



The Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario (Incorporated 1982)

Chris Munn, ASPHEO President  
Grey Bruce Health Unit  
101 17<sup>th</sup> Street East  
Owen Sound ON N4K 0A5

July 23, 2010

**The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister**

Office of the Prime Minister  
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**The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry**

C.D. Howe Building  
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Dear Leaders:

**Re: Open letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper regarding the Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario (ASPHEO), support for your government's re-establishment of the mandatory reporting of the long form (Form 2-B) of the Census**

The Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario (ASPHEO) and members across the province promote and protect the health and safety of our citizens through many evidence based program activities. These include: food safety, infectious disease control, safe water, indoor/outdoor air quality, housing, rural and urban planning, health hazard prevention and management, and health emergency planning.

Like your ministries, we must make quick decisions based on the best available information. Often pertinent information that was not forthcoming, when the decision had to be made, comes available. In these cases, the new information is weighed and decisions are altered in the best interests of the population impacted. We therefore respect your need to make decisions based on best available information and appreciate the fact

that it is often difficult to get timely input from key stakeholders. These expert groups are now providing input. You now have the support required to re-instate the need for mandatory reporting of the long form of the census.

It is apparent that the special interest groups that were claiming breaches in privacy were mistaken in their assumptions. Like the taxation process, security of private census related information is optimal. The positive impact of the mandatory long-form in support of disenfranchised groups and healthy public policy is over whelming and the loss of this high quality information would undermine our ability to achieve evidence informed practice. ASPHIO members use these census data routinely for population health assessment, program and service planning, program evaluation and the identification of priority populations for intervention.

ASPHIO supports your evidence based approach to decision making and your prerogative to reassess the expert information you have now been provided in support of mandatory reporting of the long form of the census.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Munn', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher Munn. B.A., CPHI (C),  
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