



Statistics Canada

Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (1996 Representation Order)

Reference Guide



STATISTICS CANADA

GEO

STATISTIQUE CANADA



Statistics
Canada

Statistique
Canada

Canada 

**Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File
(1996 Representation Order)
User Guide**

**Updated File Including
October 1999 Postal Codes**

**Produced by the Geography Division
Statistics Canada
January 2000**

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is intended for users of the Postal Code/Federal Riding file. It includes an overview of the file and its intended use, a description of the general methodology used to create the file and of the data quality and limitations of the file contents. A record layout of the fields in the file and a glossary of the terms used in this document are also included.

This guide is based on the best information available at the time of its release. It in no way constitutes a warranty in the event that users should observe characteristics that deviate from those stated in this document.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1 OVERVIEW.....	4
1.1 Introduction.....	4
1.2 Purpose of the Postal Code/1996 Federal Riding File	4
2 DATA QUALITY STATEMENT	5
2.1 Introduction.....	5
2.2 Lineage.....	6
2.2.1 Source Files.....	6
2.2.2 Method of Derivation.....	6
2.3 Logical Consistency.....	7
2.4 Attribute Accuracy.....	7
2.5 Completeness.....	8
3 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS.....	9
3.1 Physical Medium Description.....	9
3.2 Record Layout	9
4 POSTAL CODE/1996 FEDERAL RIDING FILE GLOSSARY OF TERMS	10
APPENDIX "A".....	11

POSTAL CODE/1996 FEDERAL RIDING FILE

1 OVERVIEW

1.1 Introduction

The postal code/1996 federal riding file is a digital file, which provides a link between the six character postal code and Canada's federal ridings. The current version of the postal code/federal riding file links 734,966 postal code records, existing as of October 1999, to the 301 federal ridings.

The official term for a federal riding or constituency is federal electoral district (FED). Elections Canada defines a federal electoral district as any place or territorial area entitled to return a member of Parliament (MP) to serve in the House of Commons. FED legal limits and descriptions are the responsibility of the Chief Electoral Officer, and are usually revised every 10 years after the results of the decennial census. There are 301 FEDs based on the 1996 Representation Order, the most recent revision of the federal riding limits.¹

1.2 Purpose of the Postal Code /1996 Federal Riding File

The postal code/1996 federal riding file was conceived as a tool for use with administrative files containing postal codes. By using the postal code as a link, data from administrative files may be organized and/or tabulated by federal riding. Using this tool, federal government departments will be able to respond more quickly and easily to MPs requests for information about their ridings. For example, the number and value of contracts awarded to a particular riding could be summarized. The ridings where petition signatories reside could also be identified in order to notify the appropriate Members of Parliament. Conversely, the postal codes for a given riding could be identified for general mailings to constituents; however, it should be noted that some postal codes do straddle one or more riding boundary. Before using this file, users should first familiarize themselves with the information provided in the following section on data quality.

¹ Note that the terms "federal riding" and "federal electoral district" or "FED" are used interchangeably in this user guide.

2 DATA QUALITY STATEMENT

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of a data quality statement is to provide detailed information for users to evaluate the appropriateness of the data or product for a particular use.

Before using the postal code/1996 federal riding file with administrative files containing postal codes, users should be aware of some characteristics of postal codes that may affect their linkage to federal ridings on the postal code/federal riding file:

- 1) postal delivery areas do not always respect federal riding boundaries;
- 2) postal codes may be associated with post office boxes at a postal station that is not in the same riding as the client using the post office box;
- 3) Canada Post Corporation regularly retires postal codes and may also reactivate retired codes for use again.
- 4) Inclusion or exclusion of postal codes in a federal riding.

In the first case, a postal delivery area (as represented by the six-digit postal code) may straddle one or more federal riding boundaries, which means that, in the postal code/1996 federal riding file, the same postal code may be linked to two or more (adjacent) federal ridings. Most ridings are affected in this way in both urban and rural areas. Refer to section 2.3 *Logical Consistency* in this guide for further details.

