Petition to the Honourable Tony Clement

on the Long Form of the Canadian Census

Minister of Industry
C.D. Howe Building
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5
Telephone: 613-995-9001
Fax: 613-992-0302
Email: minister.industry@ic.gc.ca

Whereas:

- the cancellation of the 2011 long form of the census and its replacement by a voluntary National Housing Survey will bias and thereby compromise data essential to the Canadian economy and society,
- there is considerable expertise at Statistics Canada and on the National Statistics Council to provide the direction and framework for any major initiative restructuring the census,
- the Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Technology passed a motion on July 27, 2010 calling for the reinstatement of the 2011 mandatory long census form,

we, the undersigned, request a compromise position which strikes a reasonable balance between the privacy of individuals and the extreme importance of these data to Canadians set out in the points below:

- That the mandatory long form of the census for 2011 be reinstated.
- That if the Minister so desires, Statistics Canada, with the advice of the National Statistics Council, be directed to undertake studies to show the impact of a voluntary survey over a mandatory one for collecting census long form data. This report can inform Statistics Canada and the government on the future evolution of the census.
- That wherever possible the privacy concerns of individuals on specific questions be addressed with the assistance of the privacy commissioner, either by the removal or the rewording of specific questions.
- That parliament review the maximum penalties for non-compliance with the Statistics Act and the threat of imprisonment be removed.

Name/Nom	Affiliation	Signature