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 Tel: 613-995-7813  
 Fax: 613-992-9789

David Tilson

Member of Parliament for Dufferin—Caledon  
[www.davidtilson.ca](http://www.davidtilson.ca)

Regional Municipality of Peel  
 Office of the Regional Chair

Bolton

Hoptcroft Plaza  
 12596 Highway 50  
 Bolton, Ontario  
 L7E 1T6  
 Tel: 905-857-6080  
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 August 12, 2010

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RECEIVED

Mr. Emil Kolb  
 Chair, Region of Peel  
 10 Peel Centre Drive, Suite A  
 Brampton ON L6T 4B9

Dear Mr. Kolb, *Emil*

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the government's decision to replace the mandatory long-form census with the new voluntary National Household Survey. I appreciate hearing your views on this matter.

The government's reason for replacing the mandatory census with a voluntary national survey is clear. Put simply, the government feels it is not appropriate to coerce Canadians to divulge extensive private and personal information by threatening them with fines and/or jail time for not completing the 40 page census long-form. The changes we have made simply eliminate the penalties associated with non-completion of the questions on the new National Household Survey. Interestingly, if you review the comments shared with the members of the Industry Committee during their hearing on July 27, many suggested that very course of action.

The data collected through the former long-form census will now be collected through a new voluntary National Household Survey. The questions that will be asked in the new Survey are identical to the questions that would have been asked in the mandatory long-form census. In addition, while the long-form census was sent to 20% of Canadian households, the new National Household Survey will be sent to 33% of households.

This fair and reasonable approach is about finding a better balance between collecting necessary data and protecting the privacy rights of Canadians.

Once again, I appreciate you sharing your concerns with me on this important issue.

Sincerely,

*David Tilson*  
 David Tilson, Q.C., M.P.  
 Dufferin-Caledon

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