In the second case, the postal code linkage to the federal riding is based on the mailing address information, and therefore it is the physical location of the post office that is linked to the riding rather than the ultimate destination of mail delivery - the residential, industrial or commercial location of the client renting a post office box - which could be located in another riding.

In the third case, users of the postal code/1996 federal riding file must keep in mind that the file contains only the postal codes from Canada Post that were active as of October 1999. If the addresses in a user's administrative file are not updated to October 1999, there may be non-matches with the postal code/federal riding file because some of the postal codes in the user's file may have been retired, or may even have been reactivated and re-assigned by Canada Post to another range of addresses outside the riding where they had previously been used. Statistics Canada maintains an audit trail of the "birth" dates and "retirement" dates of postal codes in the Postal Code Conversion File. Users may wish to contact their nearest Regional Reference Centre (addresses given at the end of this user guide) where detailed information about the Postal Code Conversion File is available in the *Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF) User Guide, Updated File including October 1999 Postal Codes* produced by the Geography Division, Statistics Canada, January 2000.

In the fourth case, postal codes are given the representative point co-ordinates of a block-face or of an enumeration area. Where a 1996 Federal Electoral District boundary splits a 1996 EA or block-face, the postal codes linked to that EA or block-face are included in the federal riding in which their co-ordinates fall.

A description of how the postal code/federal riding file was produced and statements about its data

quality (under the headings: lineage, logical consistency, attribute accuracy and completeness) follow.

2.2 Lineage

Lineage includes descriptions of the source material from which the data were derived and the methods of derivation, including the dates of the source material and all transformations involved in producing the final digital product.

2.2.1 Source Files

Two existing products of the Geography Division at Statistics Canada have been used to derive the postal code/1996 federal riding file:

- 1) January 2000 Postal Code Conversion File, which links postal codes (provided by Canada Post Corporation on the Postal Code Address Master File, updated to October 1999) to codes for all 1996 Census geographic areas, including province (PR) codes and federal electoral district (FED) codes and to geographic point co-ordinates representing the postal codes. The January 2000 postal code conversion file contains over 930,000 postal code records linked to the geographical areas used in the 1996 Census. These geographical areas have a reference date of January 1, 1996.
- 2) The **Federal Electoral District (FED) Names File**, which contains the official name of each federal riding (based on the 1996 Representation Order) and its associated identification code.

2.2.2 Method of Derivation

The postal code/1996 federal riding file was created by merging a subset of the January 2000 postal code conversion file with the federal electoral district names file using the federal electoral district code as the common field which exists on both of the source files.

The subset of the postal code conversion file was created by extracting unique occurrences of postal codes linked to a federal electoral district. Then all records representing retired postal codes within each federal electoral district were identified and deleted. The resulting postal code/1996 federal riding file contains 734,966 postal code records of which 729,628 are unique links to one federal electoral district. In total, 2,631 postal codes (5,338 records) are linked to from 2 to 4 federal electoral districts (further details are provided in section 2.3 below). The number of postal code records by federal electoral district is provided in Appendix "A".

2.3 Logical Consistency

Logical consistency describes the fidelity of relationships encoded in the data structure of the digital spatial data (i.e., how well elements of the data structure follow the rules imposed on them).

Of the 734,966 postal codes found on this file, there are 729,628 postal codes uniquely linked to one federal riding and 2,631 postal codes that are linked to two or more federal ridings. The following table summarizes them.

Postal codes linked to 2 or more Federal Ridings

Number of Federal Ridings	Number of postal codes	Number of records on postal code/federal riding file
2	2,558	5,116
3	70	210
4	3	12
Total	2,631	5,338

2.4 Attribute Accuracy

Attribute accuracy refers to the quality of the non-positional information attached to each postal code.

The attribute accuracy of the postal code/1996 federal riding file is dependent on the accuracy of the postal code conversion file used as a data source. Please refer to the Postal Code Conversion File User Guide for further details.

