The average number of witnesses per case is approximately 2.00. This value has fluctuated between a high of 2.4 in 1996 to as low as 1.4 in 1990. In 2015, the average number of witnesses per sighting was 1.84.

This indicates that the typical UFO experience has *more than one witness*, and supports the contention that UFO sightings represent observations of real, physical phenomena, since there is usually at least one corroborator present to support the sighting.

Shape

Witnesses' descriptions of the shapes of UFOs vary greatly. In 2015, like all previous years, most were of "point sources"—that is, "starlike" objects or distant lights, about the same as previous years. The classic "flying saucer" or disc-shaped object comprised less than four per cent of all UFO reports in 2015, contrary to popular opinion.

The shape of a perceived object depends on many factors such as the witness' own visual acuity, the angle of viewing, the distance of viewing and the witness' own biases and descriptive abilities. Nevertheless, in combination with other case data such as duration, shape can be a good clue towards a UFO's possible explanation.

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Shape	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Ball/Globe/Round/Orb/Sphere	186	144	296	148	174	228
Fireball	61	61	158	65	51	48
Boomerang/Crescent/Chevron/V/U	18	7	24	16	8	10
Cigar/Cylinder	35	43	47	22	17	24
Disk/Saucer	33	42	37	55	62	45
Irregular	130	97	223	79	130	226
Oval/Egg/Elliptical	15	24	30	29	16	28
Point Source	440	554	1076	640	464	572
Triangle	42	43	62	58	52	44
Diamond		2	1	8	7	4
Rectangle	0	3	1	16	10	13

Strangeness

The assigning of a Strangeness rating to a UFO report is based on a classification adopted by researchers who noted that the inclusion of a subjective evaluation of the degree to which a particular case is in itself unusual might yield some insight into the data. For example, the observation of a single, stationary, starlike light in the sky, seen for several hours, is not particularly unusual and might likely have a prosaic explanation such as that of a star or planet. On the other hand, a detailed observation of a saucer-shaped object which glides slowly away from a witness after an encounter with grey-skinned aliens would be considered highly strange.

The numbers of UFO reports according to strangeness rating show an inverse relationship such that the higher the strangeness rating, the fewer reports. The one exception to this relationship occurs in the case of *very* low strangeness cases, which are relatively few in number compared to those of moderate strangeness. It is suggested this is the case because in order for an observation to be considered a UFO, it must usually rise above an *ad hoc* level of strangeness, otherwise it would not be considered strange at all.

The average strangeness rating for UFO reports during 2015 was 4.3, and has risen slightly for the past several years. On this scale, 1 is considered not strange at all and 9 is considered exceptionally unusual. Most UFOs reported are of objects which do not greatly stretch the imagination. Hollywood-style flying saucers are, in reality, relatively uncommon in UFO reports. The overall Strangeness rating of Canadian UFO reports has been sliding slightly over time.

Reliability

Perhaps to compensate for the increase in Strangeness, the average Reliability rating of Canadian

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UFO reports in 2015 was 4.37, down significantly from previous years. In 2015, more reports had minimal information on the witness, little or no investigation and incomplete data or description of the object(s) observed.

Higher reliability cases include actual interviews with witnesses, a detailed case investigation, multiple witnesses, supporting documentation and other evidence. Since data for many cases are taken from websites and second-hand postings, or in fact self-postings, there is usually no significant investigation of UFO sightings. Well-investigated cases likely comprise only a small fraction of all UFO data, a fact that makes posted UFO case data have limited value.

Reliability and Strangeness ratings tend to vary in classic bell-shaped curves. In other words, there are very few cases which were both highly unusual and well-reported. Most cases are of medium strangeness and medium reliability. These are the “high-quality unknowns” which will be discussed in a later section of this study. However, there are also very few low-strangeness cases with low reliability. Low-strangeness cases, therefore, tend to be well-reported and probably have explanations.

Sources

UFO data used in this study were supplied by many different groups, organizations, official agencies and private individuals. Since this annual survey began in the late 1980s, more and more cases have been obtained and received via the Internet.

Almost 30 per cent of Canadian cases in 2015 were reported to the large organization known as the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), which has a good online reporting system.

It was surprising this year to see a very large increase in reports from the Quebec UFO group L'Association québécoise d'ufologie (AQU). In 2015, 28 per cent of all Canadian UFO reports were filed with AQU, almost three times the typical rate. The reason for this is not clear.

In 2015, about 13 per cent of the total cases were obtained through the private and non-profit National UFO Reporting Center in the USA. Again, this is about three times the usual number received through that source. Like MUFON, NUFORC has a toll-free telephone number for reporting UFOs and a large sightings list created through voluntary submission of online report forms by witnesses.

About four per cent of all UFO sightings reported in 2015 were directly to Ufology Research.

Less than one per cent of all cases came as a result of information obtained through Transport Canada and the Department of National Defence.

