

Brian Masse
Member of Parliament
(Windsor West)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

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February 2, 2015

Valoree McKay, CAE
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Dear Ms. McKay,

Thank you for taking the time to write to me about Bill C-626, Ted Hsu's bill to re-instate the mandatory long-form census. I agree that the mandatory long-form census is essential to government policy-making, social science and humanities research, and provincial and municipal planning, among other valuable uses. New Democrats have been very supportive of Statistics Canada, including putting forward our own bill in 2011 that also called for the reinstatement of the mandatory, long-form census.

Leading up to our 2011 bill, New Democrats were very vocal in our defense of Statistics Canada and the long-form census. Before the long-form portion of the census was eliminated in 2010, we fought tooth and nail to prevent its elimination. Our MP for London – Fanshawe, Irene Mathysen, successfully fought to study the impact of the cancellation of the mandatory long-form census in committee, also in 2010. Ms. Mathysen introduced a motion in 2011 calling on the House and the Government to re-instate the long-form census in accordance with the 2006 census.

In 2011, I tabled a bill before Mr. Hsu's current bill, Bill C-346. My bill was the first to call for a search committee for the Chief Statistician. It also contained important measures to decrease the amount of Ministerial interference which Mr. Hsu's bill does not contain. Further, my bill set a higher threshold for the number of households sampled in the mandatory census, and contained a provision to ensure that future censuses are comparable over time. Mr. Hsu's bill calls for neither of these two important changes.

Despite my concerns with Mr. Hsu's bill, my colleagues and I will be supporting Bill C-626. We will continue to follow this bill closely and may propose any necessary amendments to the legislation in the coming months to ensure it is the best bill for Canadians.



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Thank you again for taking the time to write to me on this important issue. If you would like to follow the work that my NDP colleagues and I are doing on this and other important issues, please visit: www.ndp.ca. If you would like to see the work that I am doing on behalf of Windsor West please visit: www.brianmasse.ca. Stay in touch.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Masse". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Masse MP
Windsor West