

## Valoree McKay

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**From:** ralph.goodale@parl.gc.ca  
**Sent:** March-11-15 1:45 PM  
**To:** Valoree McKay  
**Subject:** FW: The Canadian Library Association and Bill C-625 (EN/FR)  
**Attachments:** CLA\_C-625\_letterof support\_FINAL.pdf; CLA\_C-625\_letterof support\_FINAL\_FR-CA.pdf

Dear Ms. McKay,

Thank you for your email calling for the reinstatement of the long form census.

In 2011, Stephen Harper replaced the traditional long form census with a voluntary survey that actually costs taxpayers more—\$22 million more—and produces inferior data. Its numbers were unusable for 25% of our towns and weren't comparable to past surveys.

Worse still, groups like rural residents, the poor and youth were undercounted because of low response rates. That bias not only compromised the census, but it damaged other surveys which rely on census data to correct their sampling.

These errors make it harder for businesses to understand markets, governments to deliver services and researchers to get facts.

The census is used to design better public transit through its data on commuting patterns. It helps determine where religious groups, minorities and immigrants live, which tells us what services and businesses could succeed in their neighbourhoods. It is the only source of data on small communities' skill needs and labour shortages.

Groups like the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the Canadian Medical Association have been calling for a fix.

That's why Liberal MP Ted Hsu proposed C-626 to restore the long form census. It would have saved money and produced better data for everyone. His bill also would have ensured the census produces quality data that is comparable over time, and empowers the Chief Statistician to protect the integrity of the survey design and data collection process.

It is deeply disappointing that the Conservative caucus recently defeated C-626. We need to restore the long form census so that Canadians can get the basic data that is essential to good planning, and so we can stop paying more for less.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph Goodale, MP  
Wascana

March 11, 2015.

Dear Member of Parliament,