

University of Waterloo  
Faculty of Environment  
School of Planning, Attention: Association of Graduate Planners  
University Avenue West Waterloo  
Waterloo ON, N2L 3G1

July 16, 2010

Mr. Peter Braid  
Member of Parliament, Kitchener-Waterloo Riding  
House of Commons  
Room 911, Justice  
Ottawa ON, K1A 0A6

Copies to: Mr. Tony Clement

Dear Mr. Peter Braid:

**Re: Cancellation of the Federal Census Long Form**

On behalf of the Association of Graduate Planners at the University of Waterloo, it is with great concern that I write you in response to the Federal government's recent decision to forego the mandatory long form for the 2011 Federal Census. I also find the lack of transparency and public consultation in the Conservative's motion to remove the mandatory long form particularly alarming.

As I'm sure you are aware, many of the Federal and Provincial objectives such as economic incubation, improved access to higher levels of education, diversification of local markets and the recruitment and retention of a highly skilled immigrant workforce, play out at the municipal level. In fact, you speak to many of these objectives in your vision for the riding of Kitchener-Waterloo as stated on your website. However, by removing the mandatory long census form, the Conservative party is crippling research initiatives to monitor, evaluate and improve upon the socioeconomic conditions of our communities.

The voluntary nature of the new form will likely translate into fewer complete responses and a greater chance for bias in the numbers recorded. Some groups of Canadians may be more or less inclined to fill out the National Household Survey. This has tremendous ramifications for statistical analysis including difficulties in achieving statistical validity and the inability to temporally compare consistent data. Without a consistent methodology in census data collection, researchers lose the ability to link data and extract trends between census years.

In the best interest of the Kitchener-Waterloo riding and communities across the Country, the Association of Graduate Planners strongly urges the Federal government to overturn this unilateral decision.

Sincerely,



Brad Bradford, M.E.S. Planning Candidate  
2010 Co-President  
Association of Graduate Planners  
University of Waterloo