2.5 Completeness

Completeness expresses the degree to which the geographic entities (features) are captured according to the data capture specifications.

Completeness in the context of the PCFR is the degree to which all valid postal codes are accounted for. All postal codes, valid as of October 1999 according to Canada Post Corporation, have been linked to census geography.

The Federal Electoral District Names file contains 301 records, one for each federal electoral district (1996 Representation Order).

The final digital files contain the following number of records:

Filename	Number of records
PCFREAST_OCT99.EXE (Atlantic provinces)	78,380
PCFRQUE_OCT99.EXE (Quebec)	184,314
PCFRONT_OCT99.EXE (Ontario)	251,165
PCFRWEST_OCT99.EXE (Prairie provinces, N.W.T. and Nunavut)	114,212
PCFRBC_OCT99.EXE (B.C. & Yukon)	109,895
PCFRNAT_OCT99.EXE (Canada)	734,966

3 TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

3.1 Physical Medium Description

The PCFR is a flat ASCII file and does not include any software.

3.2 Record Layout

The record layout for the postal code/1996 federal riding file follows:

Field	Size	Position	Type	Title
1	6	1-6	AN	Postal Code
2	5	7-11	AN	Federal riding (FED) code
3	56	12-68	AN	English Federal riding (FED) name
4	56	69-125	AN	French Federal riding (FED) name

4 POSTAL CODE/FEDERAL RIDING FILE GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Federal Riding or Federal Electoral District (FED)

A federal electoral district is any place or territorial area entitled to return a member to serve in the House of Commons. FED legal limits and descriptions are the responsibility of the Chief Electoral Officer, and are usually revised every 10 years after the results of the decennial census. The 1996 Representation Order is the most current revision, and is based on 1991 Census population data.

Postal Code

The postal code is a six-character alphanumeric code defined and maintained by Canada Post Corporation for the processing (sortation and delivery) of mail.

The alphanumeric characters are arranged in the form ANA NAN, where "A" represents a letter of the alphabet and "N" a numeric digit. The first character of a postal code (allocated in alphabetic sequence from east to west across Canada) represents a province or territory or a major sector entirely within a province.

The first three characters represent a set of well-defined and stable areas known as the Forward Sortation Area (FSA). Rural FSAs are identifiable by the presence of a "0" in the second position of the FSA code.

The last three characters identify the Local Delivery Unit (LDU). In established urban areas, the LDU can specify a small and easily defined area within an FSA such as block-face (one side of a city street between consecutive intersections with streets or similar physical features), an apartment building, an office building, or a large firm or organization which does large volume business with the post office. In rural areas, the LDU denotes a service area - the area serviced by rural route delivery from a post office or station, e.g., a rural route, general delivery or post office box.

Province (PROV)

The major political division of Canada. From a statistical point of view, it is a basic unit for which data are tabulated and cross-classified. The province codes are: **10** - Newfoundland and Labrador, **11** - Prince Edward Island, **12** - Nova Scotia, **13** - New Brunswick, **24** - Quebec, **35** - Ontario, **46** - Manitoba, **47** - Saskatchewan, **48** - Alberta, **59** - British Columbia.

Territory (TERR)

Two major political divisions of Canada, namely the Yukon Territory and Northwest Territories. From a statistical point of view, these territories are equivalent to a province, i.e., a basic unit for which data are tabulated and cross-classified. The territory codes are: **60** - Yukon, **61** - Northwest Territories, and **62** - Nunavut.

