



Statistics Canada

Postal Codes by Federal Ridings File (1996 Representation Order)

Reference Guide



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

**Updated File Including
June 2000 Postal Codes**

**Produced by the Geography Division
Statistics Canada
July 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.

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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 747,572 postal code records, existing as of June 2000, 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 June 2000. If the addresses in a user's administrative file are not updated to June 2000, 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 June 2000 Postal Codes* produced by the Geography Division, Statistics Canada, July 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) July 2000 Postal Code Conversion File, which links postal codes (provided by Canada Post Corporation on the Postal Code Address Master File, updated to June 2000) 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 July 2000 postal code conversion file contains over 945,000 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 July 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 747,572 postal code records of which 742,215 are unique links to one federal electoral district. In total, 2,640 postal codes (5,357 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 747,572 postal codes found on this file, there are 742,215 postal codes uniquely linked to one federal riding and 2,640 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	2,567	5,134
3	69	207
4	4	16
Total	2,640	5,357

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 June 2000 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_JUN00.EXE (Atlantic provinces)	84,329
PCFRQUE_JUN00.EXE (Quebec)	185,626
PCFRONT_JUN00.EXE (Ontario)	252,583
PCFRWEST_JUN00.EXE (Prairie provinces, N.W.T. and Nunavut)	114,784
PCFRBC_JUN00.EXE (B.C. & Yukon)	110,250
PCFRNAT_JUN00.EXE (Canada)	747,572

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	12-67	AN	English Federal riding (FED) name
4	56	68-123	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	535
10003	Gander - Grand Falls	741
10004	Humber - St. Barbe - Baie Verte	1124
10005	Labrador	366
10006	St. John's East	2234
10007	St. John's West	2087
11001	Cardigan	71
11002	Egmont	909
11003	Hillsborough	1785
11004	Malpeque	43
12001	Bras d'Or - Cape Breton	1336
12002	Cumberland - Colchester	1682
12003	Dartmouth	2876
12004	Halifax	3096
12005	Halifax West	2465
12006	Kings - Hants	799
12007	Pictou - Antigonish - Guysborough	1210
12008	Sackville - Musquodoboit Valley - Eastern Shore	1320
12009	South Shore	550
12010	Sydney - Victoria	3478
12011	West Nova	668
13001	Acadie - Bathurst	4814
13002	Beauséjour - Petitcodiac	9281
13003	New Brunswick Southwest	6760
13004	Fredericton	3426
13005	Fundy - Royal	7019
13006	Madawaska - Restigouche	4426
13007	Miramichi	4550
13008	Moncton - Riverview - Dieppe	4508
13009	Saint John	3600
13010	Tobique - Mactaquac	6418
24001	Abitibi - Baie-James - Nunavik	1725
24002	Ahuntsic	2468
24003	Anjou - Rivière-des-Prairies	2352
24004	Argenteuil - Papineau - Mirabel	1567
24005	Beauce	2351

24006	Beauharnois - Salaberry	2321
24007	Beauport - Montmorency - Côte-de-Beaupré - Île-d'Orléans	2781
24008	Bellechasse - Etchemins - Montmagny - L'Islet	703
24009	Berthier - Montcalm	47
24010	Bourassa	2002
24011	Brome - Missisquoi	2634
24012	Brossard - La Prairie	2493
24013	Chambly	3106
24014	Champlain	2747
24015	Charlesbourg	3440
24016	Charlevoix	1487
24017	Châteauguay	2244
24018	Chicoutimi	3328
24019	Compton - Stanstead	1112
24020	Drummond	3147
24021	Frontenac - Mégantic	1966
24022	Bonaventure - Gaspé - Îles-de-la-Madeleine - Pabok	642
24023	Gatineau	3926
24024	Hochelaga - Maisonneuve	1921
24025	Hull - Aylmer	3587
24026	Joliette	3194
24027	Jonquière	2890
24028	Kamouraska - Rivière-du-Loup - Témiscouata - Les Basques	1190
24029	Notre-Dame-de-Grâce - Lachine	2358
24030	Lac-Saint-Jean	1635
24031	Lac-Saint-Louis	4359
24032	LaSalle - Émard	1751
24033	Laurentides	3144
24034	Laurier - Sainte-Marie	2293
24035	Laval Centre	3257
24036	Laval East	3496
24037	Laval West	3437
24038	Lévis-et-Chutes-de-la-Chaudière	4302
24039	Longueuil	2221
24040	Lotbinière	847
24041	Louis-Hébert	3548
24042	Manicouagan	1336
24043	Matapédia - Matane	686
24044	Mercier	2760
24045	Mount Royal	2390
24046	Outremont	1601
24047	Papineau - Saint-Denis	1792
24048	Pierrefonds - Dollard	3047
24049	Pontiac - Gatineau - Labelle	2164
24050	Portneuf	1942
24051	Québec	4167
24052	Québec East	3972