It should be noted that the preparation of this Survey is becoming quite challenging. Few UFO investigators or researchers actually submit case data to UFOROM anymore, requiring considerable searching of online sources. And, although many sites post information about UFO sightings, very little actual UFO investigation is being conducted. In fact, it could be said that the science of UFO investigation has nearly become extinct. This does not bode well for an area of study that is under constant criticism by debunkers wishing to prove the unscientific nature of the subject.

Evaluation (Conclusion)

There were four operative categories in the Canadian UFO Survey: Explained, Insufficient Information, Possible or Probable Explanation, and Unknown (or Unexplained). It is important to note that a classification of Unknown does *not* imply that an alien spacecraft or mysterious natural phenomenon was observed; no such interpretation can be made with certainty, based solely on the given data.

The breakdown by Evaluation for 2015 cases was similar to results from previous years, with the percentage of unexplained cases less than 12 per cent of the total. Evaluation reflects a subjective evaluation by researchers who question whether a particular report has enough information to consider it as having a possible explanation or if there is simply not enough information to make that judgement. This situation has likely arisen because very few UFO sightings are ever fully investigated, as most are simply reported and published online, often without any follow-up or investigation possible.

An Evaluation is made subjectively by either or both the contributing investigators and the compilers of this study. The category of Unknown is adopted if there is extensive information or data available and/or if the contributed data or case report contains enough information such that a conventional explanation cannot be satisfactorily proposed. This does *not* mean that the case will never be explained, but only that a viable explanation is not immediately obvious. Cases are also re-evaluated periodically as additional data or information is brought to attention or obtained through further investigation.

The level and quality of UFO report investigation varies because there are no explicit and rigorous standards for UFO investigation. Investigators who are “believers” might be inclined to consider most UFO sightings as mysterious, whereas those with more of a skeptical predisposition might tend to subconsciously (or consciously) reduce the Unknowns in their files.

TABLE 4
Evaluation of Canadian UFO Data

%				
	Explained	Insufficient Evidence	Probable	Unexplained
1989	0.00%	52.50%	33.30%	14.20%
1990	0.00%	46.40%	40.20%	13.40%
1991	1.20%	48.50%	41.80%	8.50%
1992	8.00%	37.00%	33.00%	22.00%
1993	31.50%	34.80%	23.50%	10.20%
1994/95	19.10%	33.30%	35.20%	12.40%
1996	9.30%	40.70%	33.70%	16.30%
1997	6.00%	37.30%	43.00%	13.70%
1998	5.10%	38.70%	44.80%	11.30%
1999	3.80%	31.50%	51.90%	12.70%
2000	8.75%	35.74%	42.59%	12.93%
2001	5.88%	34.76%	44.12%	15.24%
2002	2.48%	39.75%	39.75%	18.01%
2003	16.34%	24.67%	42.50%	16.49%
2004	8.62%	22.68%	53.17%	15.53%
2005	12.09%	25.36%	47.85%	14.69%
2006	7.07%	44.84%	36.28%	11.82%
2007	2.03%	32.06%	50.12%	15.78%
2008	2.69%	27.99%	59.46%	9.86%
2009*				
2010	1.96%	38.64%	51.34%	8.06%
2011	3.55%	40.67%	44.83%	10.95%
2012	3.08%	39.90%	50.55%	7.47%
2013	1.61%	17.29%	66.53%	14.58%
2014	1.57%	18.71%	69.05%	10.68%
2015	1.66%	20.52%	66.30%	11.52%

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	Explained	Insufficient Evidence	Probable	Unexplained
1989	0	74	47	20
1990	0	90	78	26
1991	2	80	69	14
1992	17	83	74	49
1993	154	170	115	50
1994/95	71	124	131	46
1996	24	105	87	42
1997	17	106	122	39
1998	10	75	87	22
1999	10	82	135	32
2000	23	94	112	34
2001	22	130	165	57
2002	12	192	192	87
2003	110	166	286	111
2004	76	200	469	137
2005	93	195	368	113
2006	52	330	267	87
2007	17	268	419	132
2008	27	281	597	99
2009*				
2010	19	374	497	78
2011	35	401	442	108
2012	61	771	1002	148
2013	19	204	785	172
2014	16	191	705	109
2015	21	260	840	146
	908	5046	8091	1958

In 2015, the percentage of Unknowns was 11.5 per cent. There were 146 Unknowns out of 1,267 total cases in 2015.

If we look only at the Unknowns with a Strangeness of 6 or greater and a Reliability rating of 6 or greater, we are left with 65 higher-quality Unknowns in 2015 (about five per cent

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of the total). This is in line with previous annual Canadian UFO Surveys and other studies such as USAF Blue Book, which found three to four per cent of their cases were "excellent" Unknowns. As it is, these 65 Canadian cases in 2015 can be reduced further by eliminating those in which investigation is not complete or details not made available for outside evaluation.

