



## **The long-form census is back, it's online — and this time, it's mandatory**

Statistics Canada today officially begins mailing out access codes so Canadians can prepare to complete the 2016 census online — either the regular or the newly restored long-form version — next week.

Census Day is May 10, but Statistics Canada is encouraging Canadians to complete their census forms as soon as they receive them.

The letters will provide a 16-digit access code to allow households to complete the census online, but also gives Canadians the option of having a paper version mailed to their homes.

The census collects demographic information on every person living in Canada. That information is then used by governments, businesses, associations, community organizations and others to make important decisions at the municipal, provincial and the federal levels. Results from the census are also used to help inform payment allocation at all levels of government.

One in four randomly selected households in Canada will receive the 36-page long-form questionnaire known as the National Household Survey, while the remainder of Canadians will receive the 10-question short version. Both are mandatory.

Under Section 31 of the Statistics Act, the consequence for failing to provide information to a mandatory census or falsely answering is liable to a summary conviction carrying a fine of up to \$500, imprisonment of up to three months, or both.

More at: <http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/politics/mandatory-census-mail-out-1.3557511>

## **Canadians show 'enthusiasm' for return of long-form census**

Statistics Canada said it had received about 700,000 online completed forms on the first day of mailing out the 2016 census letters, and that by the end of Tuesday, it expected to see between 1.5 million and two million completed questionnaires.

The agency said it is still “following up” to determine why its census site crashed for 45 minutes on Monday evening, though it noted it is thankful to Canadians for their “enthusiasm” in completing the census online.

Google Canada, meanwhile, said searches about this year’s census rose by more than 3,000 per cent on Monday night compared with 24 hours earlier. The top questions people asked were: “What is a census?” and “What happens if you don’t fill out the census in Canada?”

More than 15 million households across Canada received their census notices in the mail this week, and for the first time in a decade, the mandatory long-form component is back. A quarter of households are getting the longer version.

More at: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/canadians-show-enthusiasm-for-return-of-long-form-census/article29846752/>

### **Canada's 'enthusiasm' for census brings down StatsCan website**

<http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/trending/census-2016-nerds-1.3563808>

### **Census website interruption being investigated, StatsCan says**

<http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/politics/census-2016-service-interruption-1.3563905>