24053	Repentigny	3552
24054	Bas-Richelieu - Nicolet - Bécancour	2207
24055	Richmond - Arthabaska	2702
24056	Rimouski - Mitis	2187
24057	Roberval	2634
24058	Rosemont	1777
24059	Témiscamingue	1628
24060	Rivière-des-Milles-Îles	3235
24061	Saint-Bruno - Saint-Hubert	2911
24062	Saint-Hyacinthe - Bagot	2071
24063	Saint-Jean	2671
24064	Saint-Lambert	2636
24065	Saint-Laurent - Cartierville	2504
24066	Saint-Léonard - Saint-Michel	1827
24067	Saint-Maurice	3295
24068	Shefford	2086
24069	Sherbrooke	3662
24070	Terrebonne - Blainville	3593
24071	Trois-Rivières	3268
24072	Vaudreuil - Soulanges	1957
24073	Verchères - Les-Patriotes	1770
24074	Verdun - Saint-Henri	1790
24075	Westmount - Ville-Marie	3808
35001	Algoma - Manitoulin	635
35002	Barrie - Simcoe - Bradford	2910
35003	Beaches - East York	2354
35004	Bramalea - Gore - Malton - Springdale	2759
35005	Brampton Centre	2133
35006	Brampton West - Mississauga	2703
35007	Brant	4119
35008	Broadview - Greenwood	1818
35009	Bruce - Grey	1691
35010	Burlington	3194
35011	Cambridge	3697
35012	Davenport	1565
35013	Don Valley East	1640
35014	Don Valley West	2348
35015	Dufferin - Peel - Wellington - Grey	1307
35016	Durham	1943
35017	Eglinton - Lawrence	2417
35018	Elgin - Middlesex - London	2564
35019	Erie - Lincoln	2257
35020	Essex	2421
35021	Etobicoke Centre	2627
35022	Etobicoke - Lakeshore	3381
35023	Etobicoke North	2138

35024	Glengarry - Prescott - Russell	906
35025	Carleton - Gloucester	2431
35026	Guelph - Wellington	3355
35027	Haldimand - Norfolk - Brant	1490
35028	Halton	3158
35029	Hamilton East	3442
35030	Hamilton Mountain	3246
35031	Hamilton West	3296
35032	Hastings - Frontenac - Lennox and Addington	784
35033	Huron - Bruce	986
35034	Kenora - Rainy River	1608
35035	Chatham - Kent Essex	2465
35036	Kingston and the Islands	3620
35037	Kitchener Centre	3192
35038	Kitchener - Waterloo	3644
35039	Lambton - Kent - Middlesex	1386
35040	Lanark - Carleton	3190
35041	Leeds - Grenville	1528
35042	London North Centre	3668
35043	London - Fanshawe	2435
35044	London West	2880
35045	Markham	3208
35046	Mississauga Centre	1954
35047	Mississauga East	1935
35048	Mississauga South	2784
35049	Mississauga West	2475
35050	Nepean - Carleton	2209
35051	Niagara Centre	3706
35052	Niagara Falls	3384
35053	Nickel Belt	749
35054	Nipissing	2185
35055	Northumberland	2352
35056	Oak Ridges	3381
35057	Oakville	3532
35058	Oshawa	3584
35059	Ottawa Centre	4127
35060	Ottawa South	3146
35061	Ottawa - Vanier	3233
35062	Ottawa West - Nepean	2982
35063	Oxford	2890
35064	Parkdale - High Park	1773
35065	Parry Sound - Muskoka	1039
35066	Perth - Middlesex	1815
35067	Peterborough	2943
35068	Pickering - Ajax - Uxbridge	2404
35069	Prince Edward - Hastings	1716
35070	Renfrew - Nipissing - Pembroke	2901

