

Wednesday, July 20th, 2010

The Hon. Tony Clement, PC, MP
Minister of Industry
235 Queen Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

Dear Minister Clement,

We are writing to you on behalf of the Anglican Church of Canada in support of Marcel Lauzière's (Imagine Canada) July 20th letter urging you to reconsider the decision to replace the long-form census survey with a voluntary household survey.

We also want to take this opportunity to express our concern that such a decision could, in the long term, adversely impact valuable services to individuals and communities across our country. As Mr. Lauzière points out, many charities and nonprofits rely on census data to develop programs and services that respond to the economic, social, environmental and cultural challenges that face communities across Canada. As you are well aware, a great deal of the charitable work carried out in this country is done in support of the sick, the poor, the marginalized, and on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who are in dire need of a loving human response on a daily basis.

In spiritual terms this loving human response comes by the Grace of God, but in practical terms it is emboldened and upheld by reliable information and sound methodologies that are pillars of our social infrastructure. The Anglican Church of Canada recognizes the power our country's statistical information has to help transform thought into action in profound and life giving ways. Indeed to potentially compromise the integrity of a system – one that is recognized as global leader - without a broad consultation with other levels of government, nonprofits and the private sector seems unnecessarily risky, particularly when greater social goods are at stake.

We thank you for your attention to this letter and we look forward to receiving your reply.

Sincerely,

The Ven. Michael Pollesel
General Secretary

The Ven. John M. Robertson
National Gift Planning Officer