

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

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*Institute for
Research on
Public Policy*

*Institut de
recherche
en politiques
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The Honourable Tony Clement
Minister of Industry
Industry Canada
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H5

Dear Minister,

I want to convey to you how important I believe the continuation of a robust, reliable, and thus compulsory long form of the census is.

I believe that the Government's objective of trying to minimize the burden, intrusiveness and coercion embodied in the way we have done it in the past is laudable. But unless there can be a reliable way of assuring coverage and randomness, the benefits of the compulsory census far outweigh the costs.

I expect that I shall be compelled, once every twenty-five years to have to fill in the long form as part of that twenty per cent of the population. That is a very low level of compulsion and burden and one that is far overwhelmed by the benefits of knowing who we are as a country, what our problems are and how possible solutions might affect us.

I attach a copy of the letter I sent to the Prime Minister on this.

I would be very pleased to meet you to discuss further this important issue.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel Cappe', is written over a printed name.

Mel Cappe

encl.