APPENDIX A:

**POSTAL CODE / 1996 FEDERAL RIDING FILE
NUMBER OF POSTAL CODES (or PCs) PER FEDERAL RIDING (or FED)**

PR/FED	FEDERAL RIDING NAMES	# OF PCs
10001	Bonavista - Trinity - Conception	152
10002	Burin - St. George's	534
10003	Gander - Grand Falls	739
10004	Humber - St. Barbe - Baie Verte	1133
10005	Labrador	365
10006	St. John's East	2226
10007	St. John's West	2085
11001	Cardigan	71
11002	Egmont	908
11003	Hillsborough	1775
11004	Malpeque	43
12001	Bras d'Or - Cape Breton	1336
12002	Cumberland - Colchester	1677
12003	Dartmouth	2866
12004	Halifax	3098
12005	Halifax West	2440
12006	Kings - Hants	795
12007	Pictou - Antigonish - Guysborough	1209
12008	Sackville - Musquodoboit Valley - Eastern Shore	1318
12009	South Shore	549
12010	Sydney - Victoria	3481
12011	West Nova	668
13001	Acadie - Bathurst	4794
13002	Beauséjour - Petitcodiac	1624
13003	New Brunswick Southwest	6730
13004	Fredericton	3407
13005	Fundy - Royal	6714
13006	Madawaska - Restigouche	4416
13007	Miramichi	3755
13008	Moncton - Riverview - Dieppe	4472
13009	Saint John	3596
13010	Tobique - Mactaquac	6404
24001	Abitibi - Baie-James - Nunavik	1727
24002	Ahuntsic	2466
24003	Anjou - Rivière-des-Prairies	2353
24004	Argenteuil - Papineau - Mirabel	1555
24005	Beauce	1835
24006	Beauharnois - Salaberry	2321
24007	Beauport - Montmorency - Côte-de-Beaupré - Île-d'Orléans	2770

24008	Bellechasse - Etchemins - Montmagny - L'Islet	701
24009	Berthier - Montcalm	47
24010	Bourassa	2000
24011	Brome - Missisquoi	2628
24012	Brossard - La Prairie	2479
24013	Chambly	3098
24014	Champlain	2742
24015	Charlesbourg	3436
24016	Charlevoix	1482
24017	Châteauguay	2245
24018	Chicoutimi	3330
24019	Compton - Stanstead	1107
24020	Drummond	3127
24021	Frontenac - Mégantic	1965
24022	Bonaventure - Gaspé - Îles-de-la-Madeleine - Pabok	642
24023	Gatineau	3921
24024	Hochelaga - Maisonneuve	1926
24025	Hull - Aylmer	3573
24026	Joliette	3174
24027	Jonquière	2874
24028	Kamouraska - Rivière-du-Loup - Témiscouata - Les Basques	1190
24029	Notre-Dame-de-Grâce - Lachine	2345
24030	Lac-Saint-Jean	1634
24031	Lac-Saint-Louis	4362
24032	LaSalle - Émard	1751
24033	Laurentides	3131
24034	Laurier - Sainte-Marie	2307
24035	Laval Centre	3252
24036	Laval East	3499
24037	Laval West	3417
24038	Lévis-et-Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	4273
24039	Longueuil	2215
24040	Lotbinière	850
24041	Louis-Hébert	3542
24042	Manicouagan	1336
24043	Matapédia - Matane	686
24044	Mercier	2757
24045	Mount Royal	2394
24046	Outremont	1622
24047	Papineau - Saint-Denis	1792
24048	Pierrefonds - Dollard	3036
24049	Pontiac - Gatineau - Labelle	2158
24050	Portneuf	1455
24051	Québec	4165
24052	Québec East	3966
24053	Repentigny	3539
24054	Bas-Richelieu - Nicolet - Bécancour	2209
24055	Richmond - Arthabaska	2690