35071	Sarnia - Lambton	2809
35072	Sault Ste. Marie	2900
35073	Scarborough - Agincourt	1517
35074	Scarborough Centre	2506
35075	Scarborough East	1994
35076	Scarborough - Rouge River	2031
35077	Scarborough Southwest	2170
35078	Simcoe - Grey	953
35079	Simcoe North	2234
35080	St. Catharines	4033
35081	St. Paul's	2170
35082	Stoney Creek	2932
35083	Stormont - Dundas - Charlottenburgh	2143
35084	Sudbury	3047
35085	Thornhill	2825
35086	Thunder Bay - Atikokan	2058
35087	Thunder Bay - Superior North	2222
35088	Timiskaming - Cochrane	514
35089	Timmins - James Bay	1844
35090	Toronto Centre - Rosedale	2968
35091	Trinity - Spadina	2048
35092	Vaughan - King - Aurora	3093
35093	Haliburton - Victoria - Brock	956
35094	Waterloo - Wellington	1598
35095	Wentworth - Burlington	2583
35096	Whitby - Ajax	3192
35097	Willowdale	2560
35098	Windsor - St. Clair	3053
35099	Windsor West	4170
35100	York Centre	1936
35101	York North	2206
35102	York South - Weston	2106
35103	York West	1453
46001	Brandon - Souris	2047
46002	Charleswood St. James - Assiniboia	1982
46003	Churchill	745
46004	Dauphin - Swan River	699
46005	Portage - Lisgar	1228
46006	Provencher	231
46007	Saint Boniface	2361
46008	Selkirk - Interlake	780
46009	Winnipeg North Centre	2376
46010	Winnipeg Centre	2678
46011	Winnipeg South	2110
46012	Winnipeg South Centre	1952
46013	Winnipeg North - St. Paul	1800

46014	Winnipeg - Transcona	2239
47001	Battlefords - Lloydminster	1065
47002	Blackstrap	1694
47003	Churchill River	264
47004	Cypress Hills - Grasslands	1025
47005	Palliser	2681
47006	Prince Albert	1469
47007	Regina - Qu'Appelle	1777
47008	Regina - Lumsden - Lake Centre	1741
47009	Saskatoon - Humboldt	1389
47010	Saskatoon - Rosetown - Biggar	1727
47011	Souris - Moose Mountain	1179
47012	Wanuskewin	1801
47013	Wascana	2593
47014	Yorkton - Melville	799
48001	Athabasca	1448
48002	Calgary Centre	4952
48003	Calgary East	3321
48004	Calgary Northeast	3154
48005	Calgary - Nose Hill	3078
48006	Calgary Southeast	2707
48007	Calgary Southwest	2867
48008	Calgary West	3716
48009	Crowfoot	1074
48010	Edmonton East	4463
48011	Edmonton North	3181
48012	Edmonton Southeast	2882
48013	Edmonton Southwest	3144
48014	Edmonton - Strathcona	4410
48015	Edmonton West	4618
48016	Elk Island	2297
48017	Lakeland	1352
48018	Lethbridge	3353
48019	Macleod	688
48020	Medicine Hat	2720
48021	Peace River	1745
48022	Red Deer	2442
48023	St. Albert	2059
48024	Wetaskiwin	2029
48025	Wild Rose	1284
48026	Yellowhead	850
59001	Burnaby - Douglas	3391
59002	Cariboo - Chilcotin	1708
59003	Delta - South Richmond	4307
59004	Dewdney - Alouette	3395
59005	Esquimalt - Juan de Fuca	3361
59006	Fraser Valley	3439

59007	Kamloops, Thompson and Highland Valleys	2821
59008	Kelowna	4302
59009	Kootenay - Columbia	1447
59010	Langley - Abbotsford	3170
59011	Nanaimo - Alberni	3356
59012	Nanaimo - Cowichan	2887
59013	New Westminster - Coquitlam - Burnaby	3885
59014	Okanagan - Shuswap	2570
59015	North Vancouver	4299
59016	Okanagan - Coquihalla	1749
59017	Port Moody - Coquitlam - Port Coquitlam	3859
59018	Prince George - Bulkley Valley	2250
59019	Prince George - Peace River	3080
59020	Richmond	3212
59021	Saanich - Gulf Islands	3922
59022	Skeena	1732
59023	South Surrey - White Rock - Langley	3508
59024	Surrey Central	4035
59025	Surrey North	3380
59026	Vancouver Centre	3409
59027	Vancouver East	3533
59028	Vancouver Island North	2980
59029	Vancouver Kingsway	3134
59030	Vancouver Quadra	4178
59031	Vancouver South - Burnaby	3601
59032	Victoria	4552
59033	Kootenay - Boundary - Okanagan	2183
59034	West Vancouver - Sunshine Coast	2723
60001	Yukon	892
61002	Western Arctic	487
62001	Nunavut	31