



Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada
Fédération de l'habitation coopérative du Canada

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The Hon. Tony Clement, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Industry
Industry Canada - C.D. Howe Building
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

Dear Minister:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada (CHF Canada) and our 900 member housing co-ops and supporters across the country.

Let me say right away that our organization has been very supportive of your government's initiatives in the field of housing, support that is no less than the government's due. However, we feel we must raise with you our concerns over one policy issue that pertains to housing and housing data: the matter of the mandatory long form census questionnaire.

Data resulting from the long form questionnaires are key to affordable housing research, planning and policy development. CHF Canada's own policy advice and research reports rely heavily on this census data. Our nationally focused *Dunning Report: Dimensions of Core Housing Need in Canada* used 2001 and 2006 CMHC census-based data to assess the housing affordability challenges of Canadian households. CHF Canada's Ontario Region, in partnership with Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association (ONPHA), produces an annual study on housing trends in Ontario, *Where's Home*, that relies heavily on census data from the long questionnaire.

More generally, the long census form is an indispensable source of data on housing need, diversity and other important characteristics that help us meet the housing information needs of our members and the public at-large. And we are not confident that a voluntary national household survey will provide anything close to the data integrity that the long-form questionnaire offers. For all these reasons, we ask you and your government to retain this important statistical tool.

Sincerely,

Wes Hosler
President

CHF Canada is the national voice of the Canadian co-operative housing movement. Its members include nearly 900 non-profit housing co-operatives and other organizations across Canada. More than a quarter of a million Canadians live in housing co-ops, in every province and territory.