24056	Rimouski - Mitis	2187
24057	Roberval	2625
24058	Rosemont	1779
24059	Témiscamingue	1628
24060	Rivière-des-Milles-Îles	3231
24061	Saint-Bruno - Saint-Hubert	2908
24062	Saint-Hyacinthe - Bagot	2069
24063	Saint-Jean	2661
24064	Saint-Lambert	2636
24065	Saint-Laurent - Cartierville	2521
24066	Saint-Léonard - Saint-Michel	1829
24067	Saint-Maurice	3286
24068	Shefford	2079
24069	Sherbrooke	3661
24070	Terrebonne - Blainville	3553
24071	Trois-Rivières	3239
24072	Vaudreuil - Soulanges	1945
24073	Verchères - Les-Patriotes	1765
24074	Verdun - Saint-Henri	1784
24075	Westmount - Ville-Marie	3831
35001	Algoma - Manitoulin	632
35002	Barrie - Simcoe - Bradford	2876
35003	Beaches - East York	2349
35004	Bramalea - Gore - Malton - Springdale	2707
35005	Brampton Centre	2119
35006	Brampton West - Mississauga	2665
35007	Brant	4122
35008	Broadview - Greenwood	1819
35009	Bruce - Grey	1692
35010	Burlington	3182
35011	Cambridge	3676
35012	Davenport	1562
35013	Don Valley East	1639
35014	Don Valley West	2328
35015	Dufferin - Peel - Wellington - Grey	1278
35016	Durham	1911
35017	Eglinton - Lawrence	2420
35018	Elgin - Middlesex - London	2551
35019	Erie - Lincoln	2263
35020	Essex	2401
35021	Etobicoke Centre	2630
35022	Etobicoke - Lakeshore	3385
35023	Etobicoke North	2139
35024	Glengarry - Prescott - Russell	895
35025	Carleton - Gloucester	2423
35026	Guelph - Wellington	3333
35027	Haldimand - Norfolk - Brant	1488
35028	Halton	3082

35029	Hamilton East	3444
35030	Hamilton Mountain	3236
35031	Hamilton West	3299
35032	Hastings - Frontenac - Lennox and Addington	784
35033	Huron - Bruce	985
35034	Kenora - Rainy River	1611
35035	Chatham - Kent Essex	2453
35036	Kingston and the Islands	3607
35037	Kitchener Centre	3183
35038	Kitchener - Waterloo	3621
35039	Lambton - Kent - Middlesex	1386
35040	Lanark - Carleton	3148
35041	Leeds - Grenville	1528
35042	London North Centre	3688
35043	London - Fanshawe	2437
35044	London West	2876
35045	Markham	3166
35046	Mississauga Centre	1953
35047	Mississauga East	1937
35048	Mississauga South	2782
35049	Mississauga West	2400
35050	Nepean - Carleton	2190
35051	Niagara Centre	3696
35052	Niagara Falls	3375
35053	Nickel Belt	748
35054	Nipissing	2184
35055	Northumberland	2347
35056	Oak Ridges	3289
35057	Oakville	3528
35058	Oshawa	3585
35059	Ottawa Centre	4127
35060	Ottawa South	3142
35061	Ottawa - Vanier	3224
35062	Ottawa West - Nepean	2977
35063	Oxford	2890
35064	Parkdale - High Park	1778
35065	Parry Sound - Muskoka	1039
35066	Perth - Middlesex	1809
35067	Peterborough	2934
35068	Pickering - Ajax - Uxbridge	2371
35069	Prince Edward - Hastings	1711
35070	Renfrew - Nipissing - Pembroke	2894
35071	Sarnia - Lambton	2803
35072	Sault Ste. Marie	2900
35073	Scarborough - Agincourt	1512
35074	Scarborough Centre	2507
35075	Scarborough East	1986
35076	Scarborough - Rouge River	2027
35077	Scarborough Southwest	2173

