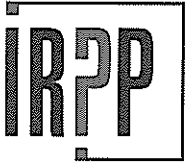


*Mel Cappe, President and CEO
Président et Chef de la direction*

July 12, 2010



*Institute for
Research on
Public Policy*

*Institut de
recherche
en politiques
publiques*

The Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
111 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister,

I know that you, as a policy-interested citizen and a former member of the Board of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, appreciate the importance of the reliability of the data that goes into problem identification, policy analysis and policy development. It is for that reason that the compulsory long form of the Census is so important and should be preserved.

The relatively reliable, long time series of detailed census data is an invaluable public good in showing who we are as a country, how we are changing, what issues are important for government and how policy can sometimes help improve the lot in life of Canadians. Moreover, the private sector finds this data an invaluable resource for marketing and for product development and design.

I fully understand the concern of your Government regarding the coercive nature of the census and the need to balance obligation of the citizen with exigent requirements of the state. However, I must say that in this case, the balance seems clearly to be on the side of preserving the long form census as a public good.

From your days on the IRPP Board you will recall how valuable "provoking policy debate" is and how important it is to base that debate on evidence. And I as a former Clerk of the Privy Council wholeheartedly agree.

I would be very pleased to meet with you to discuss further how Canadians from all walks of life depend on a robust extensive census. And I do hope you will reconsider your Government's policy on this and find a different way to balance the modest intrusiveness of the census against its enormous value.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel Cappe', written in a cursive style.

Mel Cappe