



Statistics Statistique
Canada Canada

Ottawa, Canada
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www.statcan.gc.ca

July 21, 2020

Subject: Planning for the 2021 Census of Population

Dear Chief,

In the current context of COVID-19, these are difficult times and I hope that you and your community are doing as well as possible.

I am writing to share important information about the 2021 Census of Population and to seek your support and collaboration in order to make it a success. The census is conducted every five years and it gathers important information that helps communities effectively plan and make informed, evidence-based decisions. From the 2016 Census we saw that Indigenous people are younger than average (32.1 years old) and also aging (7.3% were aged 65 years and older). Information such as this can help support planning in your community.

During this unique time that we are facing, the health and safety of your community is our primary concern. Therefore, for the 2021 Census, it is our goal to hire a record number of Indigenous people, working in every Indigenous community to collect the data. Not only will this ensure the health and safety of your community, but it will also maximize the knowledge and expertise of residents within your community by hiring and providing opportunities to local enumerators. Additionally, new for the 2021 Census, residents of Indigenous communities will be able to complete their census questionnaires on-line.

Statistics Canada recognizes that gaining your support, and the support of your Council and community, is essential to the successful conduct of the census. We hope to build the partnerships that will allow for full, local enumeration in each community. In addition, we are guided by the government's commitment to a renewed relationship with Indigenous peoples, based on rights, respect, cooperation and partnerships.

Since the 1980's, Statistics Canada has worked in partnership with Indigenous communities and established a successful Indigenous Liaison Advisor Program. We have further invested in increasing the capacity of this program and the Indigenous Liaison Advisors will be reaching out to answer your specific questions in the coming weeks on the 2021 census.

I look forward to partnering with you to ensure that you as a community leader have the data you need to make evidence-based decisions.

Sincerely,

Anil Arora
Chief Statistician of Canada

cc: Band Administrator
encl: List of Indigenous Liaison Advisors