It should be emphasized again that even high-quality Unknowns do not imply alien visitation. Each case may still have an explanation following further investigation. And of those that remain unexplained, they may remain unexplained, but still are not incontrovertible proof of extraterrestrial intervention or some mysterious natural phenomenon.

An interpretation of the 146 Unknowns in 2015 is that these cases were among the most challenging of all the reports received. It should be noted that most UFO cases go unreported, and that there may be ten times as many UFO sightings that go unreported as those which get reported to public, private or military agencies. Furthermore, it should be noted that some cases with lower reliability ratings suffer only from incomplete investigations, and that they may well be more mysterious than those on the list of Unknowns. And, above all, these cases are *not* proof of extraterrestrial visitation.

The increase in the numbers of UFO reports with time likely does not have a simple explanation. It could be related to a growing awareness within the general population that there are agencies which collect UFO reports. It could be that there really are more UFOs physically present in the sky. It could be that the collection of UFO data is becoming more efficient. It could be that there are more private websites allowing or inviting people to report their UFO sightings. While media have been noted as playing a definite role in UFO waves (a national increase in UFO sightings), media coverage of UFO reports has significantly declined over the past decade while the number of reports has risen. Perhaps a cultural factor is at work as well, where "aliens" and UFOs are now well-entrenched within the societal mindset and are accepted as more probable than fiction. This question by itself is deserving of scientific study.

Most Interesting Canadian “Unknowns” in 2015

The following are those Canadian UFO reports in 2015 which had a Reliability Rating of 7 or more, a Strangeness of 7 or more, were assigned an Evaluation of Unknown, and about which enough details were available for evaluation.

January 10, 2015 1:00 pm Lumsden, SK
Multiple aircraft reported a very large object with a small white light in the middle, surrounded by a halo, moving northbound in the vicinity of Lumsden, SK. One pilot reported the object appeared to descend from above FL410. The sighting lasted one to two minutes.

February 15, 2015 5:55 pm Vancouver, BC
Strange object floating above the roofs of high-rise apartments. Through binoculars, appeared to be a “cliché” flying saucer, round with a smooth dome, with 5 or 6 white, red, and green lights around the diameter of the object, lightly flickering, with a dull grey, smooth metallic finish over the whole object. Moved behind buildings, reappeared, then vanished.

April 8, 2015 3:21 am Brantford, ON
Large object that was a cross between a boomerang and egg just above tree line moving slowly, had flashing white lights in sequence, a white light at its tip and two stripes of blue light running parallel along its underbelly. The object moved right over witness who drove underneath it.

May 10, 2015 10:30 am Kamloops, BC
Four lights slowly moving from the WNW across the sky in sync forming shapes as they moved, from in a line to triangle then a rectangle then back to flat line. Two more came from the southeast, joined the other four and formed a large "C" in the sky and remained still for several minutes. After five minutes, the two from the southeast went back in the direction they came and the original four left NNW doing shapes again.

May 12, 2015 2:00 pm Drummondville, PQ
Metallic sphere descended from high in the sky came close enough for witness to see the reflection of the ground on its surface. The sphere slowed its descent to move horizontally toward the northwest, then slowed again and stopped. The witness looked up and saw two other spheres stationary in the sky about 500 feet above the ground.

September 24, 2015 8:00 pm Napanee, ON
Bright starlike object in sky began emitting pink “tentacles” then turned inside out. The object became a dark “rowboat” with two lights like “cement barriers that lay on the ground in a parking space.” Above was a large circular ball of blue light. The odd craft gave off a sound that seemed to create a “tingy feeling” in the witness’ arms. It was the size of a large building and moved slow but steady overhead before moving out of view.

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October 4, 2015 9:30 pm Winnipeg, MB
Pulsating red light seen while driving. When finally got near, light was resolved to an equilateral triangle shaped craft, all black except for the pulsing red in the core and blue-green lights on the tips. Object hovered for a few seconds before it very slowly started to move east, ascending higher and higher until it was lost to sight.

October 9, 2015 3:00 am Kamloops, BC
Brightly lit triangular object, moving slowly 500 feet above ground. The craft was about 200 feet long from point to wide end of the triangle. When it left after a few minutes, it brightened to twice its illumination, then its lights went out and it took off towards the airport very fast but without any noise at all.

October 11, 2015 6:24 am Toronto, ON
At about sunrise, a bright object in the shape of a large, gold diamond appeared. It had rotating lights that changed shape, colours from white to pink to green to near metallic to blue.

November 14, 2015 6:00 pm Wemotaci, PQ
While driving, witness saw in rearview mirror a pale blue sphere, similar to an LED, following at a distance, the height of the car. As it approached, the light became blinding and eventually appeared to be a basketball-sized sphere floating a few metres above the ground. The witness pulled his car to the right, still maintaining speed, to allow the object to pass. It left the field of the rearview mirror, went left and then vanished.