



August 5, 2010

Dear Sir or Madame;

Over the course of the past several weeks, CAPE has made its concerns regarding the Conservative government's decision to suspend the mandatory long census questionnaire known.

As the bargaining agent representing over 2,000 employees at Statistics Canada, including statisticians and economists, as well as another 10,000 professional federal public service employees who, in the commission of their duties and responsibilities often rely on the integrity of the information generated by the Canadian Census, we are gravely concerned with the impact this decision will have on the ability of our members to serve their employer and the Canadian public.

Hundreds of different organizations, charities, medical associations, politicians, religious groups and individuals (including CAPE Executive Director, Claude Danik, whose missives to Minister Clement are included as hyperlinks below) have expressed their educated and educational disagreement with the decision, and have cited extensive concerns regarding the impact of this decision on the viability and reliability of the Canadian census data: underrepresentation of minority groups, the disabled, those living in remote areas of the country; biased information; inadequate information for the development of social programs, regional budgeting, geographic and demographic profiling... the list goes on and on.

The Conservative government, in the form of Tony Clement, has no business micromanaging issues of statistical methodology, and disregarding the advice of experts, including globally recognized preeminent professionals in the field. I would welcome the opportunity to engage in an unbiased and critical examination of the issues at hand, with you.

Claude Poirier
National President
Canadian Association of Professional Employees

[Open Letter to Industry Minister Tony Clement – Part 1 of 3](#)

July 23, 2010 - A letter on the matters of methodological issues such as the difference between a census and a survey.

[Open Letter to Industry Minister Tony Clement – Part 2 of 3](#)

July 26, 2010 - A letter on the matters of privacy, security and civic duty.

[Open Letter to Industry Minister Tony Clement – Part 3 of 3](#)

July 27, 2010 - A letter on the matters of honour and integrity.