35078	Simcoe - Grey	932
35079	Simcoe North	2226
35080	St. Catharines	4029
35081	St. Paul's	2172
35082	Stoney Creek	2927
35083	Stormont - Dundas - Charlottenburgh	2141
35084	Sudbury	3051
35085	Thornhill	2759
35086	Thunder Bay - Atikokan	2051
35087	Thunder Bay - Superior North	2221
35088	Timiskaming - Cochrane	514
35089	Timmins - James Bay	1845
35090	Toronto Centre - Rosedale	2974
35091	Trinity - Spadina	2043
35092	Vaughan - King - Aurora	2961
35093	Haliburton - Victoria - Brock	955
35094	Waterloo - Wellington	1576
35095	Wentworth - Burlington	2578
35096	Whitby - Ajax	2953
35097	Willowdale	2551
35098	Windsor - St. Clair	3046
35099	Windsor West	4144
35100	York Centre	1936
35101	York North	2180
35102	York South - Weston	2101
35103	York West	1462
46001	Brandon - Souris	2044
46002	Charleswood St. James - Assiniboia	1979
46003	Churchill	747
46004	Dauphin - Swan River	697
46005	Portage - Lisgar	1225
46006	Provencher	232
46007	Saint Boniface	2359
46008	Selkirk - Interlake	780
46009	Winnipeg North Centre	2378
46010	Winnipeg Centre	2704
46011	Winnipeg South	2101
46012	Winnipeg South Centre	1955
46013	Winnipeg North - St. Paul	1801
46014	Winnipeg - Transcona	2238
47001	Battlefords - Lloydminster	1062
47002	Blackstrap	1691
47003	Churchill River	263
47004	Cypress Hills - Grasslands	1023
47005	Palliser	2682
47006	Prince Albert	1471
47007	Regina - Qu'Appelle	1774
47008	Regina - Lumsden - Lake Centre	1726

47009	Saskatoon - Humboldt	1378
47010	Saskatoon - Rosetown - Biggar	1726
47011	Souris - Moose Mountain	1179
47012	Wanuskewin	1799
47013	Wascana	2585
47014	Yorkton - Melville	802
48001	Athabasca	1438
48002	Calgary Centre	4957
48003	Calgary East	3306
48004	Calgary Northeast	3117
48005	Calgary - Nose Hill	3027
48006	Calgary Southeast	2682
48007	Calgary Southwest	2847
48008	Calgary West	3671
48009	Crowfoot	1065
48010	Edmonton East	4458
48011	Edmonton North	3161
48012	Edmonton Southeast	2859
48013	Edmonton Southwest	3117
48014	Edmonton - Strathcona	4403
48015	Edmonton West	4597
48016	Elk Island	2279
48017	Lakeland	1343
48018	Lethbridge	3322
48019	Macleod	651
48020	Medicine Hat	2703
48021	Peace River	1727
48022	Red Deer	2422
48023	St. Albert	2035
48024	Wetaskiwin	2017
48025	Wild Rose	1253
48026	Yellowhead	836
59001	Burnaby - Douglas	3383
59002	Cariboo - Chilcotin	1662
59003	Delta - South Richmond	4310
59004	Dewdney - Alouette	3348
59005	Esquimalt - Juan de Fuca	3299
59006	Fraser Valley	3433
59007	Kamloops, Thompson and Highland Valleys	2819
59008	Kelowna	4281
59009	Kootenay - Columbia	1430
59010	Langley - Abbotsford	3158
59011	Nanaimo - Alberni	3353
59012	Nanaimo - Cowichan	2788
59013	New Westminster - Coquitlam - Burnaby	3883
59014	Okanagan - Shuswap	2558
59015	North Vancouver	4301
59016	Okanagan - Coquihalla	1749
59017	Port Moody - Coquitlam - Port Coquitlam	3856

59018	Prince George - Bulkley Valley	2254
59019	Prince George - Peace River	3035
59020	Richmond	3224
59021	Saanich - Gulf Islands	3918
59022	Skeena	1735
59023	South Surrey - White Rock - Langley	3504
59024	Surrey Central	4012
59025	Surrey North	3380
59026	Vancouver Centre	3461
59027	Vancouver East	3548
59028	Vancouver Island North	2938
59029	Vancouver Kingsway	3133
59030	Vancouver Quadra	4195
59031	Vancouver South - Burnaby	3598
59032	Victoria	4562
59033	Kootenay - Boundary - Okanagan	2183
59034	West Vancouver - Sunshine Coast	2711
60001	Yukon	893
61002	Western Arctic	487
62001	Nunavut	31