

**DATE:** March 27, 2001

**TO:** Chairman and Members of the Planning and Development Committee

**FROM:** Thomas S. Mokrzycki, Commissioner of Planning and Building

**SUBJECT:** **2001 Census of Canada**  
**MEETING DATE: April 17, 2001**

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**ORIGIN:** Planning and Building Department

**BACKGROUND:** The 2001 Census of Canada will be conducted on May 15, 2001 by Statistics Canada. Attached under separate cover is a document titled "*2001 Census Questions and the Reasons Why the Questions Are Asked*" and lists the questions that will be asked in the upcoming census.

**COMMENTS:** Census taking in Canada has a long history. In 1605 Roman Catholic missionaries took the first population count in Port Royal, in what is today Nova Scotia. A more comprehensive census occurred in New France over the winter of 1665-1666 when Jean Talon initiated a door-to-door enumeration of the inhabitants of the colony of New France. Like modern censuses, Talon collected economic and social information that, in addition to providing statistics regarding the characteristics of the population and their well-being, could also be used to develop policy. For example, Talon found that men outnumbered women almost two to one, so single women aged 15 to 30 were encouraged to immigrate (more than 900 did between 1665 and 1673), penalties were imposed on single men, and early marriages and large families were rewarded.

The census scheduled for May 15, 2001 will be Canada's 19<sup>th</sup> national census. The *Constitution Act* requires that a census be taken every 10 year (in years ending in '1') to determine representation in the House of Commons. Since 1956, under the mandate of the *Statistics Act*, a census has also been conducted in years ending in '6' to monitor the country's rapid post-war economic growth and urbanization. Data from these censuses provides critical information used in many social programs and are used to determine, among other things, Federal-Provincial transfer payments.

In municipalities such as Mississauga, census data provide critical information regarding population growth and provide a portrait of the population that is used in forecasting future growth and in various planning studies. Obtaining a comprehensive census count is important to Mississauga, and for this reason the City is participating in a new program being piloted by Statistics Canada. A "Complete Count Committee" has been established in Mississauga and selected other cities. The members of the committee include city staff as well as staff from various agencies in Mississauga and Peel (see Exhibit 1). The purpose of the committee is to work with Statistics Canada staff to ensure that the census in Mississauga will be as complete as possible.

The attached document titled "*2001 Census Questions and the Reasons Why the Questions Are Asked*" lists the questions that will be asked in the upcoming census. Eighty per cent of residents will receive a "short form" questionnaire that will include questions 1 to 6 and question 16. Twenty per cent of residents will receive a "long form" questionnaire which will include all 51 questions.

Three questions not previously asked will be included in the 2001 Census. Birthplace of parents will be asked to provide information on how children of immigrants are integrating into Canadian society. A language of work question will help assess the linguistic integration of immigrants in the labour market. A question regarding same-sex partners will also be asked and

provide information for, among other uses, some provincial and municipal legislation and some private sector insurance plans.

Data from the 2001 census are scheduled for release starting in April 2002 when population counts will be available. Further releases will occur between July 2002 and May 2003.

**CONCLUSION:**

The next Census of Canada will occur on May 15, 2001 and will provide critical information regarding population growth and a portrait of the population that is used in forecasting future growth and in various planning studies. Data from the 2001 Census will be released between April 2002 and May 2003.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the report titled "*2001 Census of Canada*", dated March 27, 2001, from the Commissioner of Planning and Building be received for information.

*Original Signed By:*

Thomas S. Mokrzycki  
Commissioner of Planning and Building