

# PETITION FOR RELEASE OF HISTORIC CENSUS RECORDS TO THE PUBLIC TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

**We, the undersigned Citizens (or Residents) of Canada bring to the attention of the House the following:**

**Whereas:** 240 years of Historic Census records up to 1906 currently reside in the National Archives of Canada and are available to public access without condition or restriction of any kind;

**And Whereas:** The *National Archives Act* clearly states the *National Archivist* shall determine what records of Government are of archival or historical value and that shall be deposited in the National Archives;

**And Whereas:** The *National Archivist* has determined not only that Census schedules are of archival and historical value, but they are in fact a National Treasure;

**And Whereas:** Current legislation, specifically the *Access to Information and Privacy Acts*, and *Regulations* attached thereto, clearly states that personal information collected through Census may be made available to any person or body for purposes of research, 92 years after collection;

**And Whereas:** The *Chief Statistician of Canada*, in refusing to return care and control of Historic Census Records to the *National Archivist*, has acted in deliberate contravention of the above mentioned Statutes;

**Therefore:** Your petitioners call upon the Government of Canada to immediately direct the *Chief Statistician of Canada* to return care and control of schedules of Historic Census to the *National Archivist* for subsequent public access in accordance with the *Access to Information and Privacy Acts*; and

**Further:** That continued public access of Historic Census Records, without condition or restriction, be ensured by the addition to the *Statistics Act* of a single clause, similar to the following;

“Original schedules of Census or authentic copies thereof shall, not later than thirty (30) years following collection, be transferred to the care and control of the *National Archivist* for subsequent public access in accordance with provisions of the *Access to Information and Privacy Acts*, and *Regulations* attached thereto.”

**Signatures collected at** \_\_\_\_\_ **by** \_\_\_\_\_

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**TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED**

Your petitioners call upon the Government of Canada to immediately direct the *Chief Statistician of Canada* to return care and control of schedules of Historic Census to the *National Archivist* for subsequent public access in accordance with the *Access to Information* and *Privacy Acts*; and

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