

Communications Office
Peterborough County-City Health Unit
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Peterborough's Medical Officer of Health appeals to MP Del Mastro to save the long-form Census

Friday, July 23, 2010, Peterborough

Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Peterborough's Medical Officer of Health, has voiced her concern over the recent federal decision to make the long-form 2011 census questionnaire a voluntary, rather than mandatory component of the national data collecting exercise.

In letters sent today to Peterborough MP Dean Del Mastro, Minister of Industry Tony Clement, and Prime Minister Harper, Dr. Pellizzari stated "It is my strong belief that the decision to replace the census long-form with a voluntary household survey should be reversed. If local boards of health are to make evidence-based decisions for programs and services, the data contained on the long form are absolutely essential and cannot be replaced by a voluntary household survey."

Public Health is just one of the sectors advocating for a reversal in the recent decision. In a letter released July 19, a coalition of CEOs and Chairs of 23 organizations representing a wide spectrum of social and economic interests, urged the federal government not to abandon the obligation for recipients to complete the Canadian census long-form questionnaire. The letter points out the importance of census data to social and economic policy formulation and decision-making and the implications of the federal government's decision on the reliability and utility of the data collected. This letter can be viewed at: cpha.ca/uploads/media/20100719census.pdf

"Without the information collected through the mandatory long-form of the census, it would not be possible to understand the needs of the Ontario population, especially among the most vulnerable sub-populations which will be systematically underestimated using a voluntary household survey." Dr. Pellizzari wrote in her letter today.

NEWS RELEASE

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Dr. Pellizzari has requested a meeting with MP Dean Del Mastro to discuss this matter. She is encouraging others to do the same.

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For further information, please contact:

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