

PETITION FOR RELEASE OF HISTORIC CENSUS RECORDS TO THE PUBLIC TO THE SENATE OF CANADA IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

We, the undersigned Citizens (or Residents) of Canada bring to the attention of the Senate 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 _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

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