



Canadian Federation for the  
**Humanities and Social Sciences**

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The Honourable Tony Clement, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Industry Canada  
300 Slater Street, 16th Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C8

Dear Minister,

Representing 50,000 researchers, graduate students and practitioners from across the country, the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences shares the concerns expressed by other national organizations, such as the Statistical Society of Canada, the Canadian Economics Association and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, over the elimination of the mandatory long form census.

Researchers and practitioners in academia, business, the public sector and the non-profit community draw on the data in the long-form census to inform their work and create our national responses to important national challenges across sectors. This is best achieved when done over time and against international standards. For a dynamic, modern society, reliable national data provides the evidence needed to inform rigorous analysis, sound public policy, and social and commercial innovation.

Although the form may cause some inconvenience for a small number of Canadians, the public good supported by credible data and the subsequent body of research and analysis justify the compulsory nature of the methodology. The long form questionnaire is a critical and highly valued component of research that supports our economic and social prosperity. This decision to eliminate the mandatory long form census will undermine the impact of many of the successful research and innovation initiatives launched by the Government since 2006. The high quality of the census data is part of our national brand and of the Canadian advantage. We should not throw it away.

The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, on behalf of researchers and scholars across the country, respectfully requests that you reconsider this decision and maintain this critical element of our capacity to undertake research on complex socio-economic issues for the benefit of all Canadians.

Sincerely,

Noreen Golfman  
President, Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences