

Minister Responsible for
Statistics Canada



Ministre responsable de
Statistique Canada

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0T6

06 OCT. 2011

Mr. Christopher Kevlahan
President
British Columbia Library Association
900 Howe Street, Suite 150
Vancouver, British Columbia V6Z 2M4

Dear Mr. Kevlahan:

I am writing in response to your letter addressed to my predecessor, the Honourable Tony Clement, in which you express the views of the British Columbia Library Association regarding the long-form census.

I am aware of the discussions that have been ongoing for the past year on the value and use of census data. Please be assured that Statistics Canada is making every effort to ensure the best quality data for users for the next five years.

A key factor for the success of the NHS will be the participation of Canadians. To that end, Statistics Canada is working with more than 6,000 organizations that have a keen interest in data from the NHS to disseminate information to Canadians regarding the importance of the survey. Our goal is to achieve strong and uniform participation across the country. With this participation, the NHS can provide information that will meet the needs of the majority of data users.

In addition, Statistics Canada is applying all of its own expertise to make the NHS a success. For example, the sampling rate has been increased to one in three households to help reduce sampling error for smaller regions. Data on response patterns from the 2006 Census and information generated during data collection in 2011 will be used to guide the field follow-up efforts to minimize non-response bias.

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I trust that this information is helpful. Thank you for sharing the views of the British Columbia Library Association on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Paradis', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Christian Paradis, P.C